



All you need is love
and commitment.

How your generosity has given the Schaeffer family hope and support at Bethesda Pediatrics.

Rachel Schaeffer and her family live in Ben Wheeler, Texas. She and her husband, Kevin, are biological parents of 8 children but have served as foster parents to more than 10 others throughout the years.

As foster parents, the Schaeffer's believe in God's calling to serve others and make room in their home (and their hearts) to love and care for kids in need.

An important part of serving these kids is having a trusted pediatrician and medical family to walk along the path with them. Throughout her

journey as a foster mom, she has relied on Bethesda Pediatrics and Dr. Danny Price for everything from medical advice to prayer.

"If a child is placed in our home, we know that God brought them to our family," Rachel shares. "Even if it's hard, I know that we have already prayed over them and we will be committed to them."

The Schaeffers have eight biological children that range in age from 11 to 25. They currently have three foster children who they are also adopting.

Continued on next page.



Rachel Schaeffer and Dr. Danny Price

"My very first impression was when you have a child in foster care, they have to be seen in the first three days they are in your home," Rachel said. "That can be a problem for a lot of pediatricians."

Bethesda Pediatrics is a designated Foster Care Center of Excellence, and there are currently only nine clinics in Texas with this designation, with the next closest one in Houston.

Bethesda Pediatrics staff and providers are trained to treat children with multiple adverse childhood events (ACEs), including trauma, abuse, neglect, and other issues. Bethesda Pediatrics provides trauma-informed care that meets the physical and emotional needs of their patients.

"The staff are all very positive, and our first placement was a girl that had a lot of psychiatric issues and the staff all worked so hard for her," Rachel said. "They are so patient and tolerant with the children who have behavioral issues. They just know how to work with the kids and the kids love going there."

Rachel also appreciates how she doesn't have to wait for more than 15 minutes to see the doctor.

Dr. Danny Price explains that the focus on foster children and families comes directly from James 1:27:

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."



Dr. Danny Price and Stephen

Stephen's* Story

Stephen was placed in the Schaeffer's home after suffering from shaken baby syndrome and other traumas as an infant. He was almost two years old and had a lot of medical issues and testing that still needed to be done.

"Because of all the damage that had been done to him, he had the worst case of 'white coat syndrome' I have ever seen," Rachel said. "Yet, he was really able to do well with Dr. Danny. He no longer screams and has made so much progress, and I attribute it to the experience at Bethesda Pediatrics."

The Schaeffers officially adopted Stephen in January of 2023.

"One of the things I have really appreciated is that I have felt so supported as a foster mom and as a parent," she continued. "Dr. Danny trusts me, and if I tell him about a therapy the child needs, he listens. "Stephen is able to thrive in our home now."

Your support has made it possible for Stephen and hundreds of other foster children to receive the medical care they need. Thank you for being a blessing!

**This child's name has been changed to protect the privacy of the family.*



Dr. John English, CEO

A NOTE FROM JOHN

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe we are almost half-way through 2024. So far this year, your partnership has allowed us to stabilize and grow services in adult and pediatric medical, dental and mental health.

Your tremendous support with many recent projects has been instrumental in growing Bethesda to help more East Texas families. As you will see in this newsletter, our team has grown and more providers have joined on to care for those in our community. With two full-time adult clinic dentists, we have seen a significant increase in patient visits and a drop in

patient wait times. This means more people are able to be seen quickly, especially those in pain, which alleviates their trips to the emergency room.

Bethesda Pediatrics is gaining more patients, and this past quarter alone we had a record number of patient visits at our pediatric dental clinic! With the help from community organizations like The Junior League and G.I.V.E. (Girls Invested in Volunteer Efforts), and local businesses such as AVCO Roofing, we look to bring another pediatric dentist on board and upgrade some of the outdated equipment that will help our dental team work more efficiently.

Another exciting impact has been the expansion of the Bethesda satellite clinic in Lindale (located at The Journey Center), where we have tripled the number of patient visits from last year. What an amazing blessing for those who are outside of Tyler!

Stories from our patients like Jennifer, The Shaeffer family and Misty featured in this issue are just a few examples of how you are making a tangible impact on our community. It is always an honor to serve this great cause alongside you.

With Gratitude,
John English, CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John".

"Your donations, prayers and volunteer hours are what separates Bethesda apart in the community and allows us to be a beacon of hope for those in need."

PATIENT STORY ROSA GODINA



After going 8 years with not being able to hear, Rosa can finally hear again!

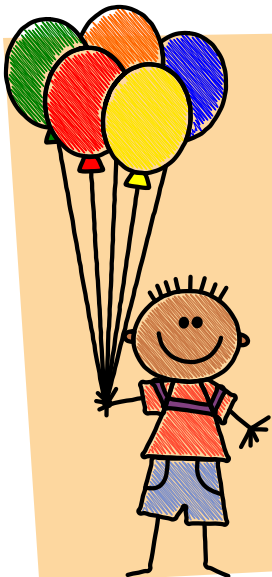
Your support gave Rosa the chance to receive repurposed hearing aids that were configured especially for her. She dreamed of the day to be able to hear, but after being quoted \$5,000 for hearing aids, she felt like the dream would never come true.

Rosa is a hard-working mom who works as an embroiderer at local children's company, Cecil and Lou, but she cannot afford health insurance.

After trying to learn English several times, and quitting because she couldn't hear the instructor, she will finally be able to accomplish her personal goal of learning the language.

Rosa cried tears of joy and expressed how even her family life will improve.

Thank you! FOR INVESTING IN ROSA'S HEALTH!



PEDIATRIC TESTIMONIAL:

Charla Martin, mother of Mason and Maverick

"I love all the doctors at Bethesda Pediatrics! We have seen Dr. Price, KT and Amber. I just wanted to say thank you for all that they do! They go above and beyond for their patients and it needs to be recognized."

I have been a very worried mom, but I know we are on the right track to healing!"

Bethesda
PEDIATRICS



WELCOME NEW PROVIDERS!

Your generous support has led to exponential growth at Bethesda! Meet our newest providers:



Rick Martinez, M.D.

Primary Care Physician at Bethesda Health Clinic

Dr. Martinez comes from a family of medical professionals. His grandfather was a pulmonary doctor, his father was a pediatrician and his brother is an allergist. He graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and fulfilled his internship & residency in San Antonio.

He loves taking care of patients of all ages, especially the elderly, and is passionate about helping care for those with diabetes. Diabetes is something that runs in his family and he also has the disease, which allows him to share a personal connection to those patients.

Dr. Martinez is trilingual and speaks English, Spanish and German. He enjoys playing tennis and watching Star Wars, and has three daughters.

Amber Blissett, PA-C

Primary Care Provider at Bethesda Pediatrics

Amber earned a Bachelor of Science in Allied Health from Texas A&M University and a Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas.

She is a native East Texan and considers it a privilege to be able to help others in her community. She enjoys caring for the pediatric population throughout all stages and is excited to be able to provide compassionate care for your children. When not working in the clinic Amber is probably enjoying time with her husband and their daughter, Mila. Amber also enjoys traveling, reading, and spending time with family and friends.



Erika Oguanobi - DDS

Dentist at Bethesda Health Clinic

Dr. Erika Oguanobi joined Bethesda in early 2024. She has been providing dental services for over 20 years and earned her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from Baylor College of Dentistry. After completing dental school, she went on to complete a residency with the US Navy at Norfolk, VA and then served on active duty at Camp Lejeune Marine Corp in North Carolina. She also holds a B.S. in Chemistry from Dillard University in New Orleans, LA.



Lizeth Zavala, LPC Associate

under the supervision of Kim Camp, M.A., LPC-S

Lizeth is our newest mental health counselor and a graduate of University of Texas at Tyler. She will be splitting her time between our pediatric clinic and adult clinic to ensure mental health needs are met for all patients. Fun fact: when she was a child, she was a patient at St. Paul's Medical Clinic. Now she has come full circle back to help children in our community!



WHY WE GIVE TO BETHESDA: THE EGAÑA FAMILY



Gonzalo and Amy are the brokers and owners of Next Home Neighbors. From left, Amy, Sophia, Alex, Isabella and Gonzalo

Amy and Gonzalo Egaña started their real estate journey in 2008. Their first year they barely made enough to live on and quickly used up their savings.

"We did not go to Bethesda, but if I had known more, I would have utilized the resources they provide," Amy said.

Fast forward to today, and the Egañas share their success as giving their business to God and allowing Him to grow it in ways they could have never imagined.

Amy says, "I strongly believe that God allows us to go through things in life so we can have grace on others. If there's ever a time we can help our community through our time and resources we want to show grace and love just as it has been given to us."

That philosophy leads them to give back to their community through their time and resources.

"I love the mission of coming alongside people that truly need a helping hand," Amy said. "Healthcare is a complicated and an expensive part of living in the US. The grace and love given to the recipients of Bethesda is the perfect example of Christ's love to help our neighbors."



SAVE THE DATE
SEPTEMBER 28

W.T. BROOKSHIRE CONFERENCE CENTER 6:30 P.M.

OUR ENCHANTING DECORATORS:

Wendy Bratteli,
Bratteli Family Stores

Lee Gibson,
Southside Bank

Shannon Glenney,
Community Volunteer

Joshua Johnson,
Chick-Fil-A - Lindale

Jim Nipp,
The Genesis Group

Julie Philley,
The University of Texas at Tyler

Megan Tarrant,
Clements Fluids

Tom Trimble,
Oncor



Scan the code for sponsorship opportunities

PATIENT STORY JENNIFER COOLEY



You gave Jennifer an understanding of diabetes and the ability to afford ongoing, life-saving care at Bethesda.

"I have known about Bethesda for many, many years, but never thought I would qualify," says Jennifer, who was overjoyed when she realized that being a caregiver actually allowed her to become a patient at the clinic.

Jennifer lives in Lindale and was at a loss for her own healthcare needs. As a full-time caregiver for her special needs son, Jennifer did what many moms do often - neglect their own health. Jennifer developed diabetes and other health problems, which can be life-threatening if not controlled.

"It wasn't until I got to Bethesda that I found real care from folks who are willing to explain and teach me how to manage my diabetes. It was a real blessing."

Jennifer is able to be seen at the satellite clinic in Lindale, saving her gas money and time.

Because of your generosity, Jennifer has a new outlook on her life and her health. Your support means she can now focus on her number one priority - being a mom.

As a diabetic, Jennifer is one of hundreds of patients who are able to see a doctor regularly as part of Bethesda's Chronic Disease Program.

"I was diagnosed a little over three years ago, but only since coming to Bethesda have I had anyone be in-depth with how to deal with a diabetes diagnosis," she said. "I didn't understand the severity of the issue until I started talking to the Bethesda doctors. Now that I am under a physician's care, I have noticed changes and I feel better."

You gave Jennifer an understanding of diabetes and the ability to afford ongoing, life-saving care at Bethesda.

"Being able to know more about what's going on with me and how I should be handling things gives me the opportunity to not be so worn out and I can do more things with my kid," she said.

You made Jennifer healthier and stronger.

"I really felt left behind and God stepped in and answered every single prayer," Jennifer confessed. "It has been an amazing blessing for me."



PATIENT STORY MISTY WHITE

***BECAUSE OF
YOUR SUPPORT,***

Misty found
healing
and help at
Bethesda.





Living in excruciating pain became a part of life for Misty.

Uninsured and busy working while raising her five kids, Misty developed a sudden, constant pain in her arm.

She has never had a job that offered her insurance that she could afford.

Before knowing about Bethesda, Misty thought her only option was going to the ER.

"I went to five or six hospitals and everyone kept refusing me," she said.

"There were a few who told me I might have blood clots, but they just sent me home."

Misty felt like she would be living in constant pain forever, when someone at her job told her about Bethesda Clinic.

"Honestly, I wanted to give up because I thought that no one was going to help me," she recalled. "I had to move my left arm constantly just to be able to tolerate the pain."

Misty works at Greenbriar Rehabilitation Home as an activity assistant, meaning she is constantly helping residents with their own daily tasks and extracurricular activities.

"As soon as I went through Bethesda, I got to see Dr. Todd Raabe," Misty said.

Dr. Raabe, a spine surgeon at Azalea Orthopedics, and a volunteer at Bethesda, informed Misty that it was actually her neck, not her arm, that was the cause of her pain.

*With your help,
Misty underwent
emergency surgery
that fused her
C5, C6 and C7
vertebrae together,
by Dr. Raabe at
Baylor Scott and
White Texas Spine
and Joint Hospital.*

"It was amazing," Misty said, of her experience. "When I am able to give back, I am going to give to Bethesda, because I know there are other people like me without insurance."

Today, Misty has fully healed, is back at work and has full range of her neck.

"Without Bethesda, I would have lost my mind. You saved my life."

Thank you!
FOR CHANGING MISTY'S LIFE!

Jennifer Hernandez served as an intern at Bethesda Clinic and graduated this May with a Bachelor's Degree in social work from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Jennifer served over 400 hours this semester helping Bethesda patients with their needs.



Why did you want to volunteer/intern at Bethesda?

"I have always wanted to work in the medical area of social work, and I knew Bethesda would be a good fit for me specifically because I wanted to give back to the community. I personally have family who have been helped by Bethesda, so it means a lot to be able to be a part of the clinic that helped my family"

What have you learned here through working with Bethesda patients?

"I have learned that a lot of the time people just need a support system. A lot of times patients feel overwhelmed with the number of steps needed to achieve their goal. Having a support system helps people navigate the system better and feel less alone in the process."

How will this experience help you with your future career?

"Being exposed to people of different backgrounds and cultures will help me with my career in social work. I am so grateful for the opportunity to intern at Bethesda Health Clinic. I have learned so much already, and I cannot wait to see how this opportunity will shape my future!"

Thank you, Jennifer, for lovingly working with our patients and being willing to go above and beyond to meet their needs.

"I personally have family who have been helped by Bethesda, so it means a lot to be able to be a part of the clinic that helped my family."



**HUGE THANKS TO GIRLS INVESTED IN VOLUNTEER EFFORTS (GIVE)
FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATION OF \$18,000 TO BETHESDA PEDIATRICS!**

This amazing donation funded the addition of a new pediatric dental chair in order to serve more patients. G.I.V.E. is a passionate initiative of The Women's Fund of Smith County. Through this meaningful program, high school girls (grades 9 – 12) experience the joy of collective giving and grant-making.

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Save The Date!

The Lady Golfers of the Cascades presents

Hit The Greens For The Pink

benefitting breast cancer treatment and prevention for uninsured,
working East Texans

September 9, 2024

**The Cascades Golf & Country Club
4511 Briarwood Road
Tyler, TX 75709**

-
- 4-Person Teams
 - \$100 Per Player
 - Flights: Men, Women, Coed
 - Format: Step-Aside Scramble
-

Sponsorships Available

Contact: Anne Watson (623-236-5418;
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Bethesda
HEALTH CLINIC

