

# THE GORDON FAMILY | AHA RESEARCH MILESTONES

1917 - seventeen-year-old **Louis Gordon** arrived in Statesville, NC driving an old horse and wagon with \$50.00 to his name and loads of ambition. L Gordon Iron and Metal and Gordon's Furniture Store were started by Louis Gordon.

1917



1922 - Louis & Charlotte marry & start a family - 5 sons

1924

1924 - American Heart Association founded

1943- Patriarch Louis Gordon survives first **heart attack**.

1945

1948 - First AHA research grant is awarded

1951- Charlotte Gordon passes away from **heart disease**



1964- Louis Gordon passes away from major **heart attack**

1968

1963 - First artificial heart device, (an air-powered LVAD) implanted



1967 - First human heart transplant

1968- Ellis Gordon (2nd generation) survives severe **heart attack** at age forty-three

1968 - First 911 system implemented

1976- Ellis Gordon has successful **open-heart surgery** replacing five blocked arteries

Mid 1970s - Development of immunosuppressant drug (to help transplant organs survival once implanted)

1986- Alfred Gordon (2nd generation) has **Balloon-expandable stent** to open blocked artery

1985

1985 - **Balloon-expandable stent** invented (to open blocked arteries)



1989- Saul Gordon (2nd generation) **stent opens blocked artery**

1987 - Iredell County adopts 911 system

1993- Ellis Gordon (2nd generation) passes away of **heart disease**



1997- Zach Gordon (4th generation) has successful **ablation** correcting SVT

1999- Melvin Gordon (2nd generation) suffers first **heart attack**.



2000 - AHA's Get With The Guidelines launches, providing treatment standards and measures for healthcare providers

2000- Saul Gordon (2nd generation) survives successful **open-heart surgery**

2000

1983-2017: Birth of twelve great grandchildren and the birth of three great-great grandchildren, carrying on Charlotte & Louis's family line



2001 - AHA-funded research published about LVADs and their ability to reverse heart failure damage in patients awaiting heart transplants

2004: Hospice of Iredell County recognizes the Gordon Family by naming the new residential and acute care facility, The Gordon Hospice House

2003 - FDA approves drug-coated stent developed by AHA-funded research



2014- Saul Gordon has successful **heart ablation** correcting years of atrial fibrillation



2011 - Nobel prize awarded to early AHA-funded researcher for his discovery on how the immune system responds to infection leading to new approaches in heart transplantation



2017: Gordon Family have earned **35** Undergraduate and Graduate Degrees



2014 - AHA is leading funder of heart and stroke research (second to federal government) with \$3.5 billion invested over 65 years

2017: L Gordon Iron and Metal Co. celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary

## The Future

**February 3, 2018 - The Gordon Family are the Open Your Heart Chairs for the Iredell Heart Ball**

Every generation of the Gordon Family lives better, longer, because of the research and developments made possible by YOU and the American Heart Association.

# WHAT MILESTONE WILL YOU FUND NEXT?