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Full Patient Story Available at TheChristHospital.com/50Hearts

National Heart Failure Awareness Week: 50 Cincinnati Hearts Beating Stronger with Lifesaving Device

Cincinnati, Ohio (Feb. 11, 2014) – The Christ Hospital Health Network recently celebrated its 50th patient to receive a mechanical pump called a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD) for severe heart failure. The milestone makes The Christ Hospital Heart and Vascular Center one of the most experienced in the country and a unique resource for heart failure patients regionally.

Heart failure is the number one reason for hospitalization with at least one million new heart failure patients diagnosed each year. Many patients with severe heart failure struggle to survive while waiting to receive a heart transplant or are too sick to undergo the transplant procedure. Today, surgery to implant the compact, lightweight LVAD provides a lifesaving option for heart failure patients in the Tristate. The Christ Hospital began offering the treatment option in 2011.

“Since our first LVAD patient, The Christ Hospital has developed one of the fastest-growing and successful programs in the country, backed by the region’s most experienced heart failure specialists and advanced treatment options available,” said Santosh Menon, MD, medical director of The Carl and Edyth Lindner Heart Failure Treatment Center at The Christ Hospital. “We are excited to celebrate 50 patients, previously left without treatment options, now living better and longer lives through the care we provide. We anticipate this number will continue to grow very quickly.”



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LVADs allow end-stage heart failure patients to live longer with a better quality of life. The device assumes the pumping function of the weakened heart, driving blood from the left ventricle to the aorta and then to the rest of the body. This action restores normal blood circulation and allows patients to resume many, if not all, daily activities.

Local radio personality and pastor, Danny Williams, was rushed to The Christ Hospital after nearly collapsing during his 2011 New Year's Eve sermon due to progressively worsening heart failure. Now, Williams is distributing food to the needy, sharing gospel music on local radio, WAIF 88.3 FM, and enjoying time with his three children thanks to receiving a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD).



“I went from a guy who could barely walk 15 steps without taking a rest, to doing even more than I could before I started having heart problems,” Williams says. “I think this revolutionary treatment should get the kind of attention that breast cancer does. LVADs really do give you back your quality of life.”

The Christ Hospital offers the most advanced treatments to heart failure patients in the Tristate. It features a multidisciplinary team of heart failure specialists, a dedicated heart failure center and recognition by The American Heart Association as a Gold Level Get With The Guidelines®–Heart Failure Quality Improvement Award for providing the highest standard of care for heart failure patients. The Christ Hospital's LVAD Program was selected by Humana as the first non-transplant hospital in Greater Cincinnati to gain insurance coverage for the procedure. The program has received The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval and has relationships in place to provide care for patients who are potential candidates for heart transplant.

February 9-14 is National Heart Failure Awareness Week; dedicated to heart failure education, prevention and detection. Anyone suffering from the following symptoms should talk to their physician about heart failure: fatigue, chest congestion, edema or ankle swelling, shortness of breath.

For more information about heart failure treatment at The Christ Hospital Health Network, please call **513-585-2531** or visit TheChristHospital.com/50Hearts.

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About The Christ Hospital Health Network: The Christ Hospital Health Network is a regional system of care that extends The Christ Hospital's nearly 125 years of exceptional care and leadership to more than 100 locations in the Greater Cincinnati area. The Network delivers integrated, individualized healthcare and wellness services through its comprehensive physician network, advanced specialty services and the region's Most Preferred Hospital (*National Research Corporation*). Its mission is to improve the health of our community and create patient value by providing exceptional outcomes, affordable care and the finest experiences. To learn more about its locations and award-winning services, visit TheChristHospital.com.