

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR FRIENDS  
OF MEDSTAR WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER

CENTER

# Scope


FALL 2014



## LVADs Change How We Treat Heart Failure



MedStar Washington  
Hospital Center



The Beck family tours construction progress of the new MedStar Heart & Vascular Institute; (l to r) Jennifer Lyons, Eric Lyons, John Beck, Judy Beck, John Beck II, and Peggy Green.

# An Ongoing Gift from the Heart

## Nina Beck loved going to the hospital.

That might sound rather unusual for someone dealing with a serious illness. But Nina's enthusiasm was hardly surprising to her family and friends. Always eager to help anyone whenever and wherever she could, Nina volunteered at every school her four children attended, every sports league they joined, and at her church. When her youngest child graduated from Northern High School in Owings, Md., the administration hired her rather than risk losing its best volunteer.

"She had a big heart," says daughter Jennifer Lyons. "Unfortunately, there were some physical problems with it."

Shortly after turning 50 in 1996, Nina became unusually sick. Diagnosed with cardiomyopathy, a weakening of the heart muscle, she began seeing MedStar Washington Hospital Center cardiologist, Elizabeth Ross, MD.

During the next 14 years, Dr. Ross and members of the MedStar Heart & Vascular Institute's Advanced Heart Failure Team worked with Nina to manage her condition. In the fall of 2010, Nina received an LVAD (Left Ventricular Assist Device), enabling her to enjoy another Thanksgiving and Christmas with her

family. The disease proved to be too much to fully conquer, however, and Nina died in March 2011.

Nina's passing opened a new chapter in the Beck family's relationship with the Hospital Center. The Becks requested that memorial contributions go toward MedStar Heart's technology and education programs.

The Beck family, who live in Odenton, Md., also launched the annual Nina Beck Memorial Golf Outing, raising nearly \$40,000 for MedStar Heart in its first three years.

The family looks forward to continuing its involvement with the Hospital Center.

"Mom was such an advocate for them, encouraging others with heart problems to see the doctors at the Hospital Center and sharing stories of her experiences there," Jennifer says. "What better way to carry on her work and her spirit than by supporting efforts that will help others fight heart disease."

**You can make a difference with a contribution to help support the work of MedStar Washington Hospital Center. Contact the Washington Hospital Center Foundation at 202-877-6558.**