



summer
2011

bethesda news

Now there is in Jerusalem a pool called "Bethesda." Here a great number of disabled people used to lie—the blind, the lame, the paralyzed—waiting for the movement of the waters.

Event Calendar

Alliance Back to Bethesda 50's Party

July 29, 2011
Bobbie Dance Baptist Student
Ministry Building

Bethesda Alliance Birthday Bash

September 16, 2011
Villa di Felicità

Bethesda Alliance Lunch Meetings

September 22, 2011
October 18, 2011
November 15, 2011
December 20, 2011
The Potpourri House

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

September 29, 2011
Location to be announced

The Delek Tournament for Hope

October 6 and 7, 2011
Gaylord Springs Golf Links
Nashville, TN

Dr. Luke Banquet

February 17, 2012
Willow Brook Country Club

To learn more about Bethesda Health Clinic, contact us at:

409 W. Ferguson
Tyler, TX 75702
903.596.8353
www.bethesdaclinic.org

Bethesda Newsletter sponsored by

Dr. Robbins
Vascular Specialists
of East Texas

renewed day by day

Our great God is continually renewing His people and doing new, wonderful things through them. 2 Corinthians 4:16 talks about "inwardly we are being renewed day by day." Becoming too fatigued or discouraged is a great challenge of any social ministry. At Bethesda, we are consistently praying for His renewal and guidance as we move into new directions of service.



Over the past months, we have been blessed to experience this renewal. In this newsletter, you will read several different examples of renewal. Nohemi is an inspiring story of someone who rose from being a volunteer and patient to becoming one of the clinic's most valued staff members. The incredible way God continues to work in her life is just amazing. Also, after six years of providing dental services on a limited basis and seeing only limited growth, the clinic has renewed its commitment to Smith County's hard working adults to expand the services to include two additional dental days and one day of dental cleaning. This will begin to address the incredible need for low cost basic dental services.

Isaiah 40:31 states, "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Our strength is renewed as we continue to hear the amazing patient stories of how Bethesda is impacting lives in our community. Our prayer at the clinic is that the Lord will continue to guide all that we do and allow us to continue to minister to all who come through our doors.

—John English, Executive Director



new beginnings



By Cathy Primer Krafve

*Moxie was not a word
Bethesda's Office
Coordinator Nohemi Perez
knew as a small child.*

Yet her earliest memories involve bravely facing the nuances of a culture that was different than the one in her home, where she was the only person fluent in English. "No one spoke English at all, I had to learn by watching TV," she laughs gently, her soft brown eyes and tender smile giving only a small hint of her determined heart. Back then she didn't think of herself as courageous or creative or resourceful, either. In fact, it wasn't until she became involved with Bethesda Clinic that she began to see herself in a new way, as a woman with brains and skills and good ol' fashioned gumption.

Nohemi first came to Bethesda Clinic almost by accident. In the early days, when Rev. Pat Mallory, a few community leaders, and a handful of volunteer doctors were determined to start the clinic, they almost immediately recognized a need for translators. Rev. Mallory asked Nohemi if she would be willing to translate. Medical terminology can be tricky, especially when some patients have never had medical care and don't recognize words like laboratorio (laboratory) or craneo (skull) in any language. However, Nohemi said yes—because it was Rev. Mallory who had asked.

Months earlier, in the midst of a family crisis, suddenly single, and pregnant with children to feed, Nohemi turned to God for help and He answered beyond what she could imagine. He provided new beginnings, starting with a job that came through Rev. Mallory. Earning a small amount each week by cleaning after hours at the church, Nohemi was able to feed her children. Thankful for a paycheck and eager to do anything to

return the favor, Nohemi did not let the challenge of translating medical terminology keep her from serving. In fact, she did exactly what she had learned to do as a small child; she pretended it was easy. And soon, it was!

"You should have seen the line outside the clinic; it was a lot of Hispanic people," she remembers. And, Nohemi recognized the look on the faces of those waiting when they saw her and recognized she was bilingual. "She is going to help me," was the message she read in their relief. For the first time in her life, Nohemi recognized that she had something worthwhile to give. "I felt like I was going to be used—in a good way," she explains.

After months of volunteering, often three days a week, Nohemi suddenly came down with a serious ailment herself, a terrible earache. When her eardrum burst, she had a "light-bulb moment." She quickly realized that as an uninsured worker—"Well, I qualify, too! I need to put my paperwork in at the clinic." Thus, another new beginning. Nohemi went from Bethesda volunteer to Bethesda patient.

As the clinic developed, Nohemi continued to volunteer, conquering each new challenge along the way. "When they brought out that computer, I was scared," she remembers. "I acted like I knew everything. But this is how I would type," she laughs, demonstrating a slow hunt and peck method. Quickly, she was gaining other new skills. It seemed that her growth paralleled each step of the clinic's growth. "This is where I learned everything I know," she says of Bethesda. Before Nohemi knew it, she had an entirely new set of job skills and a new attitude about herself.

These new skills and Nohemi's new confidence resulted in another new

beginning. She was invited to join the small staff of paid employees. Almost seven years later, her duties include scheduling the volunteer doctors, training volunteer office staff, answering patients' questions, checking them out at the end of their visits, scheduling referrals from the long list of local specialists who further the ministry by serving, and making future appointments for follow-up visits. One of Nohemi's favorite jobs is educating patients, helping them know where to go for their referrals and how to be prepared for specialized treatments.

Nohemi remembers the months that she went without lights or water at her little apartment years ago. She remembers taking her children to their grandparents to bathe. She remembers trying to protect her children from hardship. Now, she is an enthusiastic, passionate advocate for the power that comes in volunteering. And as for Bethesda, she loves her job at the clinic so much that she claims she would work there for any amount of money. "Whatever it takes, pay me whatever; the rest I'll do as a volunteer," she says with a big grin. Why? "Because at Bethesda, they treat each person, patient, volunteer, or staff, like you are already at your potential—even when you don't have any idea what your potential is or when you'll reach it! At Bethesda, there are lots of new beginnings!"



NOHEMI AND REV. PAT MALLORY



“My teeth are in such bad condition. I have two or three abscessed teeth, at least eleven cavities, and swollen gums. I am in pain every day and am always so embarrassed. I never smile. The cost for treatment is out-of-reach for me. After coming to Bethesda, I have hope. Thank you, Bethesda.”

— Anonymous



DR. CHIP SWINNEY AND DR. DAVID NICHOLS

How You Can Help

You can help us expand dental services at Bethesda Health Clinic by providing much needed financial support. And, every dollar donated (up to \$25,000) will automatically be matched by the Rogers Foundation.

Much needed items include:

	Cost
Dental Hand Tools (forceps, clasps, twist elevator,...)	\$ 99.00–185.00
Three Piezo Tips (\$87.95 each)	\$ 263.85
Two Fiber Optic Hand pieces (\$515 each)	\$ 1,030.00
Cordless Curing Light	\$ 1,495.00
Remaining Items for Digital Dental X-Ray	\$ 8,990.00
Upgrade Panorex to Digital	\$ 10,000.00

*A contribution of any size can help! Please send all donations to:
Bethesda Health Clinic/ Dental Expansion, 409 W. Ferguson, Tyler, TX 75702*

new opportunities



There are literally thousands of adult patients in the East Texas area who have serious dental problems. There is no Medicare or Medicaid for dental disease. The Bethesda dental clinic has become a life saver for many who qualify.

Relieving oral infections and pain, restoring decayed and broken teeth does much more than improve a person's oral health. It can change a life. Unsightly missing and decayed front teeth can rob a person of healthy self-esteem. Often, their opportunities for employment are reduced. The Bethesda Clinic is here for these people. Lives are improved.

Several Tyler dentists volunteer a few days each year, offering their services at no cost to Bethesda. However, the list of patients needing treatment continues to grow and the costs associated with serving these patients also continues to grow. Bethesda Clinic relies on the generous support of the East Texas community as we expand these much needed dental services for our patients.

—Dr. David Nichols



The dental services provided by Bethesda Clinic are vital to our community. The benefits are many. However, there are two aspects that I especially appreciate. First, Bethesda offers dental services for adults. While there are several avenues available for children in need of affordable dental services, there are few available to assist adults. Children in need tend to garner our compassion and sympathy and we often respond benevolently. That's wonderful.

However, in contrast, adults needing dental assistance often get only judgment and ridicule. The dental services provided by Bethesda Clinic help bridge this gap. They help restore important dental health for these adults, and often build self-confidence within the patients.

The second aspect that I appreciate about Bethesda's dental program is the paying participation of the patients. Bethesda serves the working, uninsured in our community. Therefore, all patients are required to pay some portion of the expenses. The patient's portion is based upon an ability-to-pay scale and certainly makes the services affordable. Yet, the patient's financial participation demonstrates their commitment to and value in these services. I believe this is important for both the patient and the clinic.

Expanding dental services at Bethesda is an important contribution to our fellow citizens. It promotes better health and better lives.

—Dr. Chip Swinney



The Facts

Bethesda has been blessed to have a number of dedicated dentists who have generously given of their time and talents to serve our patients. With the current volunteer pool of dentists, we have been able to see about 350 patient visits a year. However, we have not seen an appreciable growth in this number over the last five years. This has left a lot of patients without care or having to wait over six months just to get an initial evaluation. With dental pain, every day you have to wait seems like an eternity. By expanding dental services, the clinic will be able to see patients within days of when they call in pain.

The Future

Expanding the clinic's dental services will have a dramatic impact on our patients. So many patients who suffer from dental problems also have medical issues. Dental concerns are more than simply cosmetic or pain issues. Many medical conditions, like diabetes or high blood pressure, are directly affected by dental problems. Also, as patients suffer



BOTTOM ROW: YUDIS VELASQUEZ, DR. CHARLES COPPOCK. TOP ROW: KIM WHISENHUNT, JANET MITCHUM

with the agony of dental pain, their sleep, mood, and general overall health can be greatly compromised, as well as their ability to maintain a job. Enhanced dental services at the clinic will directly attack these problems that are vital to maintaining a community with good healthy productive workers.

The Funding

Increased services bring the need for increased funding. Unfortunately dental supplies and treatments are expensive. While Bethesda patients do pay a portion of the costs, it is expensive to truly offer the services that these patients need. Additional funding will enable the clinic to continue to expand the types and amounts of dental services that we offer. It will provide necessary equipment and additional personnel to help deal efficiently with this critical need in our community. There are a number of different ways that people can support this important project. Several ideas are listed on the preceding page. Bethesda Clinic is blessed to have the support of this community and is counting on that generous support to help us serve more of these crucial needs.

—Dr. John English



new inspiration

The Dr. Luke Committee



DIANNE MOORE, BETSY ELLIS,
DR. BILL MOORE



ELEANOR CAMERON, DR. HAROLD CAMERON,
SHERYL PALMER



LOUISE ARNOLD, DR. DUANE ANDREWS,
PATTY ANDREWS

Each year, Bethesda Clinic honors distinguished physicians who have exhibited extraordinary service and commitment to those in our community who cannot afford adequate medical care. Honorees are chosen because they reflect the characteristics of Luke who was referred to by the Apostle Paul, in Colossians 4:14, as the "beloved physician."

Paying tribute to the Dr. Luke Society honorees requires the creative and dedicated service of the Dr. Luke Committee. On February 18, some 280 guests gathered at Willowbrook Country Club for the dinner and awards ceremony that honored Dr. Harold Cameron and Dr. Bill Moore. Bethesda's Director of Development Diane Thomason praised the work of the Dr. Luke Committee. She noted, "The inspired efforts and resourceful support of these devoted committee members produced a wonderful evening! Thanks to their tireless efforts, two outstanding physicians received much-deserved honor and recognition, while Bethesda Clinic received \$100,000 in essential funding. We are truly thankful for the committee's willingness to selflessly to serve others!"



Catherine Harrison
Committee Chair

The Dr. Luke event is just one of many avenues by which a volunteer can serve at Bethesda Health Clinic. It was a wonderful evening that not only recognized & awarded two very deserving doctors, but it exceeded our fund raising goal and educated our 280 guests about the mission of Bethesda Health Clinic.

I had a wonderful committee that held a firm commitment to serving God by raising funds so the working uninsured of Smith County could continue to receive care at Bethesda and hear of the hope that is in Christ alone. Chairing the Dr. Luke event was one of the most rewarding volunteer jobs I have held and I was blessed beyond measure. I am convinced the success of this event was God's way of reminding me that blindness is no excuse for not using my God given skills to serve Him and His people. Walking by faith and not by sight led me through the front doors of Bethesda Health Clinic to serve our community and glimpse the vision of God at work.



LaVerne Gollob
Committee Member & 2012 Chair

Several years ago, my husband Michael and I became supporters of Bethesda Clinic. We liked the collaboration between Bethesda and the many, many churches in Tyler. We are thankful and impressed with the doctor/dentist volunteers, the professional staff, and the trained committed volunteers from all walks of life. Bethesda has made a big impact on Tyler in a positive and helpful way.



BOTTOM ROW: BESS ARNOLD, CATHERINE HARRISON, LAVERNE GOLLOB. TOP ROW: MARY GAMMELL, NANCY LAMAR, DIANE THOMASON, MARY MEYERS, LOUISE ARNOLD, MARY DALE THOMAS. NOT PICTURED: KAY CRUTCHFIELD.

This past year, I was invited to serve on the Dr. Luke Committee. It was an incredibly wonderful experience and quite successful. We are blessed to have such generous friends in Tyler. We are already planning the Dr. Luke event for 2012, and hope you will make plans to come and be a part of Bethesda.



Mary Gammell
Committee Member

Two years ago, I was honored to be asked to help with the Dr. Luke event. At that time, I never realized that I was being drawn into such a wonderful organization benefiting so many hard working people. This past year, I was again blessed to assist with the event as it honored two very special physicians- Dr. Harold Cameron and Dr. Bill Moore. The outpouring of support allowed me to see the “cross over” happiness that comes with the Dr. Luke Dinner. In other words,

not only are we honoring physicians that walk the path of the Disciple Luke, but we are also funding our community’s future medical needs. And since Bethesda is a community-driven ministry—not funded with government money—more people can be helped with less “red tape.” Our faith-based community has fully-embraced this wonderful facility! I am looking forward to next year and opportunities to inspire others to become involved at Bethesda.



Mary Dale Thomas
Committee Member

At Bethesda . . .
I see desperate people being helped;
I see grateful people being healed;
I see attitudes changing because someone really cares;
That’s why I volunteer for Bethesda!

From the early beginning, I was drawn to Bethesda Clinic where I witnessed hopelessness turning into hope. I saw the Doctors English devoting their time and lives unselfishly to this ministry. I witnessed Bethesda patients who are hardworking, honest but uninsured, receiving top care they needed from doctors and dentists who volunteer their time and energy. So many are living out Jesus’ words: “For as much as you have done it unto the least of these—you have done it unto me!”

For more information about the annual Dr. Luke event, contact Diane Thomason at 903-596-8353, ext. 106. or dthomason@bethesdaclinic.org.



JO AND GARY DOBBS



DR. RICHARD HANDLEY, SUZANNE HANDLEY, SHIRLEY SHI



NATHAN ATKINSON AND DR. SUNNI BOREN

Dr. Luke Dinner



THOMAS AND VENONA CLYDE



FRONT ROW L TO R:
SUSAN BRACKEN,
BECKY TAYLOR,
CAROLINE WYLIE.
BACK ROW L TO R:
PATRICIA HAMPE,
DR. CLARK HAMPE,
SHERYL PALMER,
PATRICK WILLIS,
DR. SHERILYN WILLIS,
SUSAN ROBBINS,
REVEREND JOHN ROBBINS

hope, and happenings



JON LEICHLITER, DEBBY DAVIS, AND DR. JOHN ENGLISH AT THE **LEADERSHIP TYLER MEETING** HELD AT THE CLINIC



KEVIN BURDETTE, CAROL SMITH, DONNA HALE AND REED BURDETTE AT THE **GREEN ACRES SATURDAY CLINIC**



ANN PRIMER, JOYCE LYNN ARRINGTON, AND SHERRY INGRAM AT THE **BETHESDA ALLIANCE PRESIDENT'S TEA**

DR. ERIC SMITH, DR. BILL BROWN, AND DR. MICHAEL RUSSELL AT THE **MARVIN SATURDAY CLINIC**



JAN MITCHELL, LORI HOLT AND EKUA ASSABILL AT THE **LEADERSHIP TYLER MEETING** AT THE CLINIC





new ways to give

the potpourri house

By Cathy Primer Krafve

If you have ever been to his family-owned, local business The Potpourri House, you might assume fun is what motivates Les Ellsworth. Faith, however, is what motivated his parents from the beginning and faith continues to inform Les' every decision. It shows in his business! Fun is just a fringe benefit of faith at The Potpourri House.

True to its name, The Potpourri House is a mixture of everything fun and delicious, from family-created recipes (served Monday through Saturday) to the eclectic mix of ladies and home fashions. The restaurant and boutique are so popular that some tour guides consider it as important to the Rose Festival and Azalea Trail as any other famous Tyler site. The place is bustling with laughter as guests multi-task, combining tempting lunch and dinner choices with moments set aside to browse everything from "bling" for friends, to custom lamps, sweet shop truffles or the latest fashion. There is plenty to enjoy at this Tyler treasure!

A few years ago, Les became determined to focus his charitable giving, in order to make a greater impact. Just as he personally chooses each item in the boutique, he also made an intentional decision to focus on and bless one care-

fully chosen local ministry and one international ministry. The local ministry he chose was Bethesda Health Clinic.

"With all the talk about healthcare, Bethesda is doing what we, as a nation and in the churches, should be doing - taking care of people. Patients retain their dignity because patients pay something; it is not welfare," says Les. "We have doctors donating their skills. I think the whole thing is cool."

As creative as he is in designing the atmosphere of hospitality and casual luxury in his business, Les is just as creative in finding new ways to give to Bethesda. "We were so thrilled when Les gave us an amazing collection of things for a silent auction, which included a beautiful stone cross necklace designed by his mom," says Director of Development Diane Thomason. "Of course, he and Susan are so giving. They have been so good to Bethesda. We truly appreciate their generosity and creativity." Along with giving in-kind gifts for silent auctions, The Potpourri House has also offered to provide delicious treats for gatherings at the clinic.

This year, Les implemented another creative option for giving when he began directing donations to the clinic through the Potpourri House's website. "The website is allowing us to be more focused. I know it is getting Bethesda's name out there," he says. "It is obvious God is working in this."

Best of all, from Les' point of view, is the care and connection his own employees have found with Bethesda. Some Potpourri staff members have even

shared Bible Studies at the clinic. Diane Thomason noted, "He encourages his employees to be patients at the clinic. His own staff takes part in our mission! That's really what it's all about!"

In-kind giving, catering support, website connections, and directed donations. For Les, finding creative ways to help the community through Bethesda is just one more way to express his faith. And it just so happens to be fun, as well!

THE
POTPOURRI
HOUSE



new ways to give



dia de las Madres

One of the many ways that Bethesda Health Clinic serves the community is through the annual Dia de las Madres (Day of the Mothers) event. This popular program began when some community leaders in the Hispanic community realized that many Hispanic women were unable to access various medical and community services. To help address this need, Dia de las Madres was created. The event has continued to grow in attendance and impact, reaching some 1,000 participants each year.

Visitors to the event take advantage of a myriad of services, including free medical screenings such as: pap smears, mammograms, glucose and cholesterol tests, and dental exams for children. The event also provides a wealth of educational information for the participants. Information about health and wellness, nutrition, exercise, early detection and preventative measures and community resources are provided. All services are delivered in English, as well as Spanish.

According to Bethesda Development Director Diane Thomason, Dia de las Madres is a wonderful example of how our community comes together for the good of its people. "This remarkable event is only possible through the creative and generous donations of our community," she noted. "Healthcare pro-

fessionals donate their time and talents, area corporations provide financial and service support and individual donors give of their time and dollars."

Sponsors of the most recent Dia event included: Bank of America, John Merrill State Farm Insurance Agency, Medical and Pathology Laboratories and Pathology Associates of Tyler, the Komen Foundation, East Texas Medical Center, Trinity Mother Frances Health System, University of Texas Health Center at Tyler, Kool Smiles, La Invasora Radio, Don Juan's Mariscos, Vita Latina magazine, and Marseline Soto Crystal Clear Insurance. Numerous doctors, nurses, and other medical and non-medical volunteers also gave of their time and talents to make this event a huge success.

ROBIN HUNT WITH KOOL SMILES EXAMINES A PATIENT AT **DIA DE LAS MADRES**



Giving...To Dia de las Madres

If you would like to help meet the health-care needs of those in our community, consider supporting the Dia de las Madres event. You can help by:

- Volunteering your time and talents;
- Giving a personal donation;
- Encouraging your company, church or service organization to give to the event through donations of services or financial support;

For more information or a list of specific items you could contribute towards, contact Diane Thomason at (903) 596-8353, ext. 106.





Bethesda
HEALTH CLINIC
Bringing Healing, Help and Hope

409 W. Ferguson | Tyler, TX 75702

Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Tyler, Texas
Permit No. 14

2011 Board of Directors

Dr. Ron Pinkenburg
Board Chair

Nancy Lamar
*Development
Committee Chair*

Jeni Ramsey
*Finance Committee
Chair*

Barbara Sjerven
Governance Chair

Dr. Todd Raabe
Board Emeritus

Rev. Pat Mallory
Board Emeritus

Dr. Patricia Blair
Dr. Sunni Boren

Vivian Garza
Kathy Gohmert
Verna Hall

Keith Ingram
Carol Lott

Dr. Tom Lowery
Samuel Mejorado

Dr. David Nichols
Amy Proctor

Rebecca Sanders
Patty Steelman

VaLita Waits

2011 Advisory Council

Ken Dance
Chair

Harold Beaird

Representative Leo Berman

Tracy Crawford

Senator Kevin Eltife

Representative Louie Gohmert

Ed King

John Minton

Mac Moseley

Dr. Paul Powell

John Soules

Publication Board

Diane Thomason
Managing Editor

Karen McJimsey
Editor

Autry Design
Graphic Design

Cathy Primer Krafve
Karen McJimsey
Feature Writers

Dr. Robbins
Vascular Specialists
Newsletter Underwriters

VASCULAR SPECIALISTS
OF EAST TEXAS