

THEY CALL IT COWBOY COURAGE

He speaks softly with a Texas drawl, his cowboy hat shading a leathery face with an easy grin.

His ostrich quill boots walk slowly behind a hand-carved wooden cane. His right leg drags slightly, but his gait is sure and determined.

The word “self-reliant” comes to mind.

Charlie Williams came to Bethesda to have his heart checked because he was having dizzy spells. He figured his cholesterol was high and maybe he needed to get some help to prevent heart disease. It never occurred to him to ask God for what he really needed.

“Have you had a stroke?” Dr. Kendra King asked during his initial examination, noting the paralysis on his right side. That life-changing question opened the door to possibilities only God could imagine.

A hunting accident in 1977 left a bullet lodged in Charlie’s spine, but he continued to work. Twenty-one years later, in 1998, he took a fall while cutting brush on his property, suffering immediate paralysis symptoms on his right side. The next

morning, Charlie did what he had always done: got out of bed and went to work, realizing that at any time his spinal injury might get worse.

“I’m a leather man, working on saddles and boots,” Charlie says, grinning, although officially he is called a leathersmith.

The proud father of three, grandfather of five and great grandfather of a four-year-old, it has never occurred to Charlie to be anything but grateful for his life, and it has never occurred to him to not keep right on working regardless of the adversity caused by his injury.

“I just made up my mind that I wasn’t going to stop worshipping the Lord, and my kids are the same way,” he says proudly, noting all the support and love his family surrounds him with.

When Dr. King realized that the paralysis Charlie was experiencing was due to a very old injury, she immediately called in a specialist.

“Lo and behold, it wasn’t but about a week and Dr. Todd Raabe called,” says Charlie. An MRI showed the old bullet still in place, now so



encapsulated by nerves that it was impossible to remove it. Nonetheless, surgery could still be done to relieve Charlie’s pain and limited range of movement.

Now Charlie raises his arm above his head and waves it enthusiastically to demonstrate his newfound movement. He can stand for longer periods of time, even though finding the shortest walking route may be a hard habit to break after so many years. Having greater movement means that Charlie has more opportunity to be outside doing the things he loves in God’s creation.

Cowboy Courage

(continued)



"I've got this habit of looking up to the skies and I say 'Thank you, Lord!'" he says.

Great medical care and a successful surgery are two things Charlie is grateful to have found at Bethesda Health Clinic. The other thing is prayer.

Charlie remembers that the first day he sat in the waiting room at Bethesda, a lady "sat next to me and asked if I wanted her to pray for me." He asked for prayer for one of his grandsons who is being treated for brain tumors. Charlie wants as much prayer for that courageous kid as he can get. Courage runs in the family it seems, along with faith.

"There's so much love for people at Bethesda," says Charlie. Jesus' love expressed itself to Charlie at Bethesda in the prayer volunteer, the admitting staff, the nurses, the doctor, the surgeon and countless others, such as donors who give quietly behind the scenes to make Bethesda's mission possible.

While Charlie never thought to ask God for healing when it came to himself, he isn't shy about asking for the one thing he knows matters more than any other. "Something that everybody ought to already know is that Jesus loves them," he says.

With that thought in mind, this courageous cowboy picks up his walking stick, flashes a grin, and tips his cowboy hat as he strolls away, most likely going back to work.

A NOTE FROM JOHN



The second decade of Bethesda Health Clinic's ministry begins with two words: challenge and excitement.

The remarkable growth of our first ten years, both in numbers of patients served and in expansion of the breadth of services the clinic is able to offer, has been made possible by generous community and volunteer support. As we enter our second decade, the clinic is busier than ever. We are still growing, and we are excited about the opportunities to serve that God has laid before us! Bethesda's growth also creates some challenges. To serve more patients requires both more financial resources and more space in which to carry out this ministry.

With the confidence that God will continue to bless this ministry as He always has, Bethesda has stepped out in faith to expand the clinic's space. A new dental wing and expanded medical clinic space will greatly enhance our ability to meet the need for comprehensive dental care, health care and disease prevention services that is growing every day. To raise \$500,000 for this project is indeed a challenge; but it is also exciting.

We invite you to join us in the challenge and excitement of Bethesda Health Clinic's ministry. Whether as a volunteer, a donor or a prayer warrior, we welcome your gifts and support.





THE EAST TEXAS MISSION OF MERCY

One of the most serious public health issues in East Texas is the lack of affordable, accessible dental care. As a result, many people wait for months or years to seek treatment, suffering with infection and pain which can greatly compromise their overall physical and mental health.

On February 28, more than 500 people lined up in the parking lot at Bethesda Clinic to be screened for dental care offered by The East Texas Mission of Mercy. "When I arrived at

5:40 a.m. there were more than 500 people waiting to be seen" said Dr. David Nichols, who founded the program in 2001 and has spearheaded its work since. "Many people arrived the day before and spent the night in the parking lot in sleeping bags and blankets."

After screening, patients returned on Saturday for dental examinations, extractions and oral surgery, and dental fillings. All services, with an estimated value of \$356,618 were

offered free of charge by volunteer dentists and oral hygienists.

Added benefits of The East Texas Mission of Mercy this year were eye exams and vision care generously offered free of charge by the staff and physicians of EyeCare Associates. Many thanks to the caring and generous dentists, ophthalmologists and their staffs whose time and expertise made such a difference in so many lives.

FROM VISION
TO REALITY

HANGERS OF HOPE

The ladies of the Bethesda Alliance are women of vision, always “looking” for ways to help the ministry of Bethesda Health Clinic. In late 2013, one of their visions became a reality with the opening of Hangers of Hope, a resale shop whose proceeds are dedicated to Bethesda’s work.

Teri Sawyer, current President of the Bethesda Alliance, and her husband, Dale, caught the vision of Hangers of Hope early on. Teri has worked countless hours alongside other members of the Alliance to receive, sort and organize merchandise. Dale has been a “pick up” volunteer, gathering donations from across the community. “This is not just a store,” says Teri. “It’s a means to truly SAVE LIVES. Income from the store helps give the Clinic the means to provide hope and encouragement.” Dale adds, “We are honored to be a small part of something that impacts so many.”

Donations of clothing (men’s, women’s and children’s), accessories, household items, books and toys are another way to help Bethesda’s ministry. Hangers of Hope welcomes your gifts!

HANGERS OF HOPE

3500 S. Broadway
(Olde English Village Shopping Center)
Monday - Saturday: 9:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sundays: Noon to 5:00 pm



Left to right: Valerie Brehm, Dale Sawyer, Teri Sawyer



Left to right: Ann Primer, Ellen Krafve, Marsha Lester, Sandy Welch, Margy McKay, Cathy Krafve





Left to right front row: Dr. William Starling, Dr. Gary Kimmel, Dr. Robert Rossman, Dr. Grace English

Left to right back row: Dr. John English, Dr. Pat Thomas, Dr. David Nichols, Dr. Sam Houston, Dr. Steven Keuer, Dr. Don Smith, Dr. Gary Gross, Dr. William Moore, Dr. Robert Gatti

THE DOCTOR LUKE SOCIETY

Dr. H. Don Smith, Dr. Grace English and Dr. John English were inducted as members of The Doctor Luke Society of Bethesda Health Clinic at the Doctor Luke Awards Ceremony and Dinner on February 22, 2014.

A sell-out crowd celebrated with the new “Dr. Lukes” and lauded them for the ways their professional and personal

lives reflect the values of Saint Luke, the beloved physician.

This year’s honorees join a distinguished list of 30 physicians and one dentist as members of the Doctor Luke Society, now recognized in our community as one of the highest accolades for members of the medical profession.

Each year, recipients of the Doctor Luke Award are honored with gifts to the Bethesda Health Clinic Foundation. Generous “naming sponsors” make these gifts of \$25,000 or more in honor of the Doctor Luke physicians and in support of the Foundation’s mission to provide long-term financial stability and endowment management in support of the Clinic’s work.

A priority for Bethesda’s second decade of ministry is to grow the endowment assets of the Foundation, providing a stable source of funding for the Clinic’s future. While current operating needs will always come first, Bethesda’s board of directors realizes that it must also take the ‘long view’ and work now to set aside funds for the future.

The Bethesda Health Clinic Foundation is an ideal vehicle for donors who are considering making a planned gift to Bethesda Health Clinic. As you plan for your own future, why not plan for Bethesda’s as well? For more information, contact Diane Thomason, Development Director, at 903.596.8353 Ext. 106.

Many thanks to the 2014 Dr. Luke Committee

Derrith Bondurant and Patricia Hampe, Co-Chairs

Bess Arnold • Eleanor Cameron • Judy Carter • Mary Gammell • LaVerne Gollob • Lisa Gross
Catherine Harrison • Jill Hickerson • Kathryn Morse • Mary Dale Thomas

BETTER
BUSINESS
BUREAU



Mechele Mills, Dr. John English

AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

Bethesda Health Clinic was the first nonprofit organization ever to receive the Better Business Bureau's Award for Excellence at its annual banquet on January 29, 2014.

Mechele Mills, President and CEO of the BBB of Central East Texas said "The Better Business Bureau congratulates Bethesda Health Clinic on their BBB Award for Excellence. Thank you for your service to our community."

**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**BETHESDA
BIRTHDAY
BASH!**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2014
VILLA DE FELICITA**



Dr. Taylor Holland, Kristy Howell, Laurentina Antonio

Bethesda Health Clinic received the 2014 Certificate of Merit Award from the Texas Dental Association on May 3rd. The House of Delegates, representing over 9000 dentists in the State of Texas, chose Bethesda Health Clinic to recognize the clinic's outstanding service in helping disadvantaged citizens in Smith County, Texas.





On a brisk March Saturday morning, runners and walkers participating in the inaugural FRESH 15 did their part to support health and wellness programs at Bethesda Health Clinic.

Organized by Brookshire Grocery Company, with 100% of the proceeds going to Bethesda and the American Heart Association, the event surpassed everyone's expectations.

Trent Brookshire expressed the sentiments of Brookshire Grocery Company. "Our goal for the FRESH 15 from the beginning was to give back and make an impact in our community. By partnering with Bethesda Health Clinic, we were able to assist the working uninsured of East Texas. The mission of Bethesda Health Clinic is very similar to ours, and it made perfect sense for them to be our

local charity. We are very excited to have raised more than \$40,000 for Bethesda and know that the money raised will go to great use."

Bethesda Executive Director, John English, M.D., echoed Mr. Brookshire's sentiments. "Bethesda Clinic was honored to be a partner with Brookshire's in the first FRESH 15 race. Both of our organizations are supported by the community and both emphasize the need for a healthy lifestyle. The FRESH team put on a first class event, and we were proud to be chosen as a beneficiary."

More than 2800 runners from all over Texas and beyond competed in the 15k, 5k and 1k kids' races. Bethesda Clinic was blessed to receive \$41,225 from the race proceeds.

A FRESH EVENT BENEFITS BETHESDA



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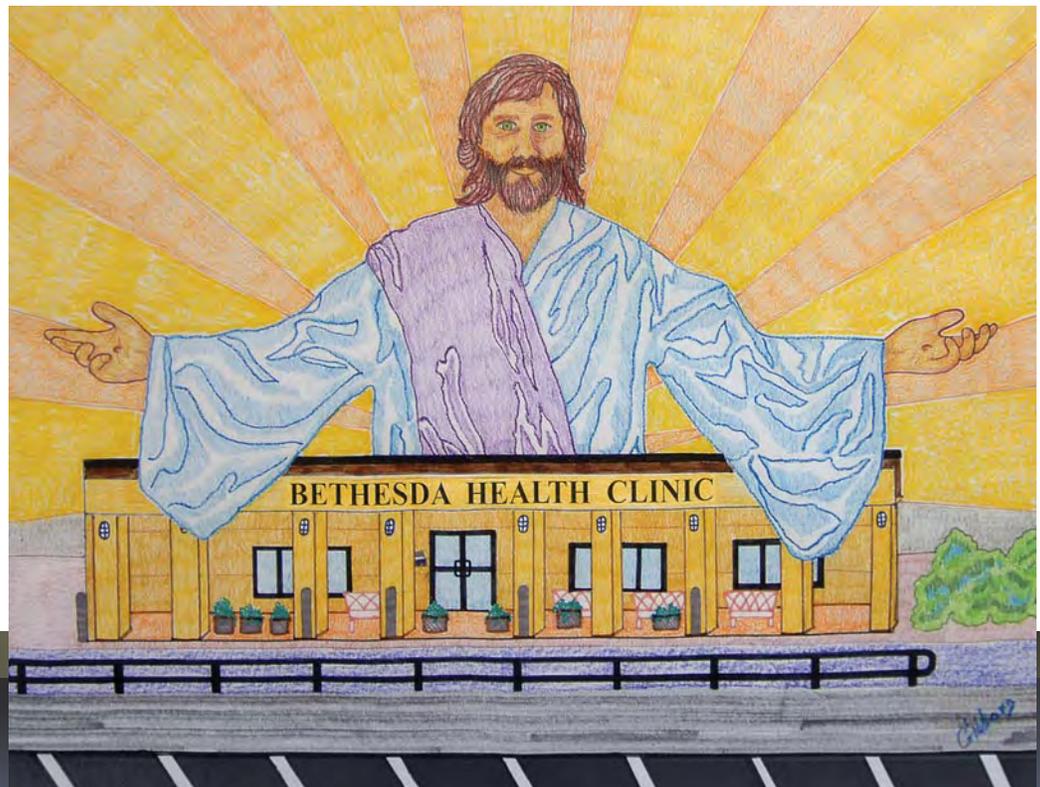
To learn more about these events or Bethesda Health Clinic, contact us at:
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Artist Statement: "As a patient of the clinic, I found it such a comfort when the nurse and doctor both prayed with me before I left my appointment. It was healing in every area. I am so grateful."

Artist: Rick Gibbons, patient of Bethesda Health Clinic **Title:** Health-Physical-Spiritual, 2012