

MEMPHIS Plan restores hope to uninsured couple

By Alison Gillis Tucker

Suzanne Lindsey always had health insurance to help her manage her Parkinson's disease. Her husband Edward worked hard as an engineer at Methodist Healthcare for 20 years, but once he retired, Suzanne found herself uninsured and uninsurable.

Thankfully, Edward got a job at Whitten Memorial Baptist Church where they offered the MEMPHIS Plan, the Church Health Center's employer-sponsored healthcare plan for small business and the self-employed. This was a breath of life for the Lindsey family.

Once on the Plan, Suzanne was assigned to Dr. Scott Morris, the Center's founder and executive director.

"He is one of the most compassionate men I have ever met," said Suzanne.

Suzanne also began to see Dr. Ken Henderson, a MEMPHIS Plan volunteer neurologist who put her on a medical regimen for her Parkinson's disease. And it's working. She's getting control of her debilitating disease and feeling great.

An avid rummage sale goer, Suzanne was looking through some clothes one day when she fell and landed on her hip. She was taken to the emergency room, where doctors determined that she was a good candidate for a hip replacement.

MEMPHIS Plan doctors Owen Tabor, Sr. and Owen Tabor, Jr. worked with Suzanne and performed her hip replacement surgery soon thereafter at Methodist University Healthcare in Germantown.

"The hospital took such good care of me," Suzanne said. "They made everything comfortable and wonderful. We love the Church Health Center and all of the MEMPHIS Plan physicians. Anyone who volunteers their time and energy has to be a great person."

Suzanne says people are astonished when they hear her story.

"We need more healthcare like this in America," she said. "This Plan is the only hope I would ever have for healthcare as I am not old enough for Medicare."

Edward said he couldn't be more appreciative and happy with the care his wife has received through the Plan. "People have been very kind," he said.

"Without the MEMPHIS Plan, there is no way we could have afforded to keep her healthy and well."

Church Health Center Executive Director Dr. Scott Morris, who is Suzanne's doctor at the Center, said, "As a primary care physician, I am well aware of my limitations. Mrs. Lindsey now has the opportunity to live a rich and full life because highly trained sub-

specialist physicians have given their time and talent to improve her health. They have treated her like she was the president of the bank, because it is the right thing to do.ö

The Lindseyø know the importance of staying healthy and having a full life. They want to stay healthy so they can visit their eight children and 22 grandchildren who live around the world including one as far away as Istanbul, Turkey.

Alison Tucker is Marketing Coordinator at the Church Health Center, whose ministries provide healthcare for the working uninsured and promote healthy bodies and spirits for all. For more information about the Church Health Center, call (901) 272-7170 or visit www.churchhealthcenter.org.