

# MOMENTUM

Enhancing Quality of Life Through the Science of Orthopaedic Medicine

Volume XIV, Number 2

## Giving Back to Honor Her Doctors

“You’re never too old to appreciate doctors who can fix what breaks on you,” says the spunky 85-year-old Gwendolyn. “Yes, I’m old, but age doesn’t matter for quality of life. Everyone wants to feel good; everyone needs help at times.”

Not until her late 70s did Gwendolyn Williams discover — and fall in love with — the Campbell Foundation and Campbell Clinic family as physicians there came to her aid when she suffered several injuries over the next few years.

A car accident broke her ankle, and Dr. Anthony Mascioli helped her walk again. A couple of years later at a retired teacher’s meeting, a fall broke her arm, and Dr. George Wood helped her lift again. Last year, a telephone cord trip broke her femur, and Dr. Andrew Crenshaw helped her become mobile again.

Born in Memphis during the Great Depression, five years before World War II, Gwendolyn was delivered by a midwife in her Grandmother Ross’s house. She was the first girl in a family of 8 children. Her father worked at Firestone Tire & Rubber Company; her mother was a housewife. “I was the first person in my family to finish college,” Gwendolyn says. “One of my mother’s sisters helped pay my tuition, and I was very thankful for that — as were my parents.”

Gwendolyn became a first-grade schoolteacher, teaching in public schools for 42 years. She also played the piano for her Sunday school choir. She and her late husband, Charles, a middle-school teacher and consultant for the Board of Education, raised 3 boys and 1 girl in a small, neat home off Elvis Presley Boulevard, where Gwendolyn still lives today. “We didn’t have a lot of money, but we had love and a lot of what matters.”

That appreciation for “what matters” is why Gwendolyn donates to the Campbell Foundation, the charitable trust for the physicians of Campbell Clinic. The Foundation is working right now to train the next generation of surgeons in the same ways that Drs. Mascioli, Wood, and Crenshaw were trained — with the same compassion and expertise. “I’ll never forget how the staff and doctors treated me when I needed them,” she says. “I loved the congeniality they exhibited towards me and others.



Retired school teacher, Gwendolyn Williams, plays the piano for her Sunday school choir.

They were so sweet, so kind, so caring. Just wonderful. I was glad that there was such a place with doctors who could fix me, and I was very thankful to go there. They explained what they were doing and what they were going to do so that I would be comfortable. I said, “Well, Lord, I am going to remember and support the Campbell Foundation and what all they’ve done for me. I give whatever I can, whenever I can, no matter how little it may be.”

Her gratefulness for the Campbell Foundation is born from firsthand experience, but her support is born from humanitarian compassion. “The Campbell doctors want each one of us to do well,” says Gwendolyn. “That’s the truth, coming from me. Those surgeons and staff want the best for us who come there needing their help. When you’re ailing and you feel down, it truly helps when you’ve got friendly people who give directions that are easy to understand, and encourage you that everything is going to be all right. It’s a plan to help you get well.”

Gwendolyn expresses her gratitude through her faithful giving to the Campbell Foundation. It’s her way to thank the doctors for getting her — quite literally — back on her feet.

**Won’t you join Gwendolyn to help ensure that same level of care for the next person? Call 901.759.5490 or visit [campbell-foundation.org](http://campbell-foundation.org)**

# Your Gifts Help Patients Across the Globe!



Fifth-year Campbell resident, Dr. Catherine Olinger, consoles her patient before she performs surgery to correct his hand deformity.

“The Cabral residents were fascinated that I came from the place that produced ‘Campbell’s Operative Orthopaedics.’ They showed me their book and asked about Drs. Canale and Beaty.” — DR. “CAT” OLINGER

“I don’t care what my hand looks like when you’re finished,” stated the 8-year-old boy politely. He held out his deformed hand to the Campbell Foundation mission doctor in Santiago. “I just want to be able to throw a baseball.” Behind him, Keyfren’s mother stood silent with an uncertain smile and hopeful eyes. “I just want to play baseball.”

Campbell Foundation donors send Campbell-trained residents on mission trips across the globe to reach, teach, and deliver world-class orthopaedic care to under-served communities. One resident, among the 24 upper-level residents in the residency program, is chosen each academic year.

This year, in January 2019, Dr. Catherine ‘Cat’ Olinger, now a fifth-year Campbell Foundation resident, traveled to the Dominican Republic, a Caribbean nation on the island of Hispaniola. Arriving very late on a balmy, tropical night, Dr. Olinger traveled to the ILAC Center campus on the outskirts of Santiago.



Dr. Catherine Olinger

The Institute for Latin American Concern was established in 1973 by a Jesuit from Creighton University, where Dr. Olinger understudied for 10 years, through undergraduate, graduate, and medical school training. The ILAC orthopaedic program started in 2004, offering medical services to remote, rural communities — and to underserved families like Keyfren’s — by partnering with some of the most prestigious institutions in the world. Like the Campbell Foundation.

“The surgeries are made a little more complicated by the fact that these patients don’t have routine access to care, so we’re doing surgeries on patients who needed treatment much earlier but couldn’t access it or couldn’t afford it,” says Dr. Olinger, who began making mission trips to the Dominican Republic when she was 18. “In the U.S., Keyfren would have had syndactyly release surgery at 18 months of age to correct his congenital deformity. But there he was, at 8 years old, wanting nothing more than to be able to hold a baseball.”

For six days, Dr. Olinger and 41 other health care volunteers convened to treat more than 200 people in clinic, operating on more than 45 people and working side-by-side with orthopaedic residents from the Cabral Hospital, a nonprofit community hospital in Santiago that serves the uninsured and under-insured population.

“The Cabral Hospital residents don’t receive a lot of mentoring,” says Dr. Olinger. “We give them educational materials, make their rounds with them, see their patients, and perform

The Molly Shumate Community Service Scholarship was established in 2013 to recognize outstanding achievement within the Campbell Foundation residency program. It provides an upper-level resident-in-training with the experience of delivering orthopaedic care to an under-served area and to share knowledge and expertise with healthcare providers across the globe.

surgeries with them at the ILAC Center.” Most of the population, Dr. Olinger adds, has inadequate or no access to health care because they lack health insurance. Small injuries can become large complications during years of nontreatment.

“The Cabral residents were fascinated that I came from the place that produced *Campbell’s Operative Orthopaedics*,” says Dr. Olinger. “They each showed me their book and were so proud to have it. They asked me about Dr. Terry Canale, Dr. James Beaty — they recognized their names. Their access to information is very diminished, so when they have a question, they rely on that textbook” — which is used worldwide, written entirely by Campbell Clinic surgeons and managed by Campbell Foundation editorial staff. “It was nice to build an educational ‘bridge’ between their hospital and training and our program.”

Donor support for this mission enhances quality of life for patients worldwide. Not just in Memphis. Not just in Tennessee. Not just in the United States. **Worldwide.** Donors turn possibilities into realities.



Cabral Hospital PACU nurse with Keyfren as he recovers from surgery.



Dr. Olinger in surgery during her medical mission in the Dominican Republic.

“Despite our somewhat inefficient health care system in the U.S., people who need help, generally get help,” says Dr. Olinger. “These patients in third-world countries don’t have that. They go years — or a lifetime — without treatment. We are doing surgery on people with deformities and illnesses that significantly impair their quality of life. After these surgeries, their movement is greatly restored. Plus, by teaching the local residents some of the techniques that we take for granted, we equipped those local surgeons with the knowledge to better treat their patients.”

Campbell Foundation donors made Dr. Olinger’s mission trip a reality and inspired her future. “I will keep going back, and I will keep helping underserved communities,” she says. “The donor kickstarts that service-directed mind. The most important factor in donating to an organization like the Campbell Foundation is understanding the overall impact that your donation makes. You’re not only giving to provide for the education of the residents, but you’re also giving so that future residents will continue to make future mission trips. You’re giving the gift of inspiration. And, you will help patients like Keyfren who just want to play ball. Your donation is not just a one-time, feel-good gift; it’s a ripple effect that keeps giving for a lifetime, forever.”

**To make a gift of inspiration that will last a lifetime, visit [campbell-foundation.org](http://campbell-foundation.org) or call 901-759-5490.**



Dr. David LaVelle and his wife, Jennifer

## Giving Back by Paying Forward

“Becoming a doctor was all I ever wanted to do,” says Dr. David LaVelle, a recently retired total-joint replacement specialist. “In medical school, I rotated through the various specialties, and orthopaedic surgery was absolutely thrilling to me. The immediate gratification that orthopaedic patients experienced when I fixed or replaced something that had broken or was worn out was extremely fulfilling. Through orthopaedics, I could impact patients’ lives in incredibly meaningful ways.”

Dr. LaVelle grew up in Memphis but spent a lot of time on his family’s farm in Fayette County, working with tools — saws, hammers, lathes. “I was very ‘hands-on’ as a boy, growing up in my father’s woodworking shop, so orthopaedics really appealed to that side of my nature. It was a perfect fit.”

LaVelle’s father, an ENT doctor, introduced young David to the orthopaedic doctors and staff at Campbell Clinic. “I grew up around the Campbell Clinic and its pioneers, and I wanted nothing more than to be accepted into the Campbell Foundation’s residency program.”

Accepted, he was, and he discovered firsthand what he was told as a child. “My father always said that the Campbell doctors were one of the finest groups of doctors in the country. He wasn’t exaggerating.”

Those finest doctors in the country not only became family and mentors, but they taught the young Dr. LaVelle many life lessons and medical skills, paying forward their hard-earned knowledge and expertise, made possible by the Campbell Foundation.

One of those Campbell lessons: The doctor is not No. 1; the patient is No. 1. “Two of the most important characteristics of being a physician: empathy and conscientiousness. You’ve got to care about people’s pain and suffering, and you’ve got to be compulsively honest, yet kind, with them.”

Another Campbell lesson: You always do the best you can, but some things are out of your control. “That’s a hard lesson for any doctor to learn. By nature, we are determined to fix everything, to ease all suffering, to make everything better. It’s always humbling when circumstances are out of your control.”

One more: Always have Plan B, C, and D in your back pocket. “I learned a lot of ways to deal with the unexpected. Campbell doctors are always sharing their findings and discoveries — not just with one another but with the medical community worldwide. When “x” goes wrong, our collaboration has us prepared to immediately shift to another approach, another strategy.”

Now, 35 years later, Dr. LaVelle has the opportunity to demonstrate his gratitude for his training, and to “pay it forward” for future Campbell Foundation residents and their patients. “All I’ve learned took me decades, and I don’t want that knowledge, those lessons to disappear after I’m gone. I benefitted from exposure to world-class surgeons and their expertise, and so did my patients. I learned from those who were here before me and who taught me how to operate, taught me how to take care of patients. Now I’m going to give back by paying it forward. I’ve even returned to the Campbell Foundation Board to help keep our connection to the legacy.”

“I want to ensure that the Campbell Clinic Way — putting the patient first and striving for excellence — remains at the center of how orthopaedic residents at the Campbell Foundation are trained.” — DR. DAVID LAVELLE

Dr. LaVelle and his wife, Jennifer, have named the Campbell Foundation in their estate plans. “I am unabashedly enthusiastic about the future of the clinic and unabashedly enthusiastic about the future of orthopaedic education, made possible by the Campbell Foundation. It’s a knowledge bank, and that’s what I want to support — now, and far into the future.”

**If the Campbell Foundation has touched your life or the life of a loved one, you can give back by paying forward. Call 901.759.5490.**