



Bethesda

HEALTH CLINIC

SUSTAINING FAITH

Robin couldn't eat, and she couldn't breathe well, but when she couldn't sing, she knew something had to be done. Her voice, lifted in joy and praise to God, was her testimony, and without the ability to share it, she felt disconnected from her sustaining faith.

Robin has a good job at a big retail store, but she has no health insurance, and she knew the goiter in her throat was going to require a surgery she couldn't afford out of pocket. She had been putting off dealing with it for almost four years. Finally a friend at work told her about Bethesda Health Clinic, and on her first visit, Robin sent up a prayer of thanksgiving:

"Thank you for sending me the right people!"

Bethesda physicians Dr. Kendra King and Dr. Sam Houston agreed surgery was the answer, and they called Donnie Gaines, Patient Advocate Coordinator, to look for resources for Robin in the maze of medical red tape and assistance programs. "When I met Robin, I met a kind, sweet, gentle, God-fearing woman," says Donnie. "I said to myself, 'we've just got to get



Robin Foster with Donnie Gaines, our Patient Advocate Coordinator

this taken care of!" Donnie admits to being "pushy for my patients," and she went to work, on the phone, on the internet and with her network of connections in the medical community. She was able to qualify Robin for the Medicaid Buy-In program, giving her a way to pay for her surgery.

The next task was finding a doctor who was willing to do Robin's surgery and accept Medicaid as payment. Up stepped Dr. Warren Abrameit. "God sent me a praying doctor," exclaims Robin! "He prayed with me before the surgery, holding my hand as he asked God to guide his hands."

From the time Robin first came to Bethesda until her successful surgery,

only four months had lapsed. "It was a fast process because God was in the middle of it," attests Donnie. "Robin has a strong faith, and she believes that God is real and He will do what He says He will do."

Today, Robin is healed and back at work. Most importantly, she's back singing in her church, praising God for her health and for the people at Bethesda Health Clinic who helped give it to her.

Your support of Bethesda Health Clinic gave Robin's story a happy ending, and it will make other happy endings possible in the future.

Thank you for giving Robin her voice back.

BUILDING

CAPACITY FOR THE FUTURE

ONLY THE BEST FOR OUR PATIENTS

Hardworking people in Smith County who have no health insurance have come to depend on Bethesda Health Clinic for quality, compassionate medical and dental care. Every year, more and more people seek care at Bethesda because they have nowhere else to turn. Now, after a decade of service in which the clinic has seen remarkable growth, Bethesda must expand its capacity to serve.

First-time visitors to Bethesda Health Clinic are often surprised and pleased by what they see, a thoughtfully planned and designed clinic that is not only bright and clean but offers a state of the art facility. **“Only the best for our patients”** is a motto Bethesda’s staff and volunteers live by, both in what the clinic looks like and in the highest quality care it offers.

However, in its current physical space, Bethesda Health Clinic is operating at capacity, serving 3,025 patients with 21,068 patient medical visits a year and 784 dental patients with 2,377 dental visits each year. At capacity like this, patients may have delayed appointments and may have to wait longer to be seen than is desirable.

If Bethesda Health Clinic is to continue to provide **“only the best for our patients,” it’s time to grow!**

After much planning and deliberation, the Bethesda Board of Directors has approved a plan to add 2000 square feet to the clinic. The additional space will allow for expansion of the dental clinic with five new rooms (with state-of-the-art equipment) and three exam rooms in the medical clinic, thereby allowing Bethesda to **reach its ultimate goal: to serve more patients.**

Fundraising for construction, furnishing and equipment costs has begun. “We continue to seek partners who will join us in the effort to insure that the highest quality medical care is readily available and accessible for all who need it,” said Dr. John English. “If you would like to be a part of this exciting project, make a contribution or receive additional information, please contact our development director Diane Thomason at 903-521-6185.”

The expansion of Bethesda Health Clinic is not just about building space: it is about building a future of exceptional care. We invite you to join us in creating this opportunity to serve our community.



Cathy Powell



Pat Mallory, Patty Steelman, Rebecca Sanders



Megan Riaz and Eleanor Cameron



Building Expansion Groundbreaking Event

The theme of the groundbreaking event was:

"I'm helping to paint the future of Bethesda."

This is exactly what everyone is doing by coming together to support the clinic expansion project.

Participants donned painting aprons and helped to paint a canvas representation of a commissioned mosaic art piece that will eventually greet patients at the new entry. Everyone had a great time as they added their personal touches to this representational piece.

A NOTE FROM JOHN



Planning for the future has been a constant at Bethesda through the years. Even when we first moved into our building and were only using a fraction of the space, we were talking about the day when all that space would be used to serve more patients. Now, more than eleven years later, this building which once seemed so vast, is used to maximum capacity, and the time has come to expand.

Many people thought that with passage of the Affordable Healthcare Act, clinics like Bethesda would no longer be necessary. Nothing could be further from the truth! The clinic is busier now than at any time in its history, and without our planned expansion, we will have to turn patients away.

Everything we do at Bethesda is made possible by our faith in God and the generosity of our local community. You, our generous friends and donors, have made this work possible. With your continued support, we will expand our building to serve more patients, and we will hold fast to our mission. The future is here, and it is bright indeed!



Tom Lowery

BUILDING EXPANSION PROJECT DONORS

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LEAVING A LEGACY TO BETHESDA HEALTH CLINIC

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you will not sit”...

When Anita Bennett passed away, her gift to Bethesda Health Clinic planted a tree that has grown far larger than anyone, including Ms. Bennett, could have imagined.

At the time Bethesda received Ms. Bennett’s planned gift, the clinic was researching and planning for the opening of a thrift store to provide a new earned income stream in support of the clinic’s mission. The Bethesda board of directors voted to use Ms. Bennett’s generous, unrestricted gift as seed money for the opening of what became Hangers of Hope. The gift helped buy racks and displays, cash registers and shelves, and renovate the empty retail space prior to the shop’s opening.

Within a year, sales at Hangers of Hope had more

than covered the initial investment provided by Ms. Bennett’s gift. Now, the tree planted by Ms. Bennett is a significant source of income for Bethesda, returning her investment over and over by providing resources to help those in need of affordable medical care.

With her planned gift to Bethesda Health Clinic, Anita Bennett symbolically planted a tree and made an investment in the future. As you consider your estate plans, we hope you will talk to your family and your professional advisor about ways you can do the same. You do not have to be a wealthy person to make a significant gift. You just have to be like Anita Bennett, someone who believes in Bethesda Health Clinic and wants your giving to go on forever.

THE JEWEL SOCIETY



When you plan a legacy gift to Bethesda Health Clinic, we welcome you to membership in the Jewel Society, a special group of people whose commitment to the mission of the clinic has led them to continue their support to Bethesda beyond their lifetime.

Named for Jewel Price, a generous supporter of Bethesda in her lifetime, and the donor of the first planned gift to Bethesda, the Jewel Society celebrates those who have made a gift as a part of their estate planning. If you have included a gift to Bethesda in your estate plan, we hope you will

let us know so that we have an opportunity to simply say “thank you” and let you know how much we appreciate your thoughtfulness.



ED KING ...A HEART FOR GIVING

Where did that heart come from? Maybe it was that Ed didn't have much growing up, and he wanted others to have what he didn't in those early lean years. Growing up in Georgia, Ed never forgot his family's small home and the outhouse in the back.

Certainly Ed's giving heart came from his Christian faith, where he found a deep, abiding love and a call to serve. Rev. Paul Powell, Ed's former pastor at Green Acres Baptist Church and longtime friend, called Ed “a friend to humanity.” “He practiced his faith every day,” said Rev. Powell, “and one of the ways he practiced was by helping other people and doing good for other people.

He not only supported the church, but supported a lot of good causes.”

And of course, Ed's heart for giving grew with his love for Sandy, his wife of 59 years, whose own giving heart he credited as an example to him, their family and all who were blessed by knowing and watching them. Diane Thomason, Director of Development at Bethesda remembers a touching compliment Ed paid Sandy. “She's the most beautiful lady in the world,” said Ed. “Along with that, she has the most beautiful heart.”

In true partnership with Sandy, Ed King shared his generous heart with Tyler, giving not just financially, but of himself, his wisdom and his caring. For Ed, giving was much more than writing a check. He was genuinely interested in the causes and organizations he and

Sandy supported.

Bethesda Health Clinic is blessed to have been one of the causes Ed and Sandy King loved and supported. Ed caught the vision of Bethesda early on, connecting with a ministry that spoke to his giving heart and recognizing the benefit it could be to hardworking people like his employees. “Ed King was one of the first people to support Bethesda,” said Dr. John English, Executive Director. “He had a ‘big picture’ view of what this ministry could mean to our community.”

Ed King and his giving heart shaped our community in many, many ways. This gentle, humble and extremely generous man will be missed, but his legacy will live on in the lives he helped to change and the prayers his support helped to answer.

ED KING GOLF TOURNAMENT

“Bethesda is blessed to be among the recipients of proceeds from the Ed King Golf Tournament. Organized by faithful volunteer and Ed King's friend, Ken Dance, the **October 10th** tournament benefitted ministries and organizations dear to Ed King's giving heart.”



**October 10,
2014**



Bishop Joe Strickland and Ann Hossely



Kat and Larry Stokes, Alicia Coltzer



Gina Butler and Callie Lee



Ellisiv McNeil, Dawn Leatherwood, Wendy Bratteli, Jackie Cavender, Veronica Terres



Janie Cape, Linda Cheadle, Cathy Krafve, Wanda Redding, Sandy Barker, Floy Haddox, Michelle McConnell, Pam Wade, Jane Young, June Epp, Margaret Turman



BIRTHDAY BASH



Ed Duncan, Alicia Coltzer, Jacqueline Cavender, Larry Stokes, Kent Boozer, Bishop Joe Strickland, Trent Brookshire, Martin Heines, Jennifer Gaston



Trent Brookshire and John Soules



Paul Powell



Michael and Lisa Lujan



Julie Nichols, Ed (Elvis) Duncan, Eleanor Stringer, Darla Bennett

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