

You gave Paul a smile to match his patriotism!

Serving in the military was a family tradition and something he had looked forward to his entire life. His father had served in the Marine Corps and his grandfather had served as a mine tech in World War II. The patriotism ran deep.



When Paul got out of the Navy he was broken.

Paul didn't have a typical education. Just like his father, he attended Harlingen Marine Military Academy. After graduation he promptly enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

During his years of service Paul saw things many of us can't imagine. He served overseas in Libya in a war zone and carried the pain with him even years after his service ended.

After being honorably discharged from the military in 2012, Paul went through a rough time. "The transition is not always easy, so after a while we have to learn to adapt. I think for me, I fell into a state of depression," he said. He struggled with post traumatic stress disorder and didn't know how to handle it. He didn't know how to ask for help. "I drank a lot and smoked marijuana," he recalled. "I struggled with addiction."

The struggle led to a deterioration of Paul's teeth.

"With how I was feeling in my life, I struggled to maintain my physical health," he explained. "As my mental health went, so did my physical. I stopped taking care of myself and my teeth. It's a common thing among veterans. When you have PTSD and a mental crisis, you just feel like nothing matters anymore."

Paul is young and healthy. But his poor diet, among other factors, contributed to decay in his teeth that caused significant pain and staining. He was ashamed and did his best to not smile or develop deeper relationships with others.

Eventually, Paul found Camp V, a local nonprofit organization focused on helping veterans re-enter civilian life, as well as to assist them with local resources. At Camp V, Paul found purpose and a new start. *(Continued on next page)*



"I see the light at the end of the tunnel," Paul said, after his procedure. "I have been through the darkest days of my life, but now I have hope from places like Bethesda and Camp V."

As a disabled veteran with limited income, Paul continued to struggle with his teeth, and the pain got worse. He felt like it was hopeless. Last winter Paul went through desperate measures to get relief from the pain, and would put his face into the snow.

Because of you, Paul is no longer suffering from the pain.

Paul was a patient in one of Bethesda's "free" dental clinics last month. Although Bethesda has never been a free clinic, the free dental days are funded through generous donors and volunteers, and spearheaded by longtime dental volunteer Dr. David Nichols.



Paul's transformation. Before (left) and after.

The recipients of the clinic's efforts come from local rehabilitation programs. September was dedicated to helping veterans from Camp V.

After spending just a few hours in the dental chair with Dr. Nichols, Paul's smile was completely transformed.

"I see the light at the end of the tunnel," Paul said, after his procedure. "I have been through the darkest days of my life, but now I have hope from places like Bethesda and Camp V."

Paul volunteers full-time at Camp V and attends Tyler Junior College in hopes of becoming an addiction counselor.

"I now realize that it can be the littlest things, but everything that we do from day to day matters," Paul said.

Paul says his new smile is "life-changing."

Thanks to your generous gifts and the amazing dental volunteers who assisted with his project, Paul is living pain-free and has a fresh start.

Paul says the best thing about his new smile is that it will make his mom happy to see him smiling in this year's Christmas card.

"A smile helps everything," he said. "This will help me continue to establish relationships with other people and with other veterans."

Camp V was just one of many nonprofits who have been helped this year through the free dental clinics. Other groups include Highway 80 Rescue Mission, SonShine Lighthouse, Calvary Commission and New Creation Foundation.



SonShine Lighthouse Dental



New Creation Dental Friday



Bethesda dental team with volunteer dentists.



Volunteer dentists who participated in the Camp V dental clinic. Stephanie Wilson, Trey Swinney, Taylor Holland, David Nichols, Jerrod O'dette

A NOTE FROM JOHN



John English, M.D.
Bethesda Clinic CEO

Dear Friends,

In September we celebrated 18 years of Bethesda Health Clinic. Thinking back on the early days of the clinic, and looking at where we are now, it's amazing to see the work God has done through our ministry.

The many accomplishments throughout the years were made possible through people like you who saw a vision of what healthcare could be, and wanted to help make that happen. These pioneers were determined to provide care to those who needed it most. As we move forward, I am continually amazed at what the community is willing to do to support our patients and how God makes it happen.

This issue of our newsletter features an amazing story of transformation for Paul, a Navy vet who desperately needed dental care. Paul received care through one of our "free" Friday dental clinics that we host through the support of volunteer dentists and the local rotary groups.

You'll also see a well-known face in our community, Callynth Finney, who was a Bethesda patient before she was ever a well-known photographer.

These stories, and the stories we see every day, are only possible because of your faithfulness in giving, serving and praying for our ministry.

We go into the end of the year with hope for the future and thankful hearts for those who continue to bless our mission.

On behalf of our entire team, THANK YOU!



Our Kingdom Purpose:

*Loving those in need with excellent care
to point them to Jesus.*

Spotlight: Callynth Finney

You never know
when you might run
into someone who
has been impacted
by Bethesda Clinic.



As a mom of three very busy children - ages 15, 12 and 2.5 (yes, I know!) - I can be found all over Tyler. My iPhone calendar is filled with PTA meetings, baseball and football games, practices, trips to the dog groomer, and the list quite literally never ends.

The doing of "all the things" does have its perks when I randomly mention I work at Bethesda Clinic and see someone's face light up. Right away, they tell me their story...and I love to listen.

This past spring we were excited to get our family portrait taken by the very talented and well-known Callynth Finney of Callynth Photography. I felt in awe when I walked into her large studio. Beautiful, gallery-style canvases wrapped with faces of children, brides and families welcomed us into our session.

At the beginning of the session, like a normal conversation, I mentioned I worked at Bethesda Health Clinic. I knew Callynth had taken Dr. English's family photos before, but I was surprised to hear she had actually been a patient as well.

She told me of working with Youth With a Mission (also known as YWAM) and of her time with the local nonprofit, Living Alternatives. I knew we served a

lot of missionaries with YWAM but had no idea this successful photographer, with a beautiful studio in downtown Tyler, had been a Bethesda patient.

"I became a patient at Bethesda right when it opened and I remained a patient until 2019," she told us. "My husband and I were both patients there while we were full-time missionaries. At one time our income was \$900 a month for both of us. We really didn't have anything."

While Callynth and her husband were dedicating their lives to help others, Bethesda was there to help them make a difference.

"We were able to continue our volunteer work without having to worry about that piece of our life," Callynth

said, recalling the importance of a place like Bethesda. "If the car broke down, we just didn't have a car for a while. There were a lot of things we didn't have the money for, but our health was one area that we really did not have to stress about because we knew that we could go to Bethesda."

It dawned on me, again, how much Bethesda is a vital part of our community.

I was so happy to hear that we had helped her when she needed it most. Now, as a successful photographer, she doesn't need to be a patient at the clinic and is able to pass along her spot to someone else.

When you give to Bethesda, you just never know the impact of your gift. Who knew you might be helping a missionary or a future superstar photographer? Regardless of who you help, know that the gift of healthcare is something a person carries with them and never forgets.

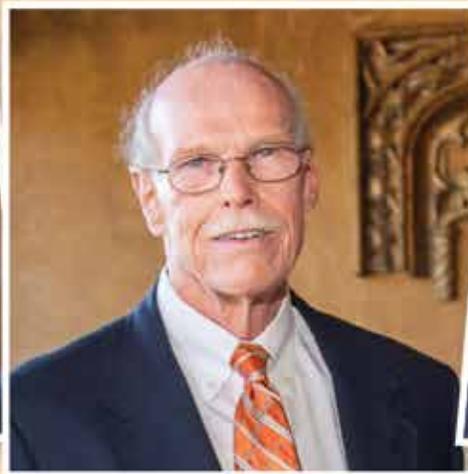
While Callynth and her husband were dedicating their lives to help others, Bethesda was there to help them make a difference.

- Written by Megan Riaz,
Director of Community Affairs

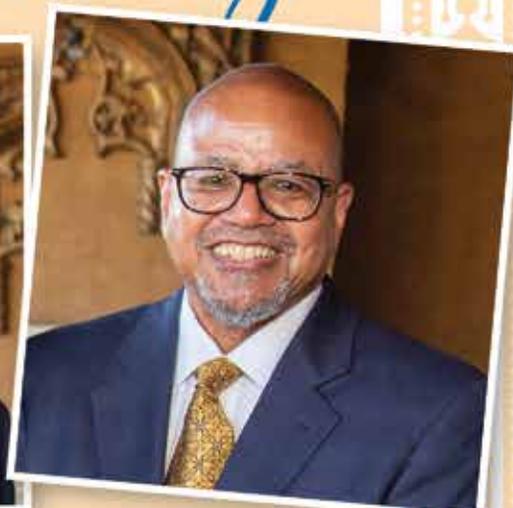
Congratulations to our
2021 Doctor Luke Honorees
on their induction into the
Doctor Luke Society



Kevin Green, M.D.



Don Freeman, M.D.



Kirk Calhoun, 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.



2021 Doctor Luke Inductees with past honorees.



Give early!
Donations are matched
until the money runs out!
Our goal is \$50,000.
Will you partner with us to
transform lives locally?

SAVE THE DATE

11. 30. 2021

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#GI♥INGTUESDAY

100% stays local. Support dozens of
local Tyler nonprofits. The first
\$75,000 will be matched.



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Your
contributions
gave Sheila
a place to call
her medical
home.



Sheila has spent years working in the restaurant business and has never had insurance.

A couple of years ago she started having problems with swelling in her arms and hands. She didn't know why and the pain

suddenly took over her life. It got so bad she had to sleep at night with her arms hanging off the bed. She began to suffer from anxiety and depression and was unable to keep up with her long shifts.

Sheila says,
**"If I need something,
I turn to Bethesda. I trust
my doctors and I am so
thankful they are there."**

Without health insurance, she put off going to the doctor because she knew it wouldn't be affordable.

Then one of her employees told her about Bethesda.

Your contributions gave Sheila a place to call her medical home.

At Bethesda, loving doctors found a way to get Sheila back to work. You gave Sheila not only medication for her condition but access to surgery. Sheila was diagnosed with carpal tunnel syndrome. Volunteer doctors operated on Sheila's hand to help her get back to work.

Today Sheila tells all of her staff about Bethesda and works hard to make sure they don't go without healthcare, or use the emergency room as primary care.

In the past 17 months, you have helped Sheila receive 3 life-changing surgeries.



Become a Pillar and help change someone's life!

Just \$20 per month provides a primary care appointment for a hard-working East Texan. Your monthly gift gives hope to your neighbors.

Become a Pillar today at
bethesdaclinic.org

Thank
you!

For helping
East Texans
receive hope
and healing!

Pillars
of
Bethesda

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