



## Two Barbers: One Powerful Impact

### What Your Support Makes Possible

### Every day, Phil and Clay spend their time serving others.

The two barbers work side-by-side at Clay's Cuts in Tyler, where they greet customers, share stories, and help people look and feel their best. Like many self-employed business owners, however, they have faced a challenge that countless hardworking East Texans know all too well: finding affordable healthcare.

*That's where you come in.*

For both men, Bethesda Clinic has become a trusted healthcare home—providing the medical care, medications, and support they need to stay healthy, continue working, and care for their families.

For Phil, that support has been life-changing.

In 2014, after years of living with untreated diabetes and high blood pressure because he couldn't afford regular healthcare, Phil experienced a serious medical emergency. A doctor in the ER recommended Bethesda Clinic, and that recommendation changed the course of his life.

Today, Phil receives two types of insulin and several other medications that help manage his diabetes and heart condition. If he had to pay retail prices, those medications would cost approximately \$3,000 every month.

**"Without Bethesda, I really don't think I would be here," Phil says.**



# A NOTE FROM JOHN

Dear Friends,  
As I write this letter, I am filled with gratitude.

Because of your generosity, Bethesda Clinic has reached a remarkable milestone: **we have successfully met our \$25 million capital campaign goal.**

This achievement is a testament to the incredible community of supporters who believe that everyone deserves access to quality healthcare and are willing to invest in such a project that will change healthcare in Tyler for generations.

**Thank you for making this possible.**

The progress on our new facility continues at an exciting pace. The inside framing is complete, the roof is completed, and the HVAC system has been upgraded. Outside, work on the fountain is nearing completion, while inside, drywall is taking shape and transforming construction plans into real spaces where healing will happen every day.

With each passing week, our vision becomes more tangible. We are currently anticipating an opening in February or March and look forward to welcoming patients into a facility designed to meet the growing healthcare needs of our community for decades to come.

While bricks, steel, and drywall are important, this building has never been about construction. It has always been about people.

In this issue, you'll read the story of Phil and Clay, two local barbers whose lives have been impacted by Bethesda Clinic. Phil receives life-saving medications that would otherwise cost him thousands of dollars each month. Clay has relied on Bethesda for medical and dental care for more than a decade. Their stories are different,

but they share a common thread: **without access to affordable healthcare, both would face impossible choices.**

Their stories remind us that your support does more than build buildings.

It provides dignity, hope, and compassionate care to people who might otherwise go without.

As we celebrate the success of this campaign and watch our new facility take shape, we remain mindful that **none of this would be possible without you.**

We look forward to sharing more progress with you in the months ahead and celebrating together when the doors of our new clinic officially open.

With gratitude,

John English,  
M.D., CEO



Because of you, Phil receives the medications, lab work, and ongoing care he needs to manage his health. When he first came to Bethesda, his A1C was 11.4. Today, it is 5.9.

Those numbers tell an important story—but so does Phil's quality of life. Thanks to consistent care, he is healthier, stronger, and able to continue doing the work he loves.

"You don't realize how much stress you're under from not being able to afford healthcare," Phil says.

Thanks to you, Phil can focus on running his business and enjoying life instead of worrying about how he'll pay for medications, lab work, and doctor's visits. He also gives back to the community through mission trips and helping support artwork from individuals who have disabilities.

Just a few feet away in the next barber chair, Clay has his own Bethesda story.

As the owner of the shop, Clay has spent years balancing the responsibilities of running a small business while trying

to manage his own healthcare needs. Living with chronic pain from a childhood car accident and a broken vertebra in his back, he knows how important access to affordable healthcare can be.

"I'm self-employed, so I can't afford health insurance," Clay says. "You guys have helped me out a tremendous amount."

A Bethesda patient for almost two decades, Clay relies on both the clinic's medical and dental services. In fact, he sees Bethesda's



dental team regularly and proudly recommends the clinic to others.

"Every day I get somebody in my chair that's struggling, and I tell them they've got to go to Bethesda," he says.

For Clay, what stands out most is the compassion he experiences every time he visits.

"I've been going to Bethesda for more than 15 years, and I've never had a bad experience," he says. "Everybody working there seems like they just want to be there."

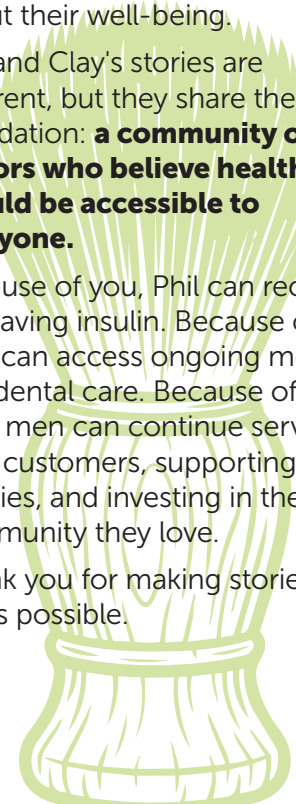
Without Bethesda, both men say their options would be limited. Like many uninsured adults, they would likely delay care until a health problem became serious enough to require an emergency room visit.

Instead, because of your generosity, they have access to preventive care, medications, lab work, dental services, and providers who genuinely care about their well-being.

Phil and Clay's stories are different, but they share the same foundation: **a community of donors who believe healthcare should be accessible to everyone.**

Because of you, Phil can receive life-saving insulin. Because of you, Clay can access ongoing medical and dental care. Because of you, both men can continue serving their customers, supporting their families, and investing in the community they love.

Thank you for making stories like theirs possible.



# Because of You, Families Find Care and Hope: *Veronica Gonzalez's Story*



**“Dr. Price has been exceptional from the very beginning,” Veronica shared. “He always has the same energy, the same patience, and the same level of care. He talks directly to my kids and makes them feel heard. He cares about their mental health too. You can tell he genuinely cares about his patients and their families,” she said.**

Because of you, children are growing up with trusted healthcare providers who truly know and care for them.

Your generosity also helps Bethesda Clinic stay connected to the community outside the clinic walls through events like School is Cool and the Back-to-School Bash — something Veronica deeply appreciates.

For Veronica, one of the most meaningful parts of her family's experience has been feeling welcomed and understood.

“Everybody's nice, we feel comfortable there,” she said. “I love that my kids get spoken to in both English and Spanish by the staff. I feel 100% confident in the care my kids receive.”

Thank you for making stories like Veronica's possible.

More than five years ago, Veronica Gonzalez was searching for healthcare for her children during a difficult time. Her family did not have insurance, and navigating the healthcare system felt overwhelming. A family friend told her about Bethesda Pediatrics, where affordable self-pay options made it possible for her children to receive care they otherwise may have gone without.

Before coming to Bethesda, Veronica's family experienced a gap in healthcare after their previous pediatrician moved clinics.

“We didn't know where to go before,” she said. “We only knew our old doctor.”

Because of your generosity, families like Veronica's don't have to face those uncertainties alone.

Today, Veronica says her family has found not only a medical home, but also a caring community.

“Dr. Price is a blessing,” she said.

Your support makes it possible for providers like Dr. Price to offer compassionate, consistent care year after year — care that goes beyond physical health.

Dr. Roger Fowler

### Why I volunteer

For most of my career, medicine was tied to productivity, schedules, and the realities of earning a living. Like many providers, I spent years working within systems that measured success by how many patients could be seen in a day.

Volunteering at Bethesda Clinic has reminded me why I entered healthcare in the first place.

When I walk through these doors, I'm not focused on the dollar. I'm focused on the person sitting in front of me. I have the freedom to give patients the time they deserve—to listen, to understand their needs, and to provide care without feeling rushed by a clock or pressured by productivity goals.

**Bethesda Clinic exists for one reason: to care for people.** There are no financial incentives driving decisions, only a commitment to serving patients in the best way possible. That creates a culture that is truly special. The staff are caring, engaged, respectful, and deeply committed to the mission. It's simply a great place to work alongside others who share a heart for service.

The patients make the experience even more meaningful. They are uninsured and have limited options for healthcare. Without clinics like this, some would have nowhere to turn. Being able to provide care for them—and seeing the gratitude with which they receive it—is incredibly rewarding. Their thankfulness is genuine, and it serves as a powerful reminder of the impact compassionate healthcare can have on a person's life.

At this stage of my life, volunteering here has become more than just practicing medicine. It's an opportunity to serve others in a way that reflects the values I believe in. It reminds me that healthcare is ultimately about people helping people.

Every time I volunteer, I leave feeling that I received just as much as I gave.



If you're a healthcare provider looking for a meaningful way to use your skills, I can honestly say that serving at Bethesda Clinic has been one of the most fulfilling experiences of my career.

*Editor's Note: Bethesda Clinic is currently seeking volunteer specialists, particularly neurologists and endocrinologists, to help meet the growing needs of uninsured patients in our community. If you would like to learn more about volunteering, we'd love to hear from you.*

### Make a Difference in Your Community—Volunteer with Bethesda Clinic!

We are currently seeking compassionate volunteers to help us expand access to healthcare for our neighbors in need.

#### Current volunteer opportunities include:

- Bilingual Nurses (Diabetes Program & Nutrition Education)
- Social Work Assistants
- Endocrinologists
- Sonogram Technicians
- Neurologists
- Nurses for our Lindale Clinic
- Front Desk Volunteers for our Lindale Clinic

Whether you can give a few hours a month or serve regularly, your time and expertise can make a life-changing impact.

#### Interested in volunteering?

Email [bangel@bethesdaclinic.org](mailto:bangel@bethesdaclinic.org)

or volunteer online at

[www.bethesdaclinic.org/volunteers](http://www.bethesdaclinic.org/volunteers).



# Supporting the Mission You Love:

## A Smarter Way to Give to Bethesda



**For years, Patty Steelman has believed that giving is about more than making a donation—it's about being a good steward of the resources you've been entrusted with and investing in the organizations that matter most.**

**For Patty, Bethesda is one of those organizations.**

**One of the ways Patty supports Bethesda is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution, or QCD—a charitable gift made directly from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).**

"When I choose to make my annual donations, it is for organizations that have my heart," Patty says. "It gives me the opportunity to support at a level I couldn't otherwise."

For donors age 70½ and older, a QCD can be one of the most effective ways to support Bethesda's mission while also making the most of retirement assets.

### GIVING BEFORE TAXES INSTEAD OF AFTER

Many donors make charitable gifts by writing a check or donating from their bank account. While those gifts are deeply appreciated, there may be a more advantageous option for donors who have retirement accounts.

A Qualified Charitable Distribution allows eligible donors to give directly from their IRA to Bethesda. Because the funds go directly to charity, they are generally not counted as taxable income.

In simple terms, a QCD allows donors to give before taxes rather than after taxes.

"When I do it this way, I don't have to pay tax on the money I receive, and I am required to take this money out of my IRA," Patty explains.

For many retirees, that can make a significant difference.

### TURNING REQUIRED DISTRIBUTIONS INTO MEANINGFUL IMPACT

Once individuals reach a certain age, the IRS requires them to take annual withdrawals from their retirement accounts. These Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) can increase taxable income, whether the money is needed for daily living expenses or not.

A QCD offers another option.

Instead of taking the distribution personally and paying taxes on it, eligible donors can direct all or a portion of those funds to Bethesda. The gift can count toward their Required Minimum Distribution while helping support the ministry and mission they care about most.

"This is coming out of my retirement," Patty says. "I could keep it, of course, but then I would have to pay taxes, so I would rather it serve a greater impact in the community."

For donors who already plan to support Bethesda each year, a QCD can be a powerful way to maximize both their charitable impact and their stewardship.

## SUPPORTING BETHESDA'S MISSION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Every day, Bethesda serves families through compassionate care and meaningful programs made possible only through charitable support.

Your gifts help Bethesda to continue providing exceptional care, enhancing services, investing in facilities, and ensuring that future generations can experience the same commitment to excellence that has defined Bethesda for decades.

For donors like Patty, a QCD is more than a financial strategy—it's an opportunity to strengthen a mission they believe in.

"To me, it's a way to give back at a higher level than my day-to-day income would allow," she says.

## A SMART WAY TO GIVE

As tax laws continue to evolve, many financial professionals view Qualified Charitable Distributions as one of the most tax-efficient charitable giving options available to donors age 70½ and older.

More importantly, a QCD can help donors put more of their resources toward the organizations they love.

"If you want to be a good steward of your money and a good steward in giving to the community, this is one way we have available to us," Patty says. "We have the opportunity to use our required distributions to make a difference."

## LEARN MORE

If you are age 70½ or older and have an IRA, a Qualified Charitable Distribution may be one of the smartest ways to support Bethesda's mission while meeting your charitable and financial goals.

We encourage you to speak with your financial or tax advisor to determine whether a QCD is right for your situation.

**To learn more about making a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Bethesda, please contact:**

**Diane Thomason,**  
**Chief Development Officer at**  
**[dthomason@bethesdaclinic.org](mailto:dthomason@bethesdaclinic.org)**



## BETHESDA BIRTHDAY BASH!



## SAVE THE DATE

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2026**  
**6 PM**  
**W.T. BROOKSHIRE**  
**CONFERENCE CENTER**

**SILENT AUCTION ★ DINNER ★ DANCING**



## OUR 2026 NOTABLE LIVE CAKE AUCTION PATRIOTS

Carleen Dark-Bays  
Shelbie Glover  
Kay Latta  
Austin Luce

Nick Moss  
Jin Sanders  
Laura Zorn  
Lucy Gonzalez,  
*Bethesda Patient*

**SPONSORSHIPS ARE STILL AVAILABLE.**  
**FOR DETAILS CONTACT MEGAN RIAZ AT**  
**[MRIAZ@BETHESDACLINIC.COM](mailto:MRIAZ@BETHESDACLINIC.COM)**





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