“It’s a miracle I’m alive.” This is what Roger Taylor, a cardiac patient at The University of Kansas Hospital’s Center for Advanced Heart Care, says when talking about the time his heart stopped.

Taylor does not remember much about that day in October 2012, only that he was driving home and became lightheaded. A good Samaritan found Taylor slumped over his steering wheel and called 911. When police officers arrived minutes later, Taylor had no pulse. They initiated CPR and shocked his heart. He was rushed to a community hospital near his home.

After 11 days in Intensive Care, he was able to go home. However, he continued to have concerns about his heart health. That is when he came to The University of Kansas Hospital for cardiac care. After several tests, our cardiologists determined Taylor’s heart attack was due to a genetic heart condition. Within days, one of our electrophysiologists (heart rhythm specialists) inserted an internal cardiac defibrillator/pacemaker into Taylor’s chest.

Now a year later, he feels great. He continues to receive support from our cardiac team through the hospital’s Heart SMARRT: Self-Management and Risk-Reduction Training program, which includes education, nutritional counseling, exercise recommendations and behavior modification.

Taylor’s story is just one example of the quality care provided by the cardiovascular team through the hospital’s Accredited Chest Pain Center, accredited by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care.

“Quick response means better survival rates”

As part of the chest pain center’s mission, our physicians train local paramedics so they can provide more advanced care in the field. These first responders are trained to obtain and interpret EKGs at the scene of an emergency. Based on their interpretation, they can activate the hospital’s rapid response heart attack team, which specializes in treating these patients. Even before the ambulance arrives at the Emergency Department, the cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and the entire heart team are ready and waiting.

Thanks to this early notification, our heart attack team provides the fastest response possible to increase survival. Patient survival rates for the past 12 months reflect those combined efforts, reaching 96 percent for STEMI patients 30 days following treatment. (STEMI is the most severe type of heart attack.)

“Receiving care at one of the top heart programs in the nation, our patients can be sure they are getting the best modern medicine has to offer,” Earnest said.

To learn more about our cardiac care, visit kumed.com/heart.
Girls’ Night In Feb. 26 features new format

The hospital’s 9th Annual Girls’ Night In will present a new and inspiring format for guests.

This year’s event, slated for Feb. 26 at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, is billed as “A Heartfelt Evening of Storytelling.”

The program begins at 6 p.m. and will feature some of Kansas City’s most interesting personalities. Speakers will share personal stories about their hearts and heart health.

Speakers:
- Leslie Bayer – Women’s heart health advocate
- Lina Dickinson – Business owner and health enthusiast
- Charles Ferruzza – Humorist and journalist
- Sherry Kuehl – “Snarky in the Suburbs” blogger and author
- Carolyn Long – KCTV5 News anchor

After the program, guests will mix and mingle while enjoying wine, heart-healthy bites and the artwork surrounding them in the Bloch Building Lobby.

Tickets are available at kumed.com/gni-tickets.

All funds benefit the heart disease programs of the Adelaide C. Ward Women’s Heart Health Center and Turning Point: The Center for Hope and Healing.

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