Our hearts are heavy this day as we remember our selfless friend, compassionate spiritual leader, astute businessman and community champion. For over four decades we lived Ken Schor’s dream. His vision and passion took the initiative to meet an essential community need… and Methodist Hospital was born. From conception to manifestation; he led the charge. You see… Ken didn’t know that he couldn’t build a hospital… so he did!

The concern over his wife, Marcie’s health challenges and the lack of accessibility to timely medical attention within reach of their home was the inspiration to bring quality health care to East New Orleans residents.

One evening after the Gentilly Methodist Church’s men’s meeting, Ken elicited the insight and support of his friends and pastor. It was there over coffee and apple pie his vision, sketched on napkins, gained momentum and sprouted wings. Half salesman and half clergyman he gathered resources from around the state, and the region. From the office of the Governor to the Sunday school class he sounded his message and asked for contributions; he so believed in his vision he invested from his own bank account to jumpstart his dream into reality. Whether it was raising building funds, raising awareness of the needs of the community, or raising manpower; he raised the bar for all who believed in him and his vision. His vision was meant to serve all the families and communities in and surrounding eastern New Orleans.

This brief message could not possibly encapsulate the countless contributions Ken Schor has made to his fellowman, nor can it summarize his various virtues. What it can do is acknowledge his gifts and inspire others through his passion, as he has inspired us. He did not dwell in the past but had a vision for the future. And now as we move forward, we have adopted, preserved and expanded on Ken Schor’s vision by being a conduit for healthy communities, that supports, develops and manages health related programs and services for the benefit of all citizens of East New Orleans and beyond.

Some years back the Schor Fountain and Terrace Garden was named in his honor with a plaque placed on the campus of Methodist Hospital. Post Katrina, that plaque was removed and restored; it now rests in the garden of our corporate offices. We are ever reminded of Ken Schor’s service, sacrifice and gentle, tenacity. As we honor our past we hold that vision by preserving this legacy for future generations.