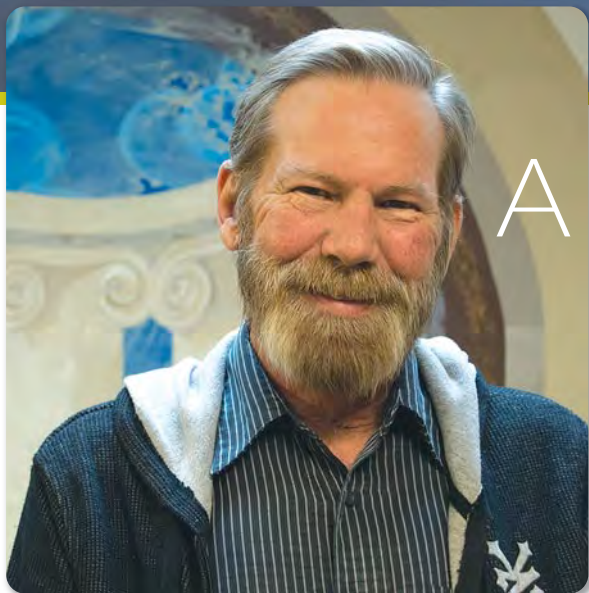


Our **Patients** Have a
for **Bethesda!**



Bethesda
HEALTH CLINIC



A

BLESSED MAN

The artwork Rick created after seeing his vision was chosen for the exhibit, and Rick, who has been an amateur artist all his life, checked an item off his bucket list. "A piece of my art in a real art museum exhibit! How great is that?" Recounting the experience three years later, Rick still beams. "Some of the smallest things can give you the biggest boost of confidence," he offers.

It is a source of pride to Rick that Bethesda is not a free clinic, and he is happy that he can do his part by paying an affordable sliding scale fee for the care he receives. "I make a modest living," says Rick, "and it's right that I pay for Bethesda's services."

What does Rick want supporters of Bethesda to know? "This is the best investment you could possibly make," he asserts. "Lives are changed here because the Lord is in this, and having the Lord in this is important. I believe He will prosper the clinic. He will lead the clinic in the direction it needs to go. We just have to have a lot of faith and a lot of hope."

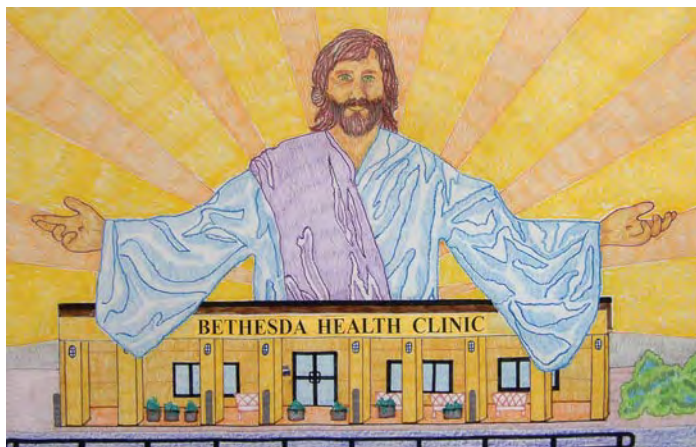
Yes, Rick Gibbons is a blessed man. Blessed by his family, his faith and his connection to Bethesda Health Clinic.

Rick Gibbons considers himself a blessed man, and he counts off his blessings in order: 1. A wonderful wife, 2. A loving home, and 3. Bethesda Health Clinic.

As a church janitor, Rick works hard and loves his job. When he started losing weight, he thought it was just the long hours of manual labor he puts in every day. But Rick didn't feel well – ever. A visit to Bethesda resulted in a quick but unexpected diagnosis of diabetes. With regular visits to the clinic, careful monitoring of his blood sugar and consistency in taking his medicines, Rick feels much better physically. He also feels much better spiritually.

"Without Bethesda Health Clinic, I don't know where I'd be," Rick asserts. "At Bethesda, they talk to you and they listen. They want to know the details. They care about you physically, but they also care about you mentally and spiritually. They will work with you, no matter what."

On one of his routine clinic visits, Rick saw a notice for "The Healing Arts", an exhibit at the Tyler Museum of Art to which Bethesda Health Clinic patients were invited to submit their artwork. "I saw Dr. Ridenour that day," remembers Rick, "and he asked me if he and his nurse could pray with me. We bowed our heads and while they were praying, this image came to me, of Jesus with his arms around Bethesda. I saw clearly that the Lord was watching over everyone and everything that happened in the clinic."



Our **Donors** Have a  for **Bethesda!**

ART AND



Artist Jan Widner is clear about the source of her gift. “I create with joy,” she says, looking upward. “I have a light that shines on me.”

Jan’s life wasn’t always full of joy and light. Nomadic years, marriage to an alcoholic husband, financial instability and uncertainty about her direction and purpose in life kept Jan and her family on the move, literally and figuratively. “In the first half of my life, I didn’t know God,” she says. “But in the second half of my life, I met Jesus and we became good friends. I listen to Him. I pay attention.”

Though she turned to the Lord, Jan still struggled as a single mom raising two sons on her own. “I’ve always been poor,” she admits, “and I’ve never had health insurance.” Still, Jan put her sons first, taking part-time jobs so that she could devote most of her energy to her children. After they left home, she embarked on a life-long dream, getting her college education. Settling in Tyler to be near her oldest son in Dallas, Jan completed her Bachelors Degree in Fine Arts at U.T. Tyler while cleaning houses to support herself. When she graduated summa cum laude, her children were there beaming with pride to watch her walk across the stage.

In those lean college years, Jan turned to Bethesda for help with her medical needs. “I was so happy to pay the \$20 copay, and I love that Bethesda requires its patients to have a job and to pay something. I don’t like “freebies” –

for myself or anyone else,” she says. “Everyone at the clinic is so friendly and nice, and it gave me such peace of mind to know I had medical care.”

After graduation, Jan asked the Lord for direction about the next steps in her life. “He told me I was to open a children’s art studio,” she says. “Put a sign on your car that says, ‘Children’s Art’, He said, so I did, and now I teach art lessons to 80 children each week.”

With the financial security provided by her business, Jan decided it was time to give back. “Tyler has given me a lot” she affirms “and Bethesda Health Clinic has given me a lot. I really believe you should give back to what has been given to you.”

Diane Thomason, Director of Development at Bethesda, applauds Jan’s giving. “Nothing means more to us at Bethesda than when one of our patients becomes a donor. It’s an affirmation of all that Bethesda is about.”

For Jan, art remains an expression of her faith. “I don’t start a work with an idea. I start with materials and colors, sometimes with music and motion. For me, creating art is playing, building, and seeing.” It is also allowing God to flow through her gift, and through her gift, to the children she teaches. “That’s what I want to teach the children,” says Jan. “I want to teach them to see. There is so much more to see than it seems.”

GIVING



We Have a  for our **Patients!**

MEDICINE AND MINISTRY

Becky Hernandez

chose a career at Bethesda Health Clinic because it met both her goals: to care for patients medically and to minister to them spiritually.

A mission trip to Ecuador and experiences in her own life drew Becky to work at Bethesda. "When patients come in we can talk with them to find out what is going on with them mentally, physically and spiritually," she says. "This is how we're able to connect with patients. We open our hearts to them and let them talk to us about what is going on in their lives."

It speaks to Becky that there are Scriptures on the walls of the patient rooms. "We ask the patients 'How is your day going? Can I pray for you?' Our patients allow us into their lives like that. We can find out if there is something else going on in their lives that is preventing them from taking care of their health.



I believe it really moves mountains for them to let us in and just be able to say a little prayer for them."

That view of the "big picture" of what it means to be healthy is clear to Becky. "If the mind, spirit and soul are not working together, it doesn't matter how much medicine you give the patient, or what you tell them about their health... it is not going to happen. They have to be whole in order to allow you into their lives."

*"I know that
Bethesda is the place
God intended
for me to be."*

Becky Hernandez

For Becky, Bethesda Health Clinic is more than a place to work. "I know that Bethesda is the place God intended for me to be. My life at Bethesda has been so fulfilling. I am blessed to be able to come here. Sometimes you just say you love your job, but I really do. I love coming here in the morning, seeing what challenges we have and knowing that God is here for us. And our patients feel blessed and are thankful that we are here for them."



Derrith Bondurant, Louise and Joseph Ornelas, LaVerne Gollob



Margaret and Jim Perkins



Ben and Dorothy Bridges



Darla Bennett and Sandra King



Clark and Patricia Hampe



Mary Dale Thomas, Mary Gammell, Bess Arnold, Eleanor Cameron, Brenda Cameron, Catherine Harrison, Louise Arnold

DOCTOR LUKE AWARDS CEREMONY





Duane Andrews, Paul Powell, and Jim Arnold



Dianne and Bill Moore, Sue and Ken Kummerfeld



Andy and Sandy Tindel, Doug and Ellen Coltman



Betty Ann Smith, June Hillis and Susan Smith



Don Smith and Donal Steph

DOCTOR LUKE AWARDS CEREMONY



SUSANA'S STORY

Susana Cuevas came to Tyler in 2013 to get a new start in life. Less than two years later, that new start involves a great job, a husband and a stable, loving home for her two boys.

A big part of Susana's new start is due to her work at Hangers of Hope, Bethesda's thrift store.

She began as a sorter, an entry level position sorting donations into bins – clothes here, toys there, dishes over there. Susana's strong work ethic, can-do attitude and good business sense quickly paid off, and she became a "hanger," placing clothes on racks; then a "key holder" with access to the cash register and locked areas; then an assistant manager. In February 2015 Susana became manager of Hangers of Hope.

Susana sees her biggest job as that of role model for staff and volunteers who work in the store.

Excellent customer service for donors, volunteers and shoppers is key, and Susana's goal is to greet everyone with a smile. "We have a donor-centered model at the store," says Susana. "The people who give us donations, the people who

volunteer here and the people who shop here are all donors. We want people to feel good about their experience with Hangers of Hope. We greet them with a smile and thank them for what they are giving and doing. We always talk about the clinic, how sales in the store help the clinic's work and that the money earned in the store stays right here in Smith County."

The number of people to greet and thank at Hangers of Hope is staggering: every month there are more than 400 donations and more than 2,400 transactions with customers. To Susana, each of those is an opportunity to promote Bethesda Health Clinic at the donation door and at the cash register. The "mission connection" is so important to Susana, because like most of the store staff, she has also been a clinic patient, and she knows first-hand how exceptional the care is. "There are lots of retail places to work," says Susana. "This is a retail place with an important mission behind it."

Susana is grateful for the opportunity her work at Hangers has afforded her. "It means the world to me," she offers. "I'm so glad to be here and so honored to be a part of the work of Bethesda Health Clinic."



- WOMEN'S CLOTHING
- MEN'S CLOTHING
- CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
- SHOES
- JEWELRY
- ART
- TOYS
- BOOKS
- SMALL HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
- HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
- CD'S, DVD'S & VHS



FRESH EVENT BENEFITS BETHESDA



On a brisk March Saturday morning, runners and walkers participating in the second annual FRESH 15 did their part to support health and wellness programs at Bethesda Health Clinic.

Trent Brookshire expressed the sentiments of Brookshire Grocery Company. “Our goal for the FRESH 15 from the beginning was to give back and make an impact in our community. By partnering with Bethesda Health Clinic, we were able to assist the working uninsured of East Texas. The mission of Bethesda Health Clinic is very similar to ours, and it made perfect sense for them to be one of our local charities. We were very excited to have raised more than \$25,000 for Bethesda and I know that the money raised will go to great use.”

Bethesda Executive Director, John English, M.D., echoed Mr. Brookshire’s sentiments. “Bethesda Clinic was honored to be a partner with Brookshire’s in the FRESH 15 race. Both of our organizations are supported by the community and both emphasize the need for a healthy lifestyle. The FRESH team put on a first class event, and we were proud to be chosen as a beneficiary.”

More than 3,300 runners from all over Texas and beyond competed in the 15k, 5k and 1k kids’ races. Bethesda Clinic was blessed to be one of the organizations benefiting from the race proceeds.

A NOTE FROM JOHN



A Heart For Our Mission

It’s no exaggeration to say that everyone who works at Bethesda, staff and volunteers alike, has a heart for our mission. Their hearts draw them to this work, and they find great satisfaction in their ministry.

It’s also clear that our patients have a heart for our work. Time and again they tell us that they get so much more from their visits to the clinic than good medical care. They feel the faith and the soul and the heart of the clinic when they come through the doors, and that, as much as the health care, is the reason they return again and again.

Our donors also have a heart for Bethesda. In the last few months, incredibly generous donors have funded the renovation of the clinic, runners at the FRESH 15 have become donors by participating in the race and, especially meaningful to us, patients themselves are “giving back” to Bethesda in appreciation for the care they received.

In this edition of the newsletter, we share stories of those who, like you, have a heart for the mission of Bethesda – staff, volunteers, patients and donors. Their hearts and your hearts reflect the immense and immeasurable heart of God – his heart here on earth. This is what Bethesda Health Clinic is all about.

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CELEBRATING THE COMPLETION OF THE BETHESDA CLINIC RENOVATIONS
AND THE OPENING OF THE NEW BETHESDA DENTAL CLINIC

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 | 5:30 TO 7:00 PM

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