MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

BODY OF CHRIST
Community Clinic Inc.

A packed house

Generous donors help clinic to keep serving its clients

By David Stone

Hundreds of area residents packed the McLane Great Hall at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor on May 2 to show support for the Body of Christ Community Clinic.

The annual banquet is the organizations primary fund-raiser.

Nearly half BOCCC's funding comes from public donations, and the majority comes from donations and money raised during a silent auction held during the banquet. Another quarter of the group's budget is funded by churches in the Belton, Salado and Temple areas, and the remainder comes from United Way and grants.

"Our individual and business donors have been one of our greatest blessings," Executive Director Donna Dunn said. "We hope to add to our list of faithful monthly donors. This regular supporty allows us to maximize the care we provide for our patients.

Also providing comments during the banquet was John C. Perry, BOCCC board president. Perry discussed the history of the organization.

Rebecca Fox Nuelle of First Presbyterian Church of Belton, Matt Thrasher of Crossroads Church and Gary White of Foundation Methodist Church also participated.

The banquet was catered by Sodexo.

David Perez-Guerra on piano and Roger Bennett on guitar provided entertainment during the May 2 Body of Christ Community Clinic fund-raiser in Belton.

BOCCC thanks banquet sponsors and supporters

The Body of Christ Community Clinic would like to thank its sponsors for making the fourth annual Fund-Raising Banquet a true success:

Patron sponsor -- Steve Brown.

Platinum sponsors -- Hulda Horton, John and Sandra Perry, Waterford Dental Specialist (Todd Evans, DDS).

Gold sponsors -- Belton Church of Christ, Salado Church of Christ, Josie Hatfield, R.K. Bass Electric, Salado United Methodist Church and Mark and Annette Zerneman.

Table sponsors -- Belton Nazarene Church, Brookshire/McIntyre, Jerry Caldwell, Christ the King Salt and Light, Crossroads Church, Robert and Jan Elliott, Elm Grove Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Belton, First Baptist Church of Salado, First Presbyterian Church of Belton, Foundation United Methodist Church, Helping Hands, Hope for the Hungry, Knights of Columbus - Christ the King, David and Jo Reddell, Charles and Patti Turk and Wanda Whiteley.

BOCCC also would like to thank the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and Precious Memories Florist and Gift Shop.

Fourteen churches support the clinic on a regular basis, including Belton Church of Christ, Belton Nazarene Church, Christ the King Catholic Church, Church of Christ Salado, Crossroads Church, Elm Grove Baptist Church, First Baptist Church Belton, First Baptist Church Belton, First Christian Church Belton, First Presbyterian Church of Belton, First United Methodist Church of Belton, Foundation United Methodist Church, Salado United Methodist Church and Vista Community Church.

2016 BY-THE-NUMBERS

1,381 Medical visits
353 Dental visits
80 Specialty referals
$1,300 Patient medications
$15,590 Donated lab services
14 Supporting churches
182 Volunteers
5,676 Volunteer hours

SCENES FROM THE FUND-RAISER

Hundreds of Body of Christ Community Clinic supporters attended the May 2 fund-raising banquet at the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton.

A message from the Chairman of the Board

This year has already been very busy, and God's blessings have continued to be granted to us. First we held our Board Strategic Planning Session on April 8. We had the majority of our Board members plus members of our Executive Committee and providers there, and we were blessed to have Jimmy Dorrell, CEO of Mission Waco, who facilitated the session. We left that meeting enthused about our future and with two main goals to complete.

Our first goal is to increase our communication with and support from African American and Hispanic American churches in our service area. A Board committee jointly chaired by Robert Bass and Patricia Rye is looking into how to accomplish that task. The second major goal we established was to include patient and/or community representatives on our Board. A committee chaired by Dr. Ron Henderson will work on that effort.

On May 2 we held our fourth annual fund-raising banquet at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor. What a great success it was! A packed house of over 300 people is always a nice thing to see. Thanks to the Marketing Committee, headed by Patricia Rye, to all the volunteers who helped with auction items and the event set up and to our Executive Director Donna Dunn who works so tirelessly to insure the success of our banquets. This year we titled the banquet, "Together We Heal" recognizing that what we do is truly a community effort. Although dollars are still coming in, our gross revenues are approximately $45,000. Once everything is in and all expenses are paid we will produce a final report in the next newsletter. God continues to lead us and bless us with this annual fundraising event.

Upcoming we have the First Methodist Church Belton annual 5K Fun Run/Walk on May 20th at 8:30 AM in Confederate Park. This event is the 5th annual and is called the 4-G, with the Gs standing for "Get Up, Get Moving, Get Outside, and For God." Again, this year First Methodist has blessed us with them donating the proceeds from the event to go directly to our Clinic. Thank you so very much First Methodist, Belton!

We will have our first golf tournament in October! The Body of Christ Community Clinic Golf Classic is set for October 5, 2017 at Wildflower Country Club in Temple. We have been wanting to do such an event for several years, but just didn't have any golfers to take the lead on it. Vista Community Church in Temple is leading the charge for us on this event. A special thank you to Jeff Hinds, who attends Vista, for heading this up!

We are so very thankful for the continuing support that we receive from the communities we served. People have opened both their hearts and their checkbooks to us and we just can't thank them enough. 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

Keeping Central Texas in Smiles

Although he sold his Temple dental practice in May 2016, Dr. Gus Gates continues constructing smiles by volunteering at the Body of Christ Dental Clinic in Belton.

"I just enjoy denistry," he said in a recent telphone interview. "I volunteer on a regular basis and it keeps my skills sharp. It gives me a chance to help others."

The 1975 graduate of the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston began his practice in 1976 and was instrumental in the creation of the Temple Community Clinic dental program in the early 1990s.

After selling his practice, Gates began volunteering at the Body of Christ facility. And, 67-year-old also enjoys traveling.

"I just got back from Japan," he said.

Gates loves to help area residents, but he also lends a hand to other dentists. He recently filled in for a dentist who had to take an extended break to recover from knee surgery.

Gates grew up in the South Texas community of Seguin and attended the University of Texas in Austin.

Dr. Gus Gates and some of the volunteers at Body of Christ Dental Clinic in Belton take a break for a photo.

United Way of Central Texas

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