Meet Courtney Gatzemeyer

Methodist Hospital Foundation's Senior Director of Philanthropy



It's so wonderful to connect with you!

I've been part of the Methodist Hospital Foundation team for more than six years, and I'm honored to step into this new role focused on planned giving. With this work, I have the opportunity to partner with donors and grateful patients who are choosing to leave a lasting legacy. These gifts are more than contributions—they are stories, values and hopes carried forward to shape the future of health care throughout our communities.

Over the years, I've had the privilege of supporting many of the Foundation's impactful programs—from our annual employee giving campaign and women's health initiatives to The Meaning of Care Awards and the Nebraska Methodist College Alumni Association.

What has stayed with me most throughout this work is the incredible generosity and compassion of people like you—those who believe in making a difference not just today, but for generations to come.

I look forward to getting to know you and helping you create a legacy that reflects what matters most to you.

Methodist Legacy Society

Join Generations of Generosity

When you become a member of the **Methodist Legacy Society**, you're helping our patients and our communities today and tomorrow. Your planned giving ensures that we will always be able to live our mission and support the way Methodist cares, educates and innovates.

The Methodist Legacy Society recognizes special friends who remember Methodist Hospital Foundation or Nebraska Methodist College in their estate plans.

Joy Nixon Anderson
Angela Sue Arner
Ken Barjenbruch, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Glen Bennett
Jane Bernecker
Dennis & Cathy Blackman
Shelby Taylor Bockman
Joe Bohelski
Robert & Elizabeth Bridges
Bob Cohn
Maria L. Conte, Ph.D.
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew & Jennifer Coughlin
Bruce Couillard
Christine Cox-Breternitz
Terence A. Crayton
Elizabeth Deitering
Theodore DeLaet, M.D.
Jessica Kay Dickey
Tom Elser
William & Shayla Ferris
Nancy Ruth Flesher
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Kristyn S. Funk
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Julie & Keith Miller
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Ronald "Gil" Nelson
Dr. William & Minden Nester
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Rachel & Tyler Tipton
Lawrence Uebner
Thomas Warsocki
Wax Charitable Trust
Fred Weeks
Dr. & Mrs. James Wheeler
Linda J. Wright

Learn more about Methodist Legacy Society and the forever impact of your gift.
Contact Courtney Gatzemeyer, senior director of philanthropy, at (402) 354-4825 or Foundation@nmhs.org.

METHODIST HOSPITAL FOUNDATION
Methodist Hospital Foundation
8701 W. Dodge Road, Suite 450
Omaha, NE 68114

Your Methodist Legacy

WHAT'S INSIDE:

A Legacy of Care: Celebrating two lifetimes of generosity



Recovery Transformed: How you can impact nearly all of our heart and lung patients



Becoming Changemakers: A couple's Methodist story and their support for the next chapter



Are You Part of Our Women Connect Community?



We welcomed more guests than ever at our Gut Check event in February!

A wonderful mix of new and familiar faces leaned into a conversation about colorectal cancer prevention and gut health—yes, even the awkward parts.

All Women Connect events are casual and free, our way of educating and empowering women to prioritize their health. Our next event is slated for late October.

Put yourself on the list! Join our Women Connect community by scanning or visiting MethodistHospitalFoundation.org/WomenConnect.

Your Methodist Legacy

METHODIST HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

"Our Foundation donors are one of the greatest sources of good in our community."

Edson L. Bridges II
with former Methodist President and CEO John Estabrook



MISSION IN ACTION: THE WAY WE CARE

A Legacy of Care

Honoring Edson and Sally Bridges and Their Investment in Methodist



During their nearly 70 years of marriage, Edson and Sally Bridges invested themselves in family, faith and the Omaha community they loved. Together, they created a lasting legacy at Methodist Health System.

"There isn't anything I wouldn't do for the institution—you can believe that," Edson once said.

In July 2025, the Omaha community said goodbye to Edson L. Bridges II, a visionary leader, generous philanthropist and dedicated friend to Methodist. He was 93. Just days later, Sally Bridges, a former teacher and devoted mother and grandmother, passed away at 92.

Over the decades, their quiet generosity and steady leadership helped shape Methodist into what it is today.

A Lifetime of Leadership and Service

The grandson of a Methodist physician, Edson's own connection to Methodist spanned more than five decades. During that time, he served in many important roles: trustee, vice chairman of the Methodist Health System Board, director of Methodist Hospital Foundation and chair of the Methodist Physicians Clinic Board.

In 1982, Edson was one of just three trustees who helped investigate, plan and launch what would become the Nebraska Methodist Health System. Their work helped shape the strong, integrated health system our community depends on today.

Edson also played an instrumental role in establishing Methodist Hospital Foundation, helping create the philanthropic support that continues to strengthen patient care, expand programs and advance innovation across Methodist. He believed deeply in the power of generosity.

"Our Foundation donors are one of the greatest sources of good in our community," he'd said.

One of his favorite memories was helping secure the Foundation's very first $1 million gift to support the outpatient surgery center. At the time, it was a milestone for Methodist philanthropy and a powerful example of how generosity can transform care for patients and families.

Investing in the Future

Outside of Methodist, Edson led Bridges Investment Counsel—now Bridges Trust—where he was widely respected for his thoughtful leadership and long-term vision. But those who knew him best often point to something even more important: the way he cared for people.

His son, Ted Bridges, remembers that clearly.

(continued on inside)



"My father was a tremendous investor," Ted shared. **"But his greatest strength was the way he and my mother cared for people.** They led with trust, humility and a deep commitment to service, and their influence lives on throughout Methodist and the Omaha community they loved."

Through thoughtful legacy planning, individuals and families can help carry forward the same spirit of care that Edson and Sally lived so faithfully. In addition to their generous investments of time and leadership, the couple supported Methodist through direct donations, a charitable annuity, trusts and a planned gift of life insurance.

The Bridges' philanthropy was rooted in a promise Edson and his father made that a "good portion" of what they earned through the family investment business would "go back to the Lord's work," including support for health care.

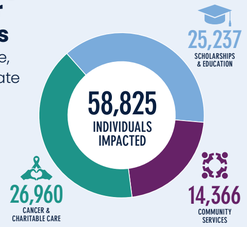
That promise guided a lifetime of generosity. Today, their legacy lives on in the lives of patients, families and caregivers across Methodist Health System—an investment in care that will continue serving the community for generations to come.

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

Strengthening the Health of Our Communities

by the Way We Care, Educate and Innovate

Your generosity powers our impact.



For the 12 months ending December 31, 2025

Make a Difference for Now and Forever.

- Life Income Gifts — CRUTs and CGAs
- Retirement Plan or IRA Assets
- Bank and Brokerage Accounts
- Life Insurance
- Cash
- Securities
- Real Estate
- Wills or Trusts
- Savings Bonds

Our team would be happy to answer your questions. Contact Courtney Gatzemeyer, senior director of philanthropy, at (402) 354-4825 or Foundation@nmhs.org.

If You Don't Have a Will, Do You Have 20 Minutes?

FREEWILL

You do so much for our patients and our health system. Here's a gift for you: free legacy planning and peace of mind.

We've partnered with FreeWill to help you prepare for the future and protect your loved ones.

Nearly 70% of Americans don't have a will—even though it's one of the most important things we can do.

With FreeWill, you can make or update your will or trust within 20 minutes, free of charge.

Scan the QR code to get started.

If you choose, you can make a bequest to Methodist Hospital Foundation.

MISSION IN ACTION: THE WAY WE INNOVATE

"Cardiac Rehab Changed My Life"

How Donors Are Elevating Exceptional Rehab Care

Jeff Silver knew something wasn't right. The sudden ache in his chest. The pain radiating down his arm and into his jaw.

"I woke Mary up and said, 'I'm not feeling well,'" Jeff recalled. "She said, 'Do you want to go to the hospital?' I said, 'Yeah, I think I do.'"

Mary, a former cardiac nurse, had just one destination in mind: the Emergency Department at Methodist Hospital. Doctors found several blocked arteries. Jeff needed triple bypass surgery.

"Having surgery is half the battle," Jeff said. "They told me, 'This is not the end of your road—this is the beginning. You need to go to cardiac rehab to get back to where you were.'"

In rehab, Jeff found more than physical recovery.

"Every single person on that team was compassionate and understanding, and they were so encouraging," he said. "Cardiac rehab changed my life back to where it was. It was a total team effort."

For Mary, the transformation was just as clear. "They gave him the support and knowledge he needed," she said. "He became more positive—more 'I can do this.' He had a different perspective on life."

Now, he and Mary are helping ensure others have that same opportunity.

They served as honorary chairs of this year's Methodist Volunteers In Partnership (VIP) Gala, *Life in Bloom*. Held in April, the garden-themed event raised funds for a new Cardiopulmonary Rehabilitation Wellness Center at Methodist Hospital.

The project will transform a 40-year-old rehab gym into a modern, state-of-the-art space designed to serve a growing number of heart and lung patients.

"We see firsthand how this program changes lives—patients return to normal activity faster, with fewer complications and more confidence," said Carrie Phillips, cardiovascular service executive. "This is more than a renovation. It's an investment in our patients, their experience and their long-term health."

The new center will feature a larger, more flexible layout, updated equipment and dedicated areas for cardio, strength and restorative therapies like yoga and tai chi. It will also expand virtual rehab options and create new opportunities for patients to stay engaged in their health well beyond initial rehabilitation.

For Jeff, the goal is simple. "They changed my life," he said. "I want this project to be successful so they can change other people's lives."



Jeff and Mary Silver

Current rehab gym ▶



We Need Your Support

Cardiopulmonary rehab isn't a nice extra for heart and lung patients—it's a critical part of recovery, often making the difference between lasting health and a return to the hospital. **Your gift helps make this transformation possible.**

To help create a modern, welcoming space for today's patients and tomorrow's, scan the QR code, visit SupportMethodist.org or contact Methodist Hospital Foundation at 402-354-4825.

New wellness center artist rendering ▶

MISSION IN ACTION: THE WAY WE EDUCATE

Becoming Changemakers

A Q&A with Foundation Donors Gail and Neil Boston



Neil Boston ▶

◀ Gail Boston

For Gail and Neil Boston, Methodist School of Nursing—now Nebraska Methodist College—is more than where they trained. It's where their life together began. The two met as nursing assistants on the orthopedic unit while still in school.

"We were buddies, and then we started dating. And here we are," Gail says.

Forty-six years later, their connection to Methodist remains just as strong. After graduating in 1978, Gail spent her entire career with the health system. She retired in 2022 after more than four decades of service. Neil, Class of 1979, spent 22 years with Methodist.

Across our community, generous supporters are creating lasting Methodist legacies, advancing care and preparing future generations to serve. The Bostons have supported Methodist Hospital Foundation and Nebraska Methodist College for 35 years, including a monthly gift that strengthens student scholarships.

We spoke with them about their deeply personal drive to give back.

What drew you to Methodist School of Nursing?

Gail: I was 18 and didn't know what I wanted to do. I found a brochure about nursing and thought I'd try it. I liked the atmosphere at Methodist. It really promoted patient care and was more clinically based. Everyone knew each other, and we supported each other.

Neil: Methodist had a strong reputation for turning out great nurses. You could tell who trained there; they could hit the ground running. I had incredible instructors who showed genuine care and compassion for patients, and that stayed with me throughout my career.

Both of you had long careers. How did your Methodist education carry through?

Gail: My education prepared me to work in many areas at Methodist, including several med-surg units in staff nurse and supervisory roles. After earning my master's degree from NMC, I moved into a clinical nurse specialist-type role, worked on quality projects, and taught through professional development. I loved mentoring at the bedside and orienting new nurses.

Neil: We could contribute to patient care right away. That strong clinical training gave me the flexibility to move into different areas, including OB and critical care. It all built on what we learned at Methodist.

Why did you start giving to Methodist Hospital Foundation?

Gail: We went back for our BSNs while raising two young kids, and it was hard financially. Methodist had tuition support, and I later earned my master's with help from Foundation scholarships. Supporting education became very important to us. We wanted others to have those same opportunities.

Neil: Methodist felt like home. Supporting the Foundation is a way to continue that impact for others.

Why has a monthly recurring gift worked for you?

Gail: It's simple—it adds up and doesn't feel overwhelming. If we want to give a little extra, we can.

What would you say to fellow alumni considering giving back?

Gail: Think about what NMC gave you and what you needed starting out. Today's students need that same support.

Neil: At our reunion, I was struck by how much impact our class had in our communities. Supporting NMC is a way to extend that legacy, helping others grow and make a difference.

For Gail and Neil, giving back isn't complicated; it's a continuation of what started at Methodist. By investing in the next generation, they believe we can all be changemakers.

Why Your Donations Are So Important

Philanthropy is the fastest, most efficient way to ensure that Methodist can grow and innovate. When you give to Methodist Hospital Foundation, 100% of your dollar supports vital projects and programs that would have been delayed or not possible at all.

Make an impact today.

Scan the QR code
Donate online at SupportMethodist.org