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In Touch

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE BODY OF CHRIST COMMUNITY CLINIC, BELTON, TEXAS

2nd Annual Golf Tournament Held

Golf Fundraiser A Big Success!

The Body of Christ Community Clinic held its second annual golf tournament on October 19th at Wildflower Country Club in Temple. In spite of heavy rains before and after the tournament, the event was held without a hitch.

Executive Director Donna Dunn said, "I was so worried about the weather, but we just put it in God's hands, and the next thing we knew, the rain stopped and the tournament was able to be played!"

Approximately 21 teams with 84 golfers participated in this year's tournament. The event was run by one of the small groups from Vista Community Church in Temple. The event raised a slightly under $27,000 gross. Not all the bills for expenses are in, but we should net about $17,000-19,000..

The money raised will be used for operational expenses at the medical and dental clinics.

Although the tournament was surrounded by rain, it let up long enough for the golfers to be able to complete their rounds.

From the Desk of the Chairman: Jerry Wickwire

Christmas seems to be the friendliest and kind time of the year. We speak kindly to those around us, hold the door open for people, and feel free to share the joy of the season. Whether we celebrate Hanukkah or Christmas or Kwanza, there's just something about the season that encourages us to be generous with those around us.

Here at the end of the year, I want to say a special "Thank You" to all those who so generously support the Body of Christ Community Clinic. Because of you, we are able to provide medical and dental care to many people in our community. Know that we are constantly working to find ways to touch more people because of your generosity.

It's fitting that Christmas comes during the longest nights of the year. While we don't know the exact date Jesus was born, the Gospel of John reminds us that the Light shined in the darkness, and the darkness could not overcome it. In the middle of the dark nights of this season, love shines brightly, providing a promise of hope. Thank you for sharing in that promise of hope.

Donna's Den: Donna Dunn, Executive Director

Another year is almost in the books and we have served many in our community. I just want to say "**Thank You**" to each of you.

You are the reason the Body of Christ Community Clinic is able to provide services in our community. I know of no better way to say it that with the words of this song. May God richly bless you!

Thank You For Giving to the Lord
By Ray Boltz

I dreamed I went to heaven
You were there with me
We walked along the streets of gold
Beside the crystal sea
We heard the angels singing
Then someone called your name
You turned and saw a young man
He was smiling as he came
He said friend, you may not know me now
But then he said but wait
You used to teach my Sunday school
When I was only eight
Every week you would say a prayer
Before the class would start
One morning when you said that prayer
I asked Jesus in my heart
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave
Then another man stood before you
And said remember the time
A missionary came to your church
His pictures made you cry
You didn't have much money
But you gave it anyway
Jesus took the gift you gave
And that's why I'm here today
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave
One by one they came,
As far as the eye could see
Each one somehow touched
By your generosity
Little things that you had done, sacrifices made
Unnoticed on the earth, heaven now proclaims
And I know up in heaven
That you're not supposed to cry
But I was almost sure
There were tears in your eyes
As Jesus took your hand
And you stood before the Lord

(Continued on page 6)

Volunteer Spotlight

In this month's newsletter we begin a new feature highlighting our volunteers. Our organization is grateful and thankful for our volunteers who unselfishly act as the "hands and feet of Jesus "

This month's volunteer spotlight is on Vernell Labaj, our BOCCC volunteer coordinator. Vernell has been volunteering for four years as a Tuesday morning receptionist and volunteer coordinator. She learned about the BOCCC when she attended a Bell Co Sr Expo event where she ran into John Perry, whom she previously worked with, manning the BOCCC booth. John and Donna explained the volun-

(Continued on page 6)

A Time to Give

It is that time of the year, a time to be thankful for the abundance of gifts God has given each of us and a time to think how we might pay some of the blessing back by helping others.

In a article by Anne Ackers, she described why we give to our favorite charities.

GIVING IS AN AMERICAN TRADITION

JFK Jr. once said, "Charity, giving voluntarily and freely, is truly a jewel of the American tradition". Did you know, for example, that following the Depression, charitable giving in America has been on the rise. Americans gave $410.02 Billion to Charity in 2017, crossing the $400 Billion mark for the First Time, as reported by Giving USA (Jun 13, 2018). Giving USA pointed out that of the total giving, nearly 70% was given by individuals versus only 5% for corporations, balance was 16% by Foundations and 9% by bequest.

GIVING IS A CORE TENET IN MANY FAITHS

The instinct to give is also a cornerstone of many faiths, ranging from Christianity to Islam. In Christianity, the Bible reminds us that "It is more blessed to give than to receive". And in Judaism, the Hebrew word Tsedakah (meaning righteousness, fairness and justice), suggests helping the poor and needy is considered not only a responsibility but a duty—with the ultimate goal of helping others to become self sufficient.

A sacred Hindu text teaches that the only giving that has spiritual value is that of giving without reward or recognition. Similarly, in Buddhism, giving is viewed as an indication of a person's humanity and considered a vital part of spiritual development. And finally, a tenet of Islam is the idea of Zakat (that which purifies) which is a religious tax for Muslims only, based on a percentage of one's wealth. Zakat is considered an obligatory alm and part of the purification process.

GIVING IS A PRIVILEGE FOR ALL

"Everyone can be great. Because everyone can serve." Martin Luther King

Why give? This is a personal question that probably has as many answers as there are individuals. You might say, "Because it feels good", "I want to be an agent for change", or perhaps this is just the way you were raised and it is the right thing to do. Whatever your reasons, it does not matter who you are, where you come from, or the size of your bank account, each of us is uniquely qualified to "do what you can, with what you have, wherever you are". And in so doing, what we give blossoms many times over and the act of giving becomes a gift in and of itself. Indeed, the opportunity to give is a privilege bestowed upon us all.

If you plan to give in 2018, please key in mind the needs of the Body of Christ Community Clinic. Our needs are great and we would very much appreciate your help. Included with this newsletter is a return envelope, please seriously consider making a gift to the clinic. Thank you and may God bless you!

A Grandmother Tells Her Story

To the Director and the entire fabulous staff associated with the Body of Christ Dental Clinic,

I want to express my sincere gratitude for the blessings the Body of Christ Dental Clinic provided to my grandchildren, ages 7 and 8. My husband and I recently found them living in deplorable conditions and even a brief time of homelessness by surviving in a vehicle. The original plan was to have them for the summer, but we could not return these precious grandchildren back to such deplorable conditions.

Recently, our grandson started complaining that he could not chew on the left side of hus mouth and how chewing meat and certain foods were tearfully painful. In addition, he had a loose tooth, which we thought was the problem. I thought once the tooth came out the problem would be resolved. By wiggling his tongue against the tooth, it finally fell out. When I looked at this tooth it was not a cute white clean baby tooth but decayed and deformed. Oh, my poor grandson! No wonder he had horrible bad breath.

I talked to a friend who suggested I contact Donna Dunn, of the Body of Christ Dental Clinic. An appointment was made for x-rays and cleaning, and we found out he needed several extractions with one being a permanent tooth.

Before the extractions my grandson needed medication to clear up the infection and relieve the pain. A prescription was ordered by Dr. Lufburrow. Thank you Dr. Lufburrow!

Dr. Lufburrow worked on both of my grandchildren with our 7 -year-old granddaughter only needing a cleaning and a minor filling.

Dr. Littlefield performed all the extractions on Tomas and said he was a brave little man during the entire procedure.

The four teeth were given to me and the nurse suggested we place them in bleach because the stench would be overwhelming. Tomas said to please make sure to soak his teeth because the tooth fairy will not pick up smelly yucky teeth. After all he went through, he is still a happy child.

"Please help this outstanding organization by donating monies so children with dental problems will receive the care that maybe needed"

Because of the outstanding care and love from both doctors, my grandson's dental problems are now a thing of the past and my grandchildren now are on the road to daily and nightly procedures of brushing and flossing their teeth. No more bad breath.

I will pray for the Body of Christ Clinic and all its staff. I will pray for more dentist to volunteer their services, more funds for equipment needed, whether it be a dental chair of office equipment. Please help this outstanding organization by donating monies so children with dental problems will receive the care that maybe needed.

Thank you for your excellent services.

Sincerely, A Thankful Grandmother

ZOMBIE RUN HELD

Belton New Tech @ Waskow held their Fourth annual Zombie 5-K on October 27th. Participants came out for ghouls of fun – run, walk or crawl. Participants could either walk or run as a zombie or as a human. Their goal was for the humans to save Belton by zipping to the finish line before the zombies make it there first. There was a zombie makeup team on site for those who needed help. Costume prizes were awarded for each category. The event was a fundraiser for the Body of Christ Community Clinic. There were 135 participants and New Tech raised $1561.00 for the BOCCC. See photos on page 5.

BELTON™ NEW TECH HIGH

Golf Tournament

Fall Photos

Zombie Run

A Special Thank You To Our Golf Tournament Sponsors!

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Spradley Properties
Stain and Stamp
State Farm - Tyler Jermstad
Turley Associates
Vista Real Estate
WC Tractor
Weber's Gun & Range
WilsonArt
Woodhouse Day Spa
Woodward Creative Group
Whimsies Boutique

Donna's Den

(Continued from page 2)

And He said my child look around you
For great is your reward
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am a life that was changed
Thank you for giving to the Lord
I am so glad you gave
I am so glad you gave

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

(Continued from page 2)

teer opportunities with the BOCCC and she has been a regular volunteer ever since. Vernell is forever grateful to both for this "God led" encounter.

Vernell lives in Temple with her husband Mark who is a chaplain at Baylor SW in Round Rock. Vernell still works part time as a Medicare fraud consultant for a governmental agency. Previously she worked at SW Health Plan, Temple 4-C as executive director and the Bethlehem Sr Citizens Council as a center manager.

Vernell's hobbies include reading, genealogy research and sewing/quilting. Her favorite Bible verse is Proverbs 3:5-6 and Jeremiah 29:11.

December 20th to January 2nd: Clinic is closed for the Christmas-New Years holidays.

March 2nd: Annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet, 7:00 PM at the Belton Church of Christ.

DO YOU KNOW?
Brian Kondrat

- Brian was born in Corvallis, Oregon
- He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1985.
- He served as an Armor Officer in Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm
- He earned a Masters in Nursing from Pacific Lutheran and a Masters in Strategic Studies from the Army War College

BODY OF CHRIST Community Clinic Inc.

Mailing Address:
2608 North Main Street, B269
Belton, TX 76513

John C. Perry, Editor

ECFA ACCREDITED

United Way of Central Texas