



summer
2012

bethesda news

Now there is in Jerusalem a pool called "Bethesda." Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralyzed—waiting for the movement of the waters.

Event Calendar

Bethesda Alliance Reassembly Party
July 26, 2012
Dance Hall, BSM UT Tyler

Bethesda Alliance Meeting
September 18, 2012
Potpourri House

Bethesda Birthday Bash
September 21, 2012
Villa de Felicita

Bethesda Alliance Meeting
October 11, 2012
Bethesda Health Clinic

Bethesda Alliance Meeting
November 20, 2012
Potpourri House

Bethesda Alliance Meeting
December 18, 2012
Potpourri House

Bethesda Alliance Meeting
January 15, 2013
Potpourri House

Dr. Luke Banquet
February 14, 2013
Willow Brook Country Club

Board of Directors

Barbara Sjerven, *President*
Patty Steelman, *Development Chair*
Jocelyn Larkin, *Finance Chair*
VaLita Waits, *Governance Chair*
Dr. Todd Raabe, *Board Emeritus*
Rev. Pat Mallory, *Board Emeritus*

Dr. Sunni Boren Nancy Lamar
Vivian Garza Dr. Tom Lowery
Kathy Gohmert Samuel Mejorado
Verna Hall Dr. David Nichols
Barry Jones Dr. Ron Pinkenburg
Rich Knarr

To learn more about these events or Bethesda Health Clinic, contact us at:
409 W. Ferguson | Tyler, TX 75702
903.596.8353
www.bethesdaclinic.org

The Bethesda Family

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it," Proverbs 22:6

This age-old proverb has been a guide to parents for years. One area where this can have long lasting impact is in the area of volunteer service and community support. In this newsletter there are countless stories of parents, who together, are leaving a legacy of giving to their families. What better gift to give a child than learning to care for others?




We are in an era of change in terms of leadership in our community. With the retiring baby boomer generation, we are also seeing more couples volunteering and serving together in various ministries. As 1 Thessalonians 5:11 says, "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." The ability to share an experience together and encourage one another in service is one of the great

advantages of volunteering as a couple. Bethesda Clinic is truly blessed to have so many wonderful volunteers who understand the value they provide to our patients with their dedicated service.

I am always amazed by the dedication and commitment of the volunteers who serve our patients. Just last year, this community donated almost 26,000 hours of service. Without this support, the clinic would not be able to serve the thousands of people in need each year. Just one of these stories is from Tom and Loraine Gilbreath and is included in this newsletter. It is similar to what we hear every day from patients in need of help who previously were doing fine. Thank you for being a part of the Bethesda family and for helping us impact so many of our neighbors each year.

Dr. John English



All ⁱⁿ the ^{Family}

BETHESDA HEALTH CLINIC

A number of East Texas families, committed to community service, faithfully volunteer at Bethesda Health Clinic. Their dedicated support enables Bethesda to better serve thousands of patients each year.



Volunteering at Bethesda is an honor. The quality care and love they show to all that come through their doors is apparent when you talk to the patients. As a Christ-based medical and dental clinic, their commitment to heal and offer help and hope is a beacon to all. Bethesda is truly unique and Tyler is blessed to have them in our community.

—Barry Jones



Laverne Gollob &
Teresa Butcher



Ann Primer, Anna Pierce,
Ellen Krafve & Cathy Krafve



Like so many families, our parents were such an example of the benefits of community service that it is still affecting the generations after them. Their grandkids get the fact that showing love means caring enough to know the people in your life and helping where you can. Bethesda is the perfect place for equipping folks to help each other along the way.

—Cathy Primer Krafve



Barry & Kay Jones



We both love working with people and the rich experiences you receive in volunteering cannot be matched by any hobbies or other interests. Passing the love and joy of philanthropy to our children is so important and vital to our community. Our family realizes we are blessed of the Lord and we want to share those blessings.

—LaVerne Gollob



Bethesda Clinic has been an important part of my life for the past five years. My daughter also began volunteering at Bethesda while she was in college. We have enjoyed working together for this wonderful organization, and have been inspired by the many people we have met! I believe that teaching our children the importance of volunteerism is a gift that will last a lifetime.

—Susan Strawn



Shea & Susan Strawn



Joyce Lynn Arrington & April Moore



Volunteering in the community and our church has been a part of our family heritage for several generations. We each have grown up experiencing ways to serve, as we understand missions to be the work of every Christian.

Bethesda is a special way for us to express our individual gifts in service projects, which in turn ministers to the spiritual and health needs of others.

—Joyce Lynn Arrington



When I became involved with Bethesda 2½ years ago as a patient advocate and Christ Church representative for the Saturday clinics, Clyde was excited to be a part of this, too. He does small construction jobs around the clinic that make a big difference for the staff. We see Bethesda as a local mission trip bringing Christ's love to the patients and we are so blessed to be a small part.

- Laurel Beaty

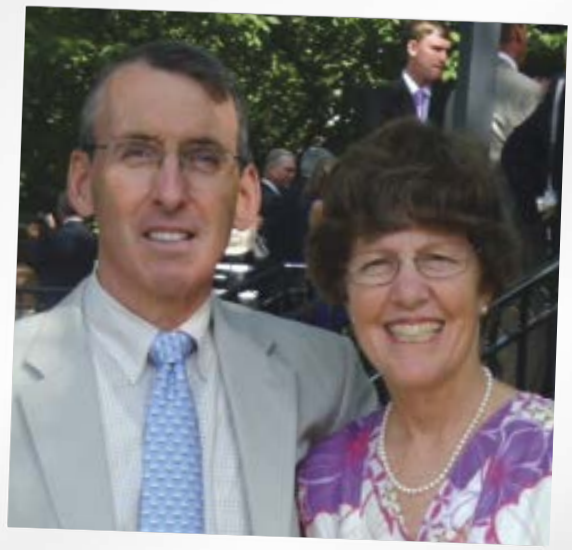


Clyde & Laurel Beaty



All ⁱⁿ the ^{Family}

BETHESDA HEALTH CLINIC



Dr. Peter & Mary Meyers



We became involved at Bethesda Health Clinic because we viewed it as an opportunity to meet a real need in our community. It is very rewarding to join with a group of professionals who are meeting the medical needs of many, but even more rewarding is the opportunity to cooperate with others in addressing the spiritual needs of the patients. As a couple we have enjoyed encouraging each other in this ministry at Bethesda because we believe it to be of eternal value.

—Dr. Don & Janet Wheeler



Dr. Don & Janet Wheeler



Bill and I were raised by parents who taught us the value of doing our best and giving of our gifts and time to others. We are blessed because we bless. We believe in Bethesda's mission of providing quality health care to hard working people who are doing their best to provide for their families. Through our years of working at Bethesda we have seen this mission in practice and are proud to be a part of such a worthy organization.

—Dr. Bill & Dianne Moore

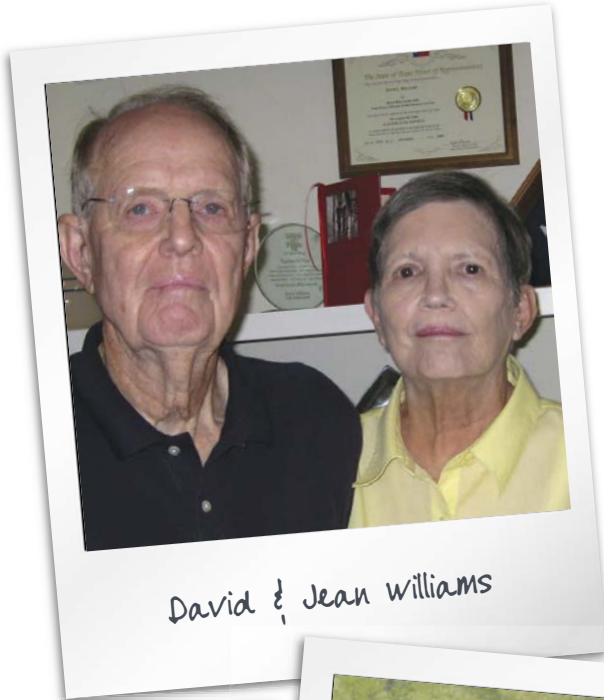


Dr. Bill & Dianne Moore

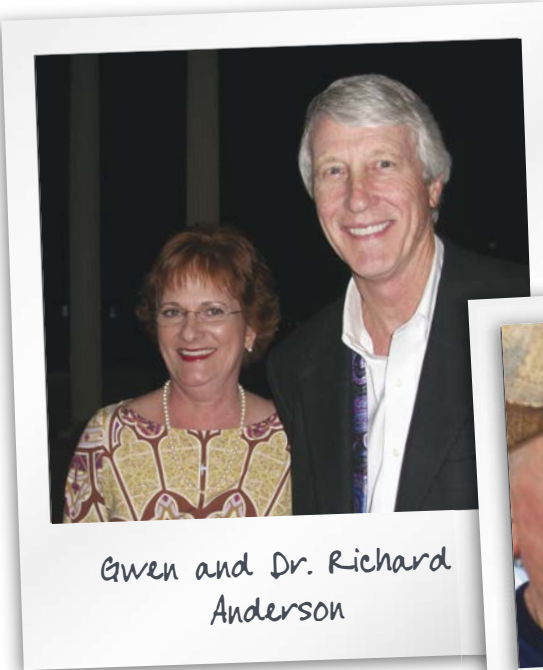


The need to serve others is inherent to both of us. We both were raised in impoverished families and it was not easy. We are beyond that now, but the Bethesda Clinic affords us the opportunity to help those less fortunate in a constructive manner. We feel that helping others is merely the right thing to do.

—Dr. Peter & Mary Meyers



David & Jean Williams



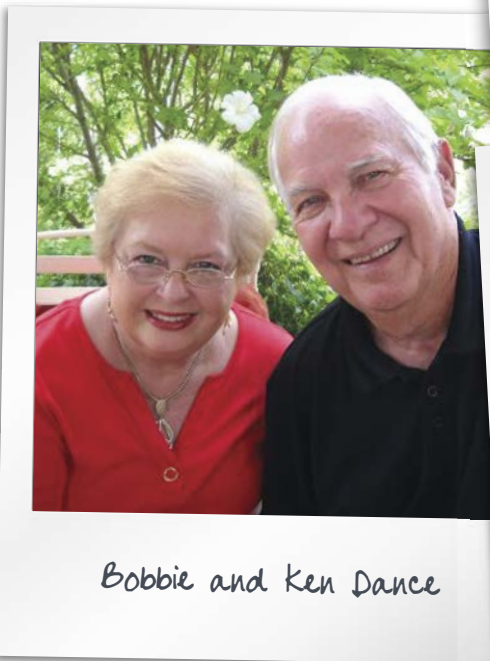
Gwen and Dr. Richard Anderson



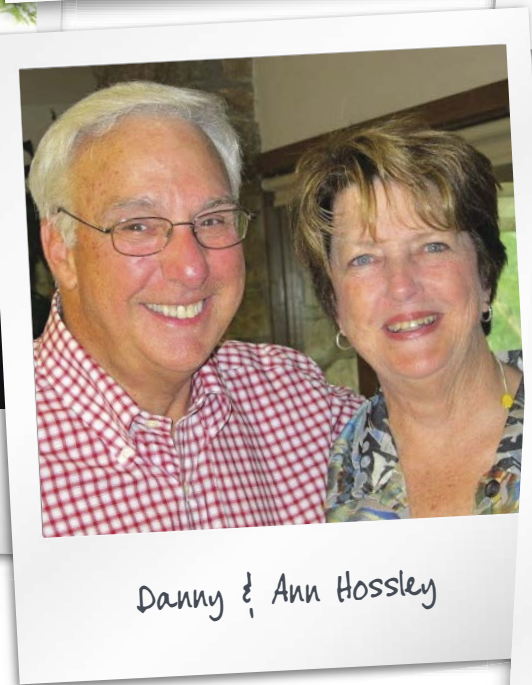
Irl and Sharon Everett



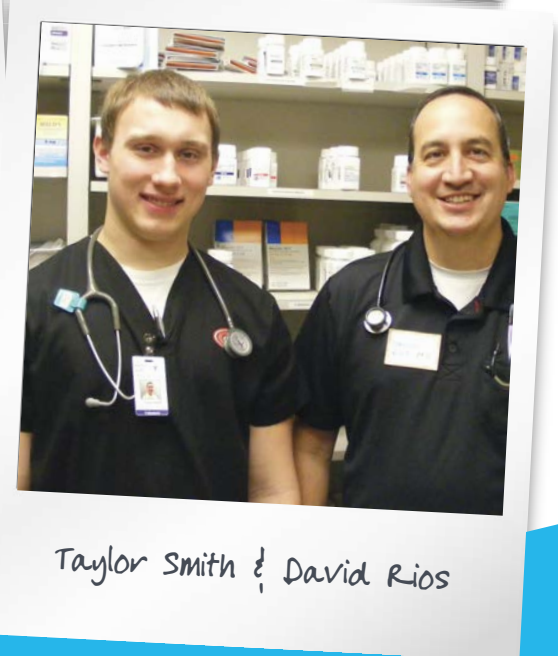
Diane and Homer Mohn



Bobbie and Ken Dance



Danny & Ann Hossley



Taylor Smith & David Rios

For information about how you or your family can volunteer at Bethesda Health Clinic, contact Volunteer Coordinator Angie Butterfield at 903-596-8353 ext. 120.



to a Family's Heart...

2009 is a year Loraine Gilbreath would just as soon forget. There were two family weddings, a funeral, one of her children was diagnosed with cancer, and her husband had not one, but two surgeries. In the midst of it all, they hit an unexpected, unavoidable financial crisis and lost their health insurance.



...

“For the Gilbreaths, whether as patients or volunteers, Bethesda is a place dear to the heart of their family.”

...

When Loraine showed up at Bethesda Health Clinic, she felt their family's well-being was in grave jeopardy. "I went there in desperation. I was without hope," says the tenderhearted grandmother with bright red hair and a complexion like a peach. "I wanted to see Beverly; I was like a child looking for her mother." Beverly Castleberry, a well-loved volunteer at the clinic, was Loraine's long-time family friend.

Still frantically looking for any available jobs, Loraine sighed deeply in relief when she realized that Bethesda would extend a grace period of medical care to them due to the unusual nature of their circumstances. This was crucial help for her diabetic husband Tom. It was just the kind of help that meant the most to an emotionally drained wife. "I was freaking out because a diabetic can die without their medicine," says Loraine. The continued care from Bethesda was critical.

Loraine was also relieved and encouraged by the excellent, attentive care Dr. Wiertz extended to Tom. With a background in law enforcement, Loraine laughingly describes how she attentively went to every one of her husband's appointments, a forceful "nurse" with only one patient. "He doesn't even know what medicine he takes," she jokes.

Soon, Loraine had her own relationships with the Bethesda doctors, nurses, and staff. "Once I became a patient, I knew it was time to give back." It wasn't long before Loraine was volunteering

a patient's story



ONE FAMILY PASSES ALONG BETHESDA'S CARE AND COMFORT

By Cathy Primer Krafve

alongside Beverly. "I'm serving in admissions! I'm partial to praying with people and sharing with them," says Loraine.

One thing Loraine has learned at Bethesda is that God can use her to comfort others with the comfort He first gave her. She recognizes the feelings of isolation and desperation that she sees on the faces of patients when they arrive at the clinic for the first time.

• • •

"No matter what you're going through, you can find praying, caring, and compassionate people here (at Bethesda Clinic)."

• • •

"Volunteers are the ones who can change that. We have a great opportunity," Loraine explains. "No matter what you're going through, you can find praying, caring, compassionate, people here (at Bethesda Clinic)."

Loraine believes that the financial desperation people feel is "a sign

of the times." She says that each time she volunteers, new patients come in who have never experienced hardship before. "These are people that have always paid their bills; never asked anybody for anything. It's really hard for them." But, she assures that Bethesda is the "right place for them because they will receive so much more than medical care."

Loraine's daughter Meghan also volunteers at Bethesda when she can, a turn of events that has become a bonus blessing to her mom. "Meghan picked it up really quickly. I am so proud of her because of the woman she has

become; the compassion in her heart."

Nearly three years later, Loraine is feeling optimistic about the future and hopeful about the family's improving financial situation. "When we get Tom's truck paid off next month, that will be a whole new chapter for us," she says with a big grin. Still, she wouldn't trade for the lessons learned since 2009. "The generosity of others has been amazing," she says, "We've drawn close to God and found out what really matters." For the Gilbreaths, Bethesda is a place dear to the heart of their family.



help, hope,

Healing Arts



Judy & Dr. Bruce Carter with Sue Garrett



Joan Price, Virginia Finklea, & Marsha Lester



Nancy Mayo, Ticki West, Dr. Jan Garrett & Kim Tomio



Barbara Shtofman, Sheryl Palmer & Betty Summers



Hal & Brenda Cameron with Nancy Mayer



Dr. Steve & Jill Hickerson with
Carrie & Dr. Rick Yates



Betsy & Elmer Ellis with Lisa & Dr. Gary Gross



Tamra & Travis Pierce



John & Sherri Soules
with Stephanie & Dr. Clint Carter



Eleanor Stringer, Darla Bennett,
Dr. Jeff & Elizabeth Pennell

Dr. Luke Dinner



...It's a Family Affair

By Cathy Primer Krafve

Giving

For the Harrisons, giving to their community has long been a family affair. So, when it comes to community service, all the Harrisons have skin in the game, literally. In fact, if you mention wax seals or burnt fingers around Craig and Catherine Harrison's three boys, the family erupts into laughter and pretensions of torture.





Like many of the family's inside jokes, the story is rooted in adventures provided by community service. In this case, a few years back Catherine recruited her family to help with Bethesda Health Clinic's Dr. Luke gala event. Even as a plastic surgeon, Craig's fingers did not escape the danger threatened by the burning candles and dripping wax as the family spent hours around their dining room table putting wax seals on the fancy event invitations designed by Catherine.

Community service is no accident with Catherine and Craig; it is a well thought-out strategy for creating a family heritage that includes a heart for others. From a missionary family himself, Craig quotes Genesis and points to Abraham as an example of ministering first to your own family, then passing along the blessing with them to others. Consequently, the Harrisons are strategic about how they choose the efforts they help, as a family.

"There's an emotional component to it, but there is also a rational component," explains Craig, who slips easily from laughter to intensity, depending on the topic. According to Craig, one of the clinic's most attractive features is the way Bethesda focuses on opportunities for patient lifestyles to include physical, emotional, and spiritual healing working together exponentially. "Bethesda provides not only relief, but ongoing care and development," he says. "In my world view, if you give relief without addressing the primary need of forgiveness of sin, you really haven't served the patient. You must treat the whole patient."

Service was a part of the Harrison family from the very beginning. Even as a young medical resident, Craig was so committed to serving others that he brought up the

subject of missions with Catherine on their second date. He didn't tell her that night, but he knew exactly what he was looking for in a wife; in fact, he had it on a list in his wallet. "He still has the list," laughs the spunky blonde with the quick wit, big smile, and huge eyes.

From her point of view, Craig had her heart the first time she saw him; possibly even before she saw him, when she heard him for the first time at the Dallas VA Hospital. "All of a sudden I heard a big noise. I leaned my head to look down the hall," she laughs remembering the day before her graduation from nursing school. Her future husband was running and sliding down the hospital halls with his arms outstretched, making airplane sounds. "He was the most darling thing. He literally flew into my life," says the woman who soon became well acquainted with traveling in the service of others.

"I had never left America; he had lived all over the world. He can still speak Cantonese and he is fluent in French," Catherine explains. "What was so great about Catherine, was I could come up with ideas and she could make them happen," Craig laughs. "We still work that way," she says.

While they had planned to continue to serve in extended-term medical missions, the couple ultimately settled in Tyler after health issues with Catherine's eyesight prevented them from returning to Nigeria. But, the Harrison's experiences in Nigeria had taught them valuable lessons, including lessons on the most rational ways to offer true help.

"If you give people something for nothing, it devalues the person. And it devalues the service you provide," says Craig. In Tyler, Craig was instantly fascinated

when Dr. Todd Raabe first mentioned Bethesda Clinic to him. "People who are trying to help themselves, their family, our society, they seemed to be underserved in health care," Craig says. He particularly appreciated Bethesda's respectful approach to patient care.

While most doctors and nurses, like the Harrisons, go into health care to alleviate suffering, it doesn't hurt if it can be fun along the way – especially if it turns into a family adventure. "We've had so much fun. The burning of the fingers, we still laugh about that," says Catherine. "When the kids learn to serve, they keep their perspective that they have been given so much. Besides, there's additional wisdom your children pick up along the way, like appreciating other people's willingness to serve, too (The boys were overjoyed to learn that the Dr. Luke Committee and the Bethesda Alliance ladies had volunteered for the wax seal duty next year!)"

Diane Thomason, Bethesda's Director of Development, explains that the Harrison's service extends beyond their "hands-on" volunteer work. "We are so thankful for the generous financial support that the Harrisons provide to this ministry. Their enthusiastic contributions to special events and their faithful support of the daily work of the clinic, sincerely impact the lives of many East Texans," she assures. "They are a blessing!"

Serving others and giving back to their community is a way of life in the Harrison household. For Craig, Catherine, Craig Edward, Christian and Chandler – it truly is a family affair!

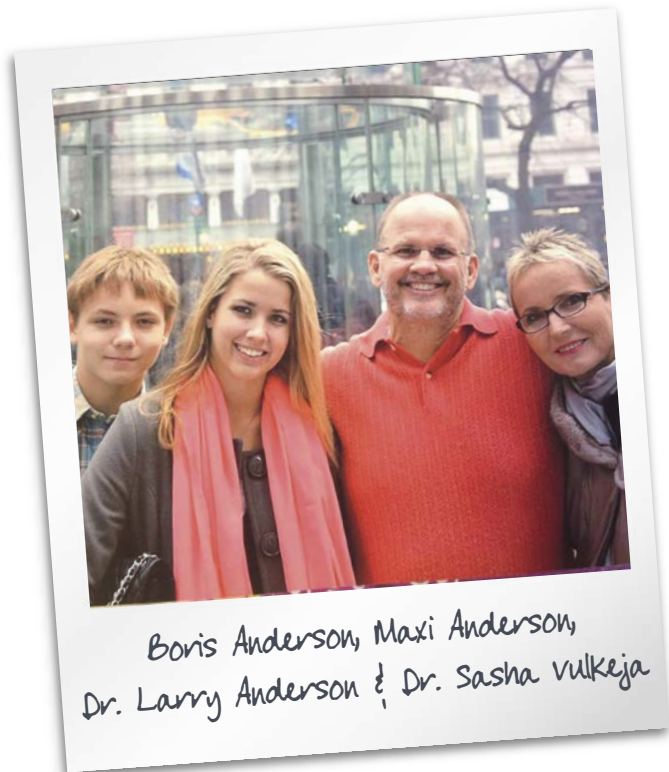
Non-Profit Org
US Postage
PAID
Tyler, Texas
Permit No. 14



Bethesda
HEALTH CLINIC
Bringing Healing, Help and Hope

409 W. Ferguson | Tyler, TX 75702

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



We feel that children need to learn at an early age to contribute to others. We are all connected, and our children understand that we would not be where we are today if not for the help of others. We are just paying forward what others gave to us along the way. I believe the seeds we plant in our children today can bloom in the lives of their children tomorrow.

—Dr. Sasha Vukelja

Publication Board

Diane Thomason
Managing Editor

Karen McJimsey
Editor

Autry Design
Graphic Design

Cathy Primer Krafve
Karen McJimsey
Feature Writers