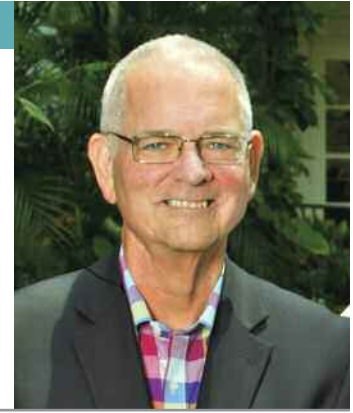


IN THEIR OWN WORDS: WHY DO I SUPPORT THE PHYSICIAN HEALTH PROGRAM?



By Vince Parrish, LCSW | TMF Development Director

In the midst of the Tennessee Medical Foundation’s “**Five Years ... Five Reasons**” support campaign, the TMF has been asking some of its most dedicated supporters why they believe in and financially contribute to the program – and why they believe other physicians should do the same. Below are a few thoughts from one of our TMF champions, Dr. J. Mack Worthington, MD, FAAFP.



Dr. Worthington, formerly of UT Memphis and currently UT College of Medicine in Chattanooga, first became acquainted with the Tennessee Medical Foundation Physician Health Program via a phone call from then-TMF Medical Director Dr. David Dodd. He was serving as founder and director of the residency program at UTCOMC and Dr. Dodd

had a program participant who needed his help.

“In order to get back into practice, to get his license, he had to go back to do additional training,” said Dr. Worthington, who also shared that his initial reaction was that he could not take on monitoring someone through an addiction illness. “But knowing that the TMF, after speaking with Dr. Dodd, would provide that part, I was very willing to take this physician into my residency program to give him the training he needed so he could get back into practice. That was very satisfying to see how well he did and how successful he became, and how it enabled him to regain not only his license but also his family and his life. It was amazing to see, and I was happy to be a part of it,” he said.

Since then, several TMF PHP participants have been through UTCOMC’s residency program and have successfully gone back into practice in their communities. “I tell each one of them to stop and think about what this has meant to them and that they should be giving back to support the care and treatment of other

physicians who will go through the program,” Dr. Worthington said.

Dr. Worthington was convinced enough to serve on the TMF Board of Directors from 2006 to 2012, including two years as Board President. He’s a current donor as well and believes physicians in Tennessee, especially those whose lives and careers were restored by the program, should be contributing to the PHP so it continues as a resource for doctors in crisis.

“Because the PHP is needed, this program needs to continue being successful,” he said. “There are still going to be doctors affected by alcohol and drugs, and I can’t think of any better way to support your fellow physician than to participate in this program.”



To join Dr. Worthington in supporting the mission and the work of the TMF Physician Health Program, contact Vince Parrish at 615.467.6411 or vincep@e-tmf.org, or give online at e-tmf.org/donations.php.

If you or a colleague need assistance from the TMF Physicians Health Program, please contact TMF Field Coordinator Jeanne Breard, RN, at 615.467.6411. +