March 2017 Newsletter

BODY OF CHRIST
Community Clinic Inc.

A message from the Chairman of the Board

Spring is here and God's wondrous nature is now in full bloom!

With the arrival of Spring it is a reminder that our annual banquet is just around the corner. This year's banquet will be held May 2 at University of Mary Hardin Baylor's McLane Great Hall. Doors will open at 5:45 pm where you will enjoy live music, an excellent dinner and our silent auction.

We are taking a different approach this year. In lieu of a speaker we will present special guests Rodger Bennett and David Perez-Guerra. They will perform "An Evening of Classical Guitar and Piano."

This duo has played all over Texas to rave reviews and it will be an evening you won't soon forget.

We are titling the banquet, the 4th Annual Fundraising Banquet, Together We Heal! As in past years we will need your help. We need auction items and your attendance at the banquet. We will be sending our information packets soon with all the details.

This banquet is the major fundraiser for the Body of Christ Community Clinic, and we encourage everyone to come to this important event. Proceeds will help provide much needed medical and dental services to the underserved population from our two Belton clinics.

As many of you know, a new stand-alone dental clinic was opened by the Body of Christ Community Clinic in September of last year, thanks to the extreme generosity of residents in Belton, Salado and Temple. We hope to be able to expand the hours of operation for the new dental clinic, among meeting other needs, from the funds raised at the banquet.

I want to thank those who helped with our Volunteer's Dinner on Feb. 18. About 75 people attended the event at Belton Church of Christ. The event is held each year to thank the volunteers who work at our clinics.

A special thanks to the Rev. Joe Keyes, pulpit minister of Salado Church of Christ, for being our speaker.

Honored as the Volunteer of the Year was Fernando de Leon, MD, of Belton. Dr. de Leon has volunteered at the Clinic since 2013 and he is very faithful in helping us.

Also, honored with special recognition awards were Jayesh Patel, DDS, of Waco; Maria Duarte, NP, of Temple; and Ronald Henderson, DDS, of Temple. The table decorations were amazing and the food was wonderful!

Finally, a big welcome to David H. Stone who has volunteered his services to be our newsletter editor and help on Media Releases and the like. David has a 30-year career in journalism and is 1979 graduate of Temple High School.

He attended Stephen F. Austin State University and took classes through TCU. David attends Temple Bible Church. Thank you, David, for your willingness to serve!

We continue to pray for guidance and leadership from the Good Lord, and always pray that His will shall be done in every aspect of the Body of Christ Community Clinic.

John Perry

BOCCC names Dr. de Leon 'Volunteer of the Year'

Body of Christ Community Clinic honored its volunteers last month at its annual Volunteers Dinner, including long-time physician Dr. Fernando de Leon.

The 89-year-old de Leon, a native of Monterrey, Mexico, and a family practice doctor for decades in Brownsville, has been a BOCCC volunteer since 2013 and serves as a translator for Hispanic patients.

Also honored at the Feb. 18 dinner were Jayesh Patel, DDS of Waco; Maria Duarte, nurse practitioner of Temple; and Ronald Henderson, DDS of Temple.

Dr. Patel has been a regular volunteer dentist at the clinic since 2011, and Duarte has served as the clinic's medical director since 2012. Dr. Henderson, the clinic's dental director, also has been onboard since 2012.

BOCCC Executive Director Donna Dunn praised the honorees, as well as all of the organization's nearly 150 volunteers.

"The clinic is fortunate to have such faithful volunteer providers," she said. "They freely donate their time and talents to those in need of medical and dental care."

John C. Perry, BOCCC board chair, served as emcee for the event and Dunn presented the awards. The Rev. Joe Keyes of Salado Church of Christ, was the speaker for the event. He said the Bible calls us to be servants and to help those less fortunate.

During the event, Dunn thanked Dr. de Leon for his service.

"We are so very blessed to have Dr. de Leon as a volunteer," she said.

"Although he no longer practices medicine, he faithfully volunteers his time at the clinic twice a week."

Dr. de Leon's journey to the Community Clinic has been long and winding. He began practicing medicine in 1954 in Reynosa, Mexico, and set up shop in Brownsville in 1957.

His wife, Beatriz, managed the office and tended the books while he took care of the patients.

Although he practiced internal medicine, de Leon was also a certified FFA examiner.

"I gave commercial airline pilots their annual physicals," he said. "I did that for years."

The doctor retired in 1992 and was soon confronted with a new life challenge — his wife was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The couple moved to Central Texas in 2004 to be near two of their three children.

A daughter, Scott & White physician Betty Hall, and a son, Fernando, who lives in Bastrop, helped care for Beatrice until her passing in 2010. Another son, Manuel, lives in Florida.

"My children are very smart, but they didn't get it from me," Dr. de Leon said. "They got their brains from my wife. She was a very smart lady."

After his wife passed, and at his daughter's urging, de Leon began volunteering. He started with Meals on Wheels, and a year later began at Helping Hands. He still volunteers for three organizations.

De Leon said his biggest compliment in life came from former patients in Brownsville.

"We were shopping at H-E-B and ran into an old patient," he said. "The man said a group of former patients were taking up a collection to buy an ad in the paper asking me to return to work. I was touched."

Community Clinic patient thankful for health services

"Last year I came to the Body of Christ Clinic to receive medical treatment. As soon as I arrived I have been treated with nothing but incredible medical and spiritual help. Dr. Go is extremely thorough and listens to me. She has correctly diagnosed my medical issues. The staff always goes out of their way to help me with my needs.

The Body of Christ Clinic saved my life."

Clinic is a ‘blessing’ for this volunteer

I have been a receptionist at the Body of Christ Clinic for a little over a year now and what a blessing it has been!

Every week, I truly look forward to coming to the clinic to serve our community and share God’s love with my fellow volunteers and especially, our patients.

The feeling of being able to volunteer alongside people who are so devoted to serving our community with a faith-based mentality is indescribable.

I am continuously amazed at how God’s glory shines through us and our patients as they heal and grow.

Not only has this clinic provided a place for me to grow in my pursuit of a career in healthcare, but it has even more importantly helped me grow in my faith.

I am truly thankful for the opportunities I have been given while volunteering at BOCCC!

Nicole Cunanan

Nicole Cunanan has been a receptionist at the Body of Christ Community Clinic in Belton for more that a year. She is one of nearly 150 volunteers at the organization’s medical and dental clinics.

Donor helps Dental Clinic improve technology

Prior to the opening of the new Dental facility, the Clinic had problems providing enough space for the efficient delivery of dental care, especially if we had more than one dentist volunteering on the same evening.

Dentists, in their own practice, typically have two or three operatories working at the same time, with the help of their dental assistants, and can treat multiple patients at once.

With limited space at the medical clinic, dentists often had potentially frustrating down time, having to wait for each dental assistant to finish their procedures, rather than being able to rotate though different rooms.

With the opening of the new Dental Clinic and its six operatories, dentists could practice more like they do in their own offices. We had plenty of room, but quickly learned that we were short of equipment. In particular, the Dental Clinic had only one set of sensors used in the x-ray machines in the operatories. The sensors are the small plastic-encased plates that are inserted in the mouth of the patient and then he or she is asked to bite down gently on the holder. This sensor is what captures the x-ray image the dentist uses for diagnosis and treatment. We have frequently had more than one dentist working, sometimes as many as three, and the delays in seeing patients began again. This time they were waiting for x-rays rather than open rooms.

Donna Dunn, our Executive Director, and Dr. Ron Henderson, our Dental Director, brought this problem to the attention of the Executive Committee of the Clinic. This body assessed the situation and decided to recommend the purchase of an additional set of sensors to the Clinic Board of Representatives. Donna and Ron obtained pricing for the sensors and presented the problem and the solution to the Board. The Board agreed to the purchase and authorized Donna to proceed. The price for the set of sensors was over $9,000 but we were offered a $500 rebate by one of our supportive suppliers.

As is often the case with the Clinic, a generous donor learned of the need for the sensors and made an anonymous donation of $6,000. On hearing the actual cost involved in the purchase, this donor added an additional $1,000 to the original gift. Our Clinic has been blessed like this from its inception by the support of the community.

We constantly see the Hand of God involved in what we do. Whenever a need arises, He steps in to provide whatever it takes to meet the need, often by touching the hearts of our donors. We greatly appreciate all they do to make the Body of Christ Community Clinic successful.

Patricia Rye

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