



Gina Butler and her passion to serve.

It's hard to imagine a Bethesda Birthday Bash without Gina Butler. Perhaps it's because she has been chairing the event almost consecutively since 2013. Or maybe it's because her entire family volunteers the night of the event.

Either way, her passion for Bethesda shines bright.



Shane and Gina Butler



Butler Family

In 2010 Gina and her husband, Shane, moved to Tyler from Hughes Springs for a career opportunity for Shane at John Soules Foods. Shane was hired to oversee the operations at the food plant. The job was an exciting move for the Butlers, and Gina, especially, was eager to get involved. But moving to Tyler was also a challenge. Gina recalls she didn't know "a soul" in Tyler.

About a year after their arrival, John Soules, Sr. invited the couple to attend the Bethesda Birthday Bash. Something at the event really spoke to Gina.

"I decided then that if I am going to spend my time on anything, it's going to be this," Gina said. "I knew it was a worthy cause. They honor the Lord with everything they do. They have a mission to help people physically and point people to God and that's what I want to do too."

At this moment, Gina made a commitment to invest her time and talents into serving at Bethesda. She did some research at the Birthday Bash and found out that a group of women who make up the Bethesda Alliance were responsible for hosting the event. And she decided to join them.

The Bethesda Alliance created the Birthday Bash to raise funds for the clinic in the early years of just starting out. The clinic started with a dream and a vision, but it needed significant funding to keep the doors open. In celebration of the clinic's "birthday" in September, the Birthday Bash was born.

Gina's first experience volunteering for the Bash was in 2012, just two years after moving to Tyler.

"Shane was thrilled when I joined the Alliance because we didn't know anyone," she said.



Sherri Soules (left) and Gina Butler

Gina oversaw the silent auction in 2012 and enjoyed doing it. Others must have noticed because she was asked to be the Birthday Bash Chair for the next year. Her passion said “yes” but she was concerned.

“I didn’t know anything about running a fundraiser,” she laughed, reminiscing about the event. “I was mentored by Cathy Krafve, Ann Hossley and Diane Thomason. And that’s how it all got started.”

Her first year to be Birthday Bash Chair was 2013 and she has continued for 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and will oversee this year’s event in 2022.

Of course, Gina had to pull her family into her adventures. The Bash has truly become a “Butler Family Affair.”

The first person she pulled in for help was her sister, who happens to be a very talented baker in Hughes Springs. That year was Denim and Diamond-themed and her sister created a 6-tiered cake with Diamonds. Every Birthday Party needs a cake, so her sister has continued every year.



Gina Butler and Callie Lee

Gina’s daughter, Callie Lee, began helping with the Bash check-in process convincing her husband, Todd, to join in the fun! Others in the family have been involved off and on depending on what’s going on in their lives. Each Butler family member brings a different skill to the table that Gina grabs up and transforms for good at the Birthday Bash. Her nephew has helped every year since 2016 and his efficiency was a great resource for her team. Another nephew, along with his wife, has helped stamp invitations, and sometimes when things get messed up, do them over a second time. Her cousin, Dillon, joined the Bash production in 2019 as the auctioneer, which has helped really take the event to the next level.

“Dillon really has a gift for it,” Gina said. “He has been doing it since high school.”

Her son, Jacob Butler, also attends as a “ring man” for Dillon. He and his wife, Rebekah, also help with the Silent Auction. Other family members have attended sporadically and of course, Shane comes every year to bid on cakes! Of course Shane comes every year and bids on cakes and other family members have attended sporadically over the years, including her son, Jacob and his wife, Rebekah

Outside of her family, Gina works with a committee and committee chairs to run the event.

“Of course there are personality conflicts, but the end result is that God is honored and people come to know Him,” she said.

Gina says her strength to follow through and continue to serve comes from the Lord.

“Jesus is the answer to everything,” she said. “I am not going to lie because there are times I think I can’t do this next year, but then something happens and I see a way that the clinic has helped somebody come to know Jesus or change their life in a tremendous way, and I say, ‘why not?’ God has given you gifts of leadership and administration to motivate people – why not use them for His glory? If someone has come to know the Lord because of something

this clinic has done, it’s all worth it. Eternity is what you do with Jesus and there are millions of people in this world who need to know about Jesus.”

Gina is fueled by knowing that the money raised at the event is transforming lives for God.

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“It’s so cool just to be in on something that God is a part of. When Jesus ministered to people He always met their physical needs first and THEN He talked to them about their spiritual needs. That’s why the clinic is so successful. God is at the center and I appreciate Dr. English for making that happen.”

One of Gina’s favorite Bash moments was at this past year’s event where the cake auction raised more money than any previous year.

“I was worried about the Bash being at a new venue, and I remember standing in the doorway and watching a cake sell for \$25,000. I also knew how well we had done with sponsorships and then I realized - that’s just God showing up and doing what He said He was going to do.”

Ultimately, Gina’s heart is in the Birthday Bash because her heart loves Jesus.

“My dad passed away unexpectedly at age 57,” she said. “That was really tough but I know when my dad died he didn’t leave anything on the table and that’s what I want. Every minute that I am here and every dollar that comes to us is because God gave it to me. It’s His anyway so I might as well give it back. My goal is that when I go home to heaven his first words are, ‘Well done; you didn’t leave anything on the table.’”

A NOTE FROM JOHN



Dr. John English, CEO

Dear Friends,

Isn't it amazing that 2022 is embarking on close to two decades of Bethesda Health Clinic?

Thanks to you, the clinic started out strong in 2022 with patient numbers continuing to grow. COVID's impact on our clinic lingers, but we realize it is now just a part of how we do business. We have adapted to added safety measures, and new technology like telehealth and online payment methods make clinic operations easier.

In-person and online applications for new patients tell the story of a continued need for affordable healthcare in our community. We are reaching new men and women every day who desperately need Bethesda's care and are so grateful we exist, because of you.

These pages will share stories of how our specialty care is growing as we add more volunteers. Orthopedic care, neurology and physical therapy are just a few of the new specialty services available through the clinic because of dedicated medical volunteers.

You will also read about committed volunteers like Gina Butler, who has woven the mission of Bethesda into her life. Her passion to serve and her creativity has surely taken our Birthday Bash to the next level.

It is very exciting to see more people coming to the clinic and the message spreading. Church-driven Saturday clinics are back and growing, and we look forward to what God has in store for us this year.

Thank you for your gifts and your prayers, and for believing in the mission of Bethesda.

Our community is so much better because of you.

Sincerely,
Dr. John English

Because of you, we are now reaching new patients who desperately need Bethesda's care.



David and Cathy Krafve

A GIFT THAT LASTS FOREVER

Consciously building a reserve for the future.

David and Cathy Krafve have been supporters of Bethesda for years. Their enthusiasm for affordable healthcare is contagious. When Cathy talks about Bethesda, her face lights up with excitement about how amazing it is that healthcare can be so affordable. She is willing to talk to anyone about Bethesda!

Their love for the clinic has led them to invest purposefully into the Bethesda endowment fund.

Bethesda's endowment fund is like a "savings account." Each year, Bethesda raises money and invests that money into the lives of patients. Resources come in to help people. Resources go out and lives are changed.

Named Endowments

With gifts of \$25,000 or more a donor may "name" an endowment to fund a special program at Bethesda. This privilege creates the opportunity to honor or remember a relative, friend or even a special medical provider. For instance, "The Dr. Joe Smith Wellness Education Endowment" could

be a part of the larger Wellness Education Endowment, and a way to permanently honor Dr. Joe Smith.

Whatever your preference for giving to the future of Bethesda, we welcome your gifts and are grateful that you share our commitment to the highest quality care for the whole person, now and for decades to come. We encourage you and

your professional advisor to work with Bethesda's development staff to ensure that your gift is structured just as you want it to be and that it will accomplish your goals over time.

Please contact Diane Thomason at 903-596-8353 ext. 106 for more information.

Almost sixteen years ago the endowment fund was created to ensure a solid means of support for the clinic for decades to come.

Cathy explains it this way, "Because of spending so many years working in the oil business, we have seen economies go up and down. The endowment is security for hard-working people who need medical care."

David and Cathy's desire is to see Bethesda's endowment fund grow like many education funds grew years ago.

"One thing I see is that many people in the generation above us gave to education," Cathy said. "They did such a service and we see the need for the next generation is medical care for the whole culture."

Cathy remembers when an eighth grade education was average for her parents and grandparents and explains how "there is no reason why we wouldn't have the same kind of phenomenon with medical care."

"There's no reason why we can't have the same big dreams for medicine that our grandparents had for education," she said. "Now that college is within reach for Americans who want it, so should good medical care. I would say Bethesda is the antidote to the healthcare crisis and the endowment is one tool to make that available to everyone."

Even though they are passionate about the endowment, the Krafves make a conscious decision to support Bethesda in a multitude of ways – by also volunteering and giving to operations.

"We like giving to both the endowment and every day operations because of two reasons: the endowment ensures longevity for patient care in our region, and because today people need help. We need both," Cathy said.

**"Bethesda is the antidote to the healthcare crisis and the endowment is one tool to make that available to everyone."
– Cathy Krafve**



Patient Testimonial

Susannah's life changed the moment she came to Bethesda.

After leaving an abusive relationship with her one-year-old, it was hard for her to start over. Her smile made it even harder.

Susannah had struggled with her teeth for years. She developed epilepsy after a devastating car accident in 2016 and pushed her health to the bottom of her to-do list. After becoming pregnant with her son, she lost seven teeth due to overall decay. Then pain ensued and she got through it by avoiding anything crunchy and hard. She could no longer enjoy the foods she used to love like granola, meat and broccoli. But even more than the physical pain was the emotional pain she felt as a single mom with so many missing teeth.

Susannah and her son moved from the Dallas area to Lindale, Texas, to be with her family. Her mom was helping her out with the baby and she began working at a local restaurant. She and her son share a room (and a bed), and when her son was 6-months-old, he accidentally kicked her in the mouth during the night. With her teeth being so loose, her front tooth fell out. She was devastated and knew something had to be done. It was her breaking point.

"When you lose a tooth like that, you look bad," she said. "I had been a chef and purposefully wasn't applying for any better jobs because of my teeth."

Because of your generosity, Susannah found restoration at Bethesda Health Clinic.

She met with lead dentist Dr. Holland to work on a plan to transform her smile.

She was shocked when Dr. Holland explained to her that he could help her smile again. Susannah had accepted the fact that she would probably have to get dentures.

Your support of Bethesda gave her an alternative.

Dr. Holland worked by doing fillings and repairing the lost front tooth - all at an affordable rate that she could pay with her limited income as a single mom.



"I feel really good and it's going to take me a while

to stop smiling with my lips," she said. "I have been so self-conscious and have developed severe anxiety because of my teeth."

It had gotten so hard that she didn't even want to look at her mouth when she brushed her teeth.

You changed everything for Susannah.

Since her final dental procedure in January, Susannah has landed a new job with benefits for her and her young child. Without you, this would never be possible.

"I am so grateful," Susannah said.



Thank you
for giving
Susannah a
second chance!

Congratulations to our
2022 Doctor Luke Honorees
on their induction into the
Doctor Luke Society



Charles R. Gordon, M.D

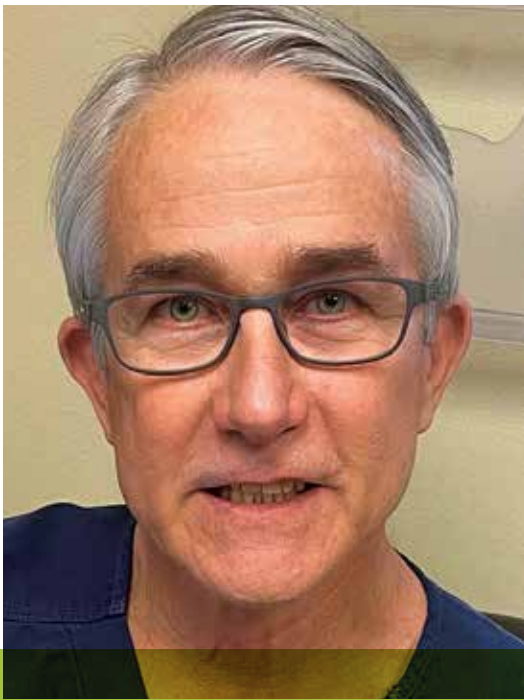


Evans S. Smith, M.D.

Inspired by the reference in Colossians 4:14, in which the Apostle Paul refers to Saint Luke as "the beloved physician," the Doctor Luke Society is a unique opportunity to express esteem and appreciation to these exceptional medical professionals.



Doctor Luke past honorees photographed with the new inductees at the event.



It all began when he was in high school. He saw a leg injury being repaired and recalled it being “the most fascinating thing” he had ever seen. From that moment on, he decided to devote his life to medicine and caring for others.

Dr. Putman found out about Bethesda after he retired in 2018. He had operated a private practice obstetrics and gynecology clinic and also volunteered with Mercy Ships. While at Mercy Ships, Dr. Putman spent four years in West Africa performing life-changing surgeries for women with childbirth injuries. Although the days of delivering babies and performing surgeries were gone, he wasn't quite ready to be out of the medical field completely.

Over the past several years, Dr. Putman has volunteered weekly at the clinic investing in the lives of local women who need gynecology services.

Volunteer Feature: **Dr. Jerry Putman**

“Volunteering at Bethesda is a great opportunity to provide care for ladies who are uninsured and need quality care...”

“Volunteering at Bethesda is a great opportunity to provide care for ladies who are uninsured and need quality care,” he said. “I think it’s part of the reason that we become physicians - to provide care for people, and it’s a privilege to meet that need.”

Dr. Putman’s past days of delivering babies were his “favorite part” of his private practice. At Bethesda, obstetric services are not offered because Bethesda’s patients could easily qualify for Medicaid upon getting pregnant. What the Bethesda patients really need are ongoing and extensive gynecological care for pap smears, biopsies and more – exactly what Dr. Putman helps to provide.

“A lot of gynecological problems can be taken care of in the office without surgery that radically change the quality of someone’s life,” Dr. Putman explained. “If they are having pain or anemia, you can correct problems and change their lives.”

Dr. Putman also says he loves Bethesda patients because of their gratitude.

“Bethesda patients are overwhelmingly grateful to go to a place that they can actually afford,” he said. “It’s a privilege to do this here.”

Dr. Putman encourages other physicians to consider devoting their time to see patients at Bethesda.

“It’s a great opportunity because you have all the help that you need and it’s a well-equipped facility. It meets a huge gap that no one else is serving.”

If you or someone who know is interested in volunteering at the clinic, please apply online at www.bethesdaclinic.org.



Dr. Putman pictured with his volunteer nurse, Lisa Dixon



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to learn more!

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\$1 = \$2
**Double your impact
on April 26!**

Join us for East Texas Giving Day,
an 18-hour event that benefits all the
amazing resources in our community.

You can schedule your gift online now!

All donations are doubled, up to \$25,000,
thanks to a generous friend of the clinic.

**Help us reach our goal
of \$70,000!**

**So far in 2022 we have had more
patients apply for care than ever
before.**

As we grow, we need your help!
Join with us to make sure our uninsured
neighbors are not going without the most
basic needs - medication and healthcare.

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