

Legacy Emanuel Medical Center Interfaith Chapel Donor Report

Thanks to your generous support, the new Interfaith Chapel on the Legacy Emanuel Medical Center campus provides a serene and welcoming space where patients, staff and visitors can pause, reflect and find peace.



Caring for the Mind, Body and Spirit

After a decade of planning, we joyfully opened the Interfaith Chapel in April 2025 to serve the campus and surrounding communities of **Legacy Emanuel and Randall Children's Hospital**. In the year since, the chapel has become a meaningful part of daily life on campus.

Patients, families, staff and visitors enter for many reasons: to pray, to sit in silence, to process difficult news or simply to step away from the pace of the hospital for a few quiet moments. Whatever brings them through the doors, the chapel offers a calm, inclusive setting where people can care for their spiritual and emotional well-being.

Peace and prayer for patients and families

The chapel can serve many purposes for those who use it, nurturing the human spirit in ways that are personal and meaningful. Here are a few examples from our Spiritual Care team of how the chapel is used by patients and families.

One parent of a pediatric patient spent some time in solitude one evening walking the labyrinth that is inlaid on the chapel floor. They left a handwritten prayer and votive candle in the center of the labyrinth asking for peace for their child.

When a Muslim family asked for a place to pray, a chaplain directed them to the chapel alcove oriented toward Mecca and supplied with prayer rugs. The chapel maintains sacred texts from a variety of religious traditions for visitors, reflecting its purpose as a welcoming space for people of all faiths and backgrounds.

A chaplain intern entered the chapel to offer his own prayers and found a patient's husband weeping alone. After sitting with him for a few moments, the chaplain gently asked about his tears, beginning an important connection. In the days that followed, the chaplain accompanied the husband as he prepared for and eventually mourned his wife's death. They often returned to the chapel to talk and pray, finding in the space both privacy and compassionate support.

These moments show how the chapel meets people wherever they are on their health care journey. In every case, it offers something that can be difficult to find during a hospitalization: the time and space to acknowledge fear, hope, grief, gratitude and love.

Rest and restoration for staff

The chapel is also treasured by many staff members who carry the emotional weight of caring for patients and families through complex and sometimes life-changing circumstances. Several have developed a routine of beginning their day there in prayer or quiet reflection. Others visit during breaks to play the piano, breathe deeply or gather themselves before returning to their work. These small moments of restoration help make the chapel a place of care not only for those receiving treatment, but also for the people who provide it.

Celebration for graduates

Graduation ceremonies for our Clinical Pastoral Education Program are now held within the chapel, making the space a setting not only for solace, but also for celebration. At these joyful occasions, chaplain interns and residents are recognized for their growth and service, mentors are acknowledged with gratitude, and graduates' families fill the chapel with their supportive presence.

"Before the new chapel, I could not find a space where I could rest and reflect on a continual, assured basis. When I visited for the first time, I even remarked that there was enough space for me to find solitude while another family sat in the main section of the sanctuary to pray and be with each other. I felt like I could get the support I needed to do my job for the first time in my career here. Thank you!"

— a grateful staff member

Looking ahead

The nondenominational chapel has come to life as envisioned and has enriched the Legacy Emanuel campus community in many ways. It holds deep meaning for patients, families, visitors and staff, offering a sacred and healing space amid the intensity of hospital life.

Keeping the chapel welcoming and ready for daily use requires ongoing care. Votive candles, sacred texts, prayer rugs and other supplies must be replenished so that visitors can find what they need when they enter the space.

If you feel inspired to continue your support, please consider a one-time or monthly contribution to help sustain the Legacy Emanuel Chapel as a welcoming place of comfort, hope, and healing.



"The new chapel has elevated the care we provide for our patients and their loved ones. The patients and families who frequent this space emphasize its importance to the healing of the whole person: body, mind and soul. The space is an important part of the care we provide, and for many, an important part of their journey to healing."

— Bahaa Wanly, president, Legacy Emanuel Medical Center & Bronwyn Houston, president, Randall Children's Hospital at Legacy Emanuel

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