



“You have changed my life.”

From hopeless to healed:

How YOUR gifts have impacted one woman's health journey.

Ammie sat in the classroom excited to learn and hopeful for new opportunities. It was the Fall of 2019 and she was a new student in the Lindale Christian Women's Job Corps (CWJC) program. More than anything, she was grateful to be given a second chance.

As she sat during class, she felt a pain in her lower back that was so intense her eyes filled with tears. She had no idea how she could afford to go to the doctor, but she knew she needed help. Her instructor mentioned Bethesda Health Clinic, and Ammie couldn't believe she had never heard of it before. *A place for her, someone without health insurance?* She was amazed.

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Ammie's Bethesda Journey

Ammie saw Dr. John English at the Lindale location. He put her at ease and discovered that the lower back pain was actually a kidney infection that needed immediate attention.

Because Ammie was a student in CWJC, she qualified for Bethesda's services at a \$0 copay. She was amazed at the grace and compassion Dr. English shared with her.

"My grandmother died of kidney cancer so I was in panic mode," Ammie recalled. "Dr. English was able to get me on the right medication, and that's what started my journey at Bethesda."

Over the next year, Ammie came to lean on



Bethesda for many different services.

She graduated from CWJC and became a caregiver, while also babysitting to make extra money on the weekends. While she worked diligently, Bethesda helped her with health issues that she had long overlooked.

Ammie suffers from a skin condition called lichen sclerosus and began treatment at Bethesda Clinic. She was embarrassed to seek help but found peace meeting

with the gynecologist Dr. Lianne Hanson.

"I had been diagnosed with the condition before, but didn't have any medication," Ammie said. "My condition will never go away but the medicine has helped me and my flare ups are controlled. Dr. Hanson told me I was in bad shape, but now I am almost 100 percent better."

Dr. Hanson helped Ammie find medication that worked for her, and Ammie couldn't believe that Dr. Hanson even called around to find the pharmacy that had the most affordable price.

"The staff at Bethesda are always so helpful, friendly and kind," Ammie said. "They make me feel important, not just like someone being rushed in off the street to get in and out."

Ammie's overlooked health also led to other services she needed, like a colonoscopy and specialty visits with Dr. Todd Raabe, a volunteer from Azalea Orthopedics. After being a patient for almost two years, Ammie is finally on the right track to becoming whole.

"There is no way I could afford this kind of care without Bethesda," Ammie said. "Without this place I would just suffer until it got so bad that I would have to go to the emergency room. I want the donors to know that they have changed my life. I wouldn't be in the healthiest point of my life without them."/>

***Thank you
for changing Ammie's life!***

A NOTE FROM JOHN



Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God and the peace of God, which surpasses every thought, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

"You, our generous donors, have made the difference!"

Dear Friends,

The past few weeks have been like nothing any of us have ever witnessed. In just a short time our world has been turned upside down, with many people hurting and so much unknown.

What I have seen during these times is the faithfulness of God at work. Our community has rallied around healthcare workers and each other. Many people have sacrificed for the good of the whole.

At Bethesda we have quickly adapted and learned to find ways to treat our patients remotely. We have truly missed the presence of many of our

volunteers and we have been reminded of the fragility of life.

You, our generous donors, have made the difference. Your concern about the well-being of the clinic and your prayers have surely impacted us and our patients.

It reminds me how fragile our patient population is; that they are some of the most vulnerable.

I always tell people that Bethesda is only able to do what the community allows us to do. We are truly community supported. This entire experience has reminded me of how needs were met when we were just starting out. We had the right people step up at the right time. Many times we had no idea where resources were coming from, but God provided; and He continues to do so in the midst of this pandemic.

The stories in this newsletter give just a small glimpse into how YOUR gifts are being used to transform the lives of many East Texans. As we look to the future, we may not have all the answers, but we know that God is in control and His love endures forever.

Thank YOU for being part of the Bethesda family.

Here to serve,

Dr. John English, CEO



“Bethesda is one of my happy places in life.”

BRENDA CAGLE



Volunteers serve at Bethesda in a variety of ways. Some serve on the front lines, taking care of patients, while others serve in unique ways in which their impact may never be fully known.

One of those volunteers is Brenda Cagle. Brenda has been a volunteer at Bethesda for almost nine years. Drawn to the mission of providing hope and healing through Christ, she found a way to use her clerical skills to help others.

Brenda is part of the medical records team, and her job is to scan in patient records, diagnostic test results and anything else of importance into electronic charts. “We are definitely a behind the scenes team,” Brenda explains. “For some, data entry wouldn’t seem rewarding, but we realize how vital it is for the staff to have immediate access to patients’ charts at all times.” For Brenda, the patient records are more than just test results and names on a page.

“Over these nine years, I have grown to love our patients so much,” she explains. “Even though I don’t meet them personally, I know what they are experiencing medically, and I know that we are there to serve them and point them to Christ. I pray for each patient as I attach their records, and I ask God to let them feel His Presence in their individual situation and challenge.”

When COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus, hit East Texas last month, Brenda made a careful decision to continue to serve at Bethesda.

“Bethesda is one of my happy places in life, and when others asked why I felt comfortable continuing to serve, I share that I prayed for guidance,” Brenda said. “I didn’t want to be careless, but God gave me a spirit that desired to continue. Most workers in health service settings have no choice, and to be in public at all poses some risk. I made the decision to measure that risk, and if I became ill from getting groceries or helping at the Clinic, God would be with me.”

Brenda continued to come into the clinic weekly to scan in patient documents; to give back what she could.

“I’m grateful to help out in my small way while the brave and skilled staff serve face to face with patients, continuing to offer help and hope.”

“Brenda’s heart for others and willingness to help, even during such unprecedented times, really speaks volumes about how much our volunteers deeply care for our patients”, said Bethesda CEO Dr. John English. “Medical records are a necessary part of business and we are truly grateful for Brenda and all of the medical scanning team.”

Outside of serving Bethesda, Brenda is a part-time bookkeeper at Susan Robinson Jewelry. She also volunteers with The American Cancer Society through the Tyler Cattle Baron’s Gala and with the Junior League of Tyler. She and her husband, Dean, also serve as greeters at their church, Green Acres Baptist.

Brenda loves spending time with her family, especially her five fabulous grandchildren.

Patient Testimonial

NICOLAS MARIMON

“Bethesda Clinic has a deep impact on the East Texas community because of their affordable services, professionalism and caring personnel. All of these things make Bethesda a unique place. I would recommend Bethesda to everyone in the community and to our partners in ministry who are uninsured.”

– Nicholas Marimon



As a local pastor, Nicolas already knew about Bethesda’s mission, but when he began to suffer a severe toothache, he was able to see it first-hand.

Nicolas Marimon is the family and Español pastor at LifePoint Fellowship Church in Tyler. He has made a commitment to serve others, but does not have dental insurance. When his dental pain became unbearable, your gifts made service at Bethesda possible.

Nicolas received an emergency filling and was able to get into the clinic within 24 hours. Without Bethesda, Nicolas says he would have to deal with the pain.

THE IMPACT OF A PANDEMIC:

HOW COVID-19 IMPACTS BETHESDA

We are in a key position as a healthcare and faith-based organization to advocate for the underserved. Here's how COVID-19 impacts our patients and the future of Bethesda:

OUR PATIENTS ARE MOST VULNERABLE

Our patients are more vulnerable than others—financially and physically. They are more prone to illness and now are at risk for losing their jobs. There are very few resources for uninsured patients in our current health care system.

Studies have shown that people with chronic diseases are at the highest risk for life-threatening complications with COVID-19. Many of our patients have put their health on the backburner while taking care of their families and working multiple jobs, and their health has taken the consequences. There are more than 2,400 patients in our chronic disease program suffering from hypertension, diabetes and obesity.

ACCESS TO CARE CONTINUES

It's important that our patients continue to be seen regularly for chronic conditions, mental health and regular visits with their PCP. We have limited exposure by offering telehealth appointments through phone calls and video chats. New patients can be screened by calling to the clinic and we are accepting emergency medical and dental appointments.

We continue to provide life-saving medication like inhalers and insulin to our patients in our medication assistance program. They are able to pick up the medication as needed without contact with sick patients.

We are not treating COVID-19 patients. Anyone who enters the facility and has traveled or has fever, cough or other symptoms are triaged and if needed, they are referred to a COVID-19 testing site.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

PRAY

During World War II, an advisor to Winston Churchill began a historic movement called the Silent Minute. He organized

a group of people who dropped what they were doing every evening at a prescribed hour for one minute to collectively pray for world peace and safety for the citizens of England.

We can't think of a better time to resurrect that tradition and pray for healing and safety for the world, our friends and neighbors, including our patients and brave medical professionals who are treating the disease.

Will you join our staff and Dr. English in praying with us? We are setting an alarm to pray for TWO-MINUTES from 8:00 p.m. until 8:02 p.m. (Central).

GIVE

We need your support today and tomorrow to cover the unexpected costs associated with caring for our neighbors during this crisis. **Unfortunately the clinic is losing some 115K per month in funding while the stores are closed and patient fees are down (especially dental).** We are doing things we never expected to do, from offering telehealth to providing discounted visits, ordering additional supplies and planning for increased patients in the future.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

We expect the need for Bethesda's services to grow in the aftermath of COVID-19. More people will be uninsured and will need medical and dental care that is affordable. Right now we are the only East Texas organization that offers dental for uninsured, working adults.

Although plans are on hold currently, we hope to continue soon with plans for adding an additional dental chair, an additional full-time dentist, a nurse practitioner and planning to expand the clinic to meet the growing needs of our community.



Mary Ann Learned donates hand-made face masks to Bethesda nurse Chris Wilson

Pillars *of* Bethesda

IN TOUGH TIMES, MONTHLY DONATIONS
MEAN MORE THAN EVER.

You may not be able to serve, but you
can still join our mission and provide tangible,
life-saving help to people in
East Texas. Join Pillars today!

**Your monthly gifts are needed now more
than ever.**

Will you pledge to give monthly?

**Become a Pillar today at
bethesdaclinic.org.**

WHY I GIVE MONTHLY



*"I don't have a lot to give, but I
make a point to try to give back.
If I work an extra hour, I put that
money aside for Bethesda. The
doctors put their life on the line
to help God's people, no matter*

*what, and that's why I love to donate and give back
to the clinic. It is such a wonderful place to help
people without insurance."*

Rickey McClenton,
Bethesda Patient and Monthly Donor

Thank you!

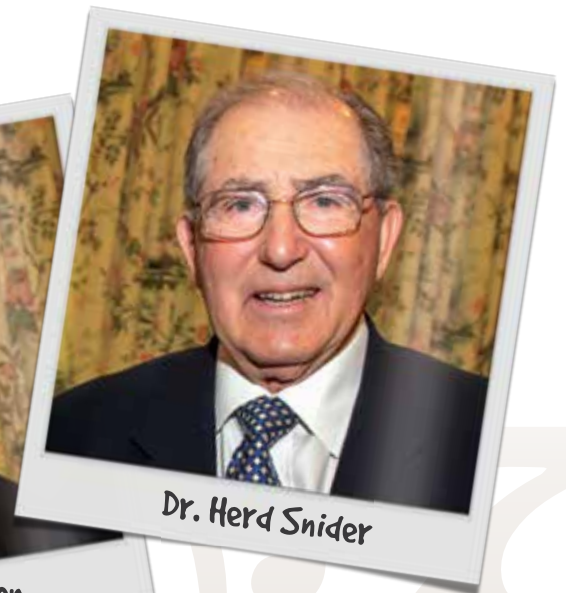
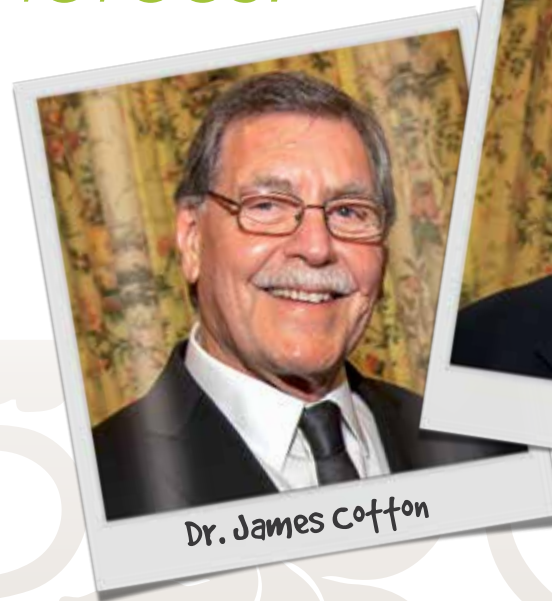
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Dr. Luke Society

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& DINNER 2020

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