



Bethesda

HEALTH CLINIC

IN THE HANDS OF ANGELS

Patricia is the picture of serenity, with a quiet voice, carefully chosen words, and a poised and calm demeanor. Inside, however, she literally vibrates with the joy and excitement of her faith, and it doesn't take much for that joy to burst forth in loud exclamations of praise or tears of gratitude. When Patricia found out recently that Bethesda Health Clinic was going to be able to fix her severely damaged front teeth, she literally screamed. "I was so happy I told the staff I felt like shouting for joy, and they said, 'go right ahead!', so I did!" she exclaimed. "I wanted everyone to know how GOOD God is, and how GOOD Bethesda is!"

Bethesda has been a part of Patricia's life for many years. When she was new to Tyler, she heard about the clinic from a co-worker and at first didn't believe such a place was real. "The first time I came, everyone was so nice, so real. They treated me so nicely and didn't make me feel like I was 'less than.' I've been treated as 'less than' before, and I know what that feels like," she said.

In 2007, Bethesda helped Patricia obtain the back surgery she had desperately needed for a long

time. "Right before my surgery, Dr. Todd Raabe said to me, 'Before we start, can I pray with you?' I knew then that I was in the right hands... God's hands and Dr. Raabe's hands."

Though she felt much better physically, Patricia had another problem that had plagued her for many years. Her front teeth were severely damaged and terribly unsightly. "I grew up poor and I never went to the dentist," she said. "No one taught me about taking care of my teeth." Ashamed of her appearance, Patricia rarely smiled. Her self-esteem was as damaged as her teeth, and this affected her personally and professionally.

Finally Patricia took her problem where she had taken her problems before... to the Lord. "I just said, 'God, here I am, trusting you again,' and He told me to go to Bethesda. When the dentist examined me and heard my story, he said, 'Go talk to Donnie (Donnie Gaines) and let's see what we can do for you.'"

That Sunday, the prophet at her church told Patricia that in three days she would have favor.

Continued on page 2.



TOUCH OF GRACE

Continued from front page.

"I kept thinking, 'What does that mean?'" Patricia said. "What does 'favor' look like?" And then she received a call from Donnie to come back to the clinic for another visit with the dentist. "Could this be the 'favor,' the good news that I had been waiting for?" she questioned.

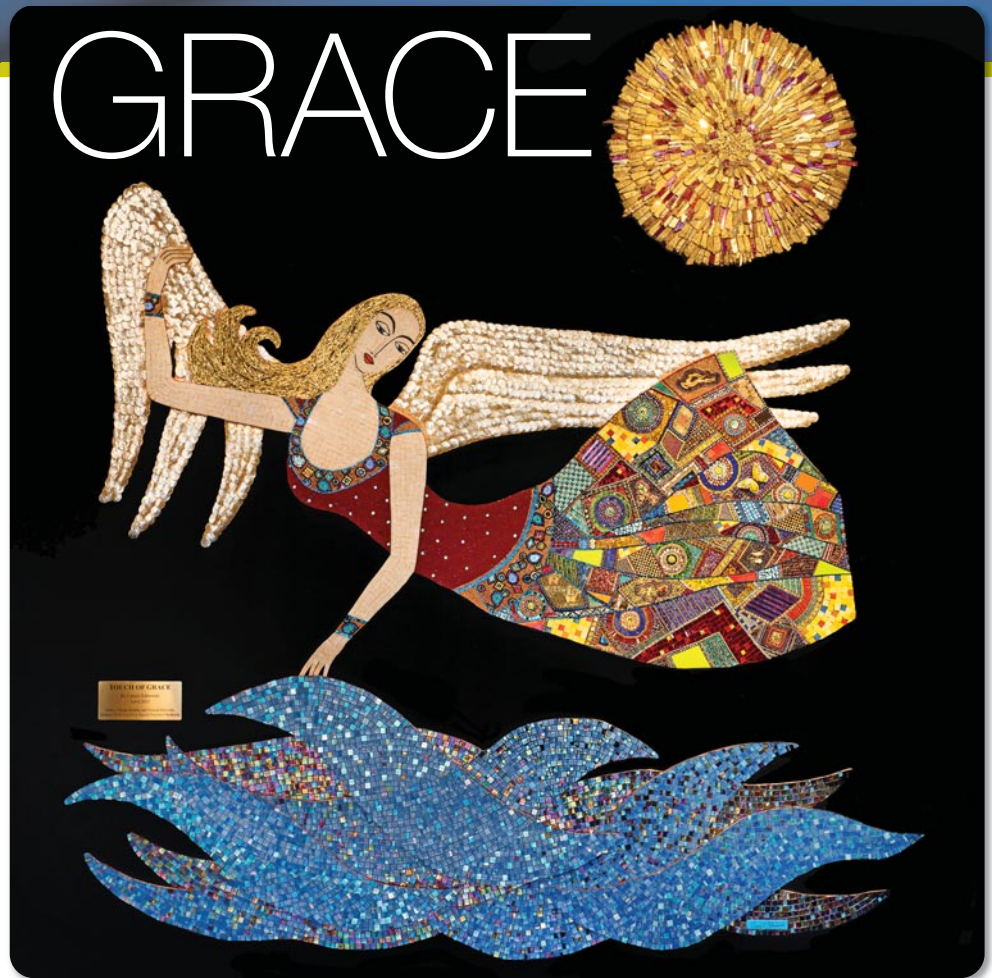
At Bethesda, the dentist took a long time explaining in detail to Patricia the lengthy process she would have to go through. Donnie had turned to the patient adoption fund to secure the means to provide this "above and beyond care" for Patricia. "We don't want you to be embarrassed anymore," the dentist told her. "When we are finished, you will be beautiful again."

"That's when I told them I felt like shouting for joy," said Patricia, "and they said 'Go ahead!'"

I hope I didn't scare anyone, but I was so, so happy!"

Patricia's first priority has always been to be a role model for her 11 year old daughter. "We've been through a lot together, so I call her 'Soldier'. She's a little soldier to me, and now the name has stuck," says Patricia. "Everyone calls her 'Soldier' and it suits her."

Soldier has always told her mother that she is beautiful, and now Patricia is beginning to believe that beauty and confidence are really a possibility in her future. "God showed up in the people He's put in my life," says Patricia. "He showed up in the people of Bethesda. It's a miracle. It really is. And I still feel like shouting!"



She's a powerful presence.

"Touch of Grace" greets everyone who enters Bethesda Health Clinic with her beauty and symbolism of hope, faith and the constant presence of God.

Created by artist Cassie Edmonds, the beautiful mosaic depicts the angel stirring the waters of the pool of Bethesda as described in the book of John, the inspiration for the naming of Bethesda Health Clinic.

Painstakingly crafted by Ms. Edmonds over months and months, the mosaic incorporates natural stones, glass, antique jewelry, and pieces of shell into a breathtaking design.

"Touch of Grace" was underwritten by a donor who loved the vision of having something beautiful to greet patients as they entered the building. Ms. Edmonds caught the vision and poured her heart and soul into the project, donating much of her time and creativity as her own gift to Bethesda.

"Touch of Grace" is Ms. Edmond's first commercial installation, though she has a significant following from private collectors. Her portfolio can be found through her website, cassieedmondsmosaics.com.

ANGELS AMONG US

*“For the Angel went down...
And stirred up the water.”*

Angels are truly among us, and the recent expansion at Bethesda Health Clinic is proof of their divine presence!

Generous friends and supporters of Bethesda, our “Architectural Angels,” have enabled Bethesda to significantly renovate and expand the clinic. The new David F. Nichols, D.D.S. Dental Clinic and the renovated Harold B. Cameron, M.D. Medical Clinic are now open, giving Bethesda Health Clinic the capacity to serve more patients than ever before.

Dedicated in honor of Dr. David Nichols and in memory of Edith Books, the David. F. Nichols, D.D.S. Dental Clinic now has five dental chairs in a spacious setting, state-of-the-art equipment, sleek cabinetry, new computer monitors and (something the staff is very appreciative of) windows which overlook the prayer garden next door.

“My mother held a special place in her heart for people who were suffering from dental disease but could not afford dental care. It is a great joy to honor the desires of her heart by helping to provide a place of healing for many deserving people in need.”
Darla Bennett

The medical clinic renovation, named in honor of the late Dr. Harold Cameron, added three more exam rooms (for a total of 12), additional spaces for patient education, a glassed-in consultation area and a repurposed exam room which can now accommodate gurneys for GI patients.

“Hal (Hal B. Cameron, Jr. and his family) and I are so pleased to see Harold honored by having his name on the new addition to Bethesda. Receiving the Doctor Luke Award was one of the highlights of Harold’s long

career. Now, since his death, we appreciate the special recognition of his hard work, long hours, and his dedication and lifetime commitment to caring for patients regardless of economic status.”
Eleanor Cameron

New administrative offices were added to the front of the building, as well as a conference room for small group meetings, presentations and patient education. Artwork entitled “Genesis” created by Bethesda IT director, Don Bristow, spans a wall and stimulates creative thinking.

Bethesda’s “Architectural Angels” caught the vision for the expansion of the clinic, and their gifts and prayers brought it to fruition. How grateful we are for the presence of “angels among us.”



Brenda and Hal Cameron, Eleanor Cameron



Diane Thomason, Cassie Edmonds, Darla Bennett

Architectural Angels

Darla Bennett

Julietta Jarvis Foundation

Tom and June Lowery

The Rogers Foundation

A.W. Riter, Jr. Family Foundation

Brookshire Grocery Company

Herb and Melvina Buie

First Baptist Church

John and Judy Soules

“In memory of my beloved husband
Bill Castleberry,” Beverly

Angels are Bright



Kimberly Abeldt, Teri Sawyer



Fritter and Mike McNally



Sheryl Palmer, Sue Saxenmeyer, Brenda Cameron



Melvina and Herb Buie



Drs. William Chambers, Wayne Propst, Ben Bridges

BETHESDA OPEN HOUSE



Lights in the Midst of our Lives!



Debra Johnston, Sandy King, Darla Bennett, Eleanor Stringer



Eleanor Cameron, Cassie Edmonds



Dr. Craig and Catherine Harrison, Judy and John Soules



June and Dr. Tom Lowery, Pam Van Meter



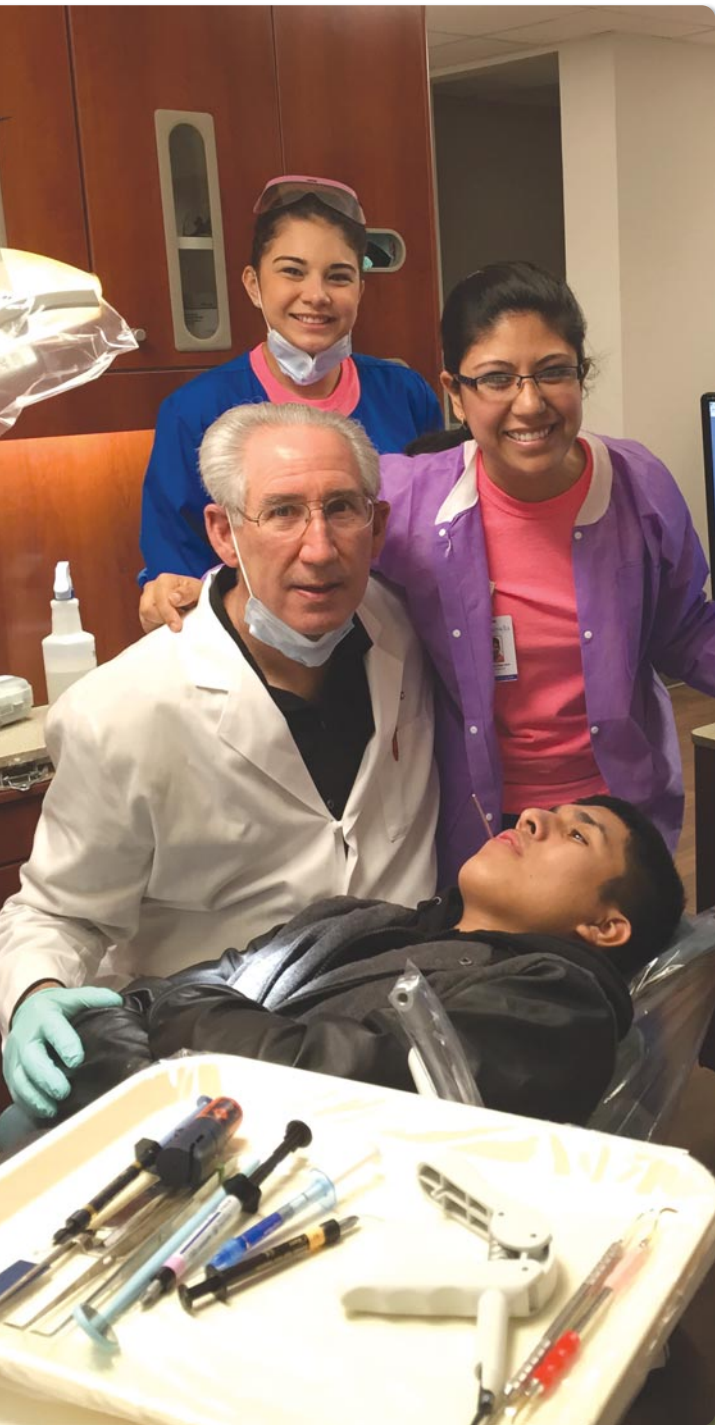
Larry and Kat Stokes, Kay and Barry Jones

Check presentation from FRESH15. Back row: Caroline Brookshire, Trent Brookshire, Brad Brookshire, Brent Nelson, Rebecca Sanders, Don Gaynier. Bottom row – Megan Riaz, Dr. John English, Sheri Satterwhite

ANGELS ON A MISSION



Bethesda Dental Staff



To say that David Nichols, D.D.S. is happy about the new dental clinic at Bethesda Health Clinic is an understatement. He is thrilled! That the space has beautiful, new, state of the art equipment and is easy to work in are all well and good, but there is only one thing that really matters to Dr. Nichols – the new dental clinic enables Bethesda's dental staff and volunteers to serve more patients.

Serving more patients and offering them the very best in dental care are the only things that have mattered to David Nichols since he first became associated with Bethesda Health Clinic. And Dr. Nichols has been associated with the clinic since before it even began.

It was Dr. Nichols and Dr. Chip Swinney who gathered up the first donated dental equipment for Bethesda more than ten years ago. At first, Dr. Nichols, Dr. Swinney and other volunteers provided dental services, using well worn equipment in a single dental room. Now, in the expanded and renovated space,

two staff dentists, a full-time dental hygienist, and three dental assistants work alongside volunteer dentists and assistants. They have the capacity to care for 50% more patients than before.

The clinic's emphasis remains on treating patients with pain and infection, and providing routine care. Patient education and dental hygiene services are an important component of the care offered in this friendly, family-like environment. "So many adults were just never taught to take care of their teeth," says Dr. Nichols, "and they pay the price for that later in life."

There is only one thing about the new space that Dr. Nichols is not thrilled about: his name in "great big letters" at the dental clinic's entrance. This humble, self-effacing man who has lived a life of Christian service, is not one to call attention to himself. "Oh, I'm honored," he says. "Don't get me wrong. But this is not MY dental clinic. This clinic belongs to the community and it belongs to God."

Dr. David Nichols with a patient, Cristal Lemus, and Sandra DeAlejandro



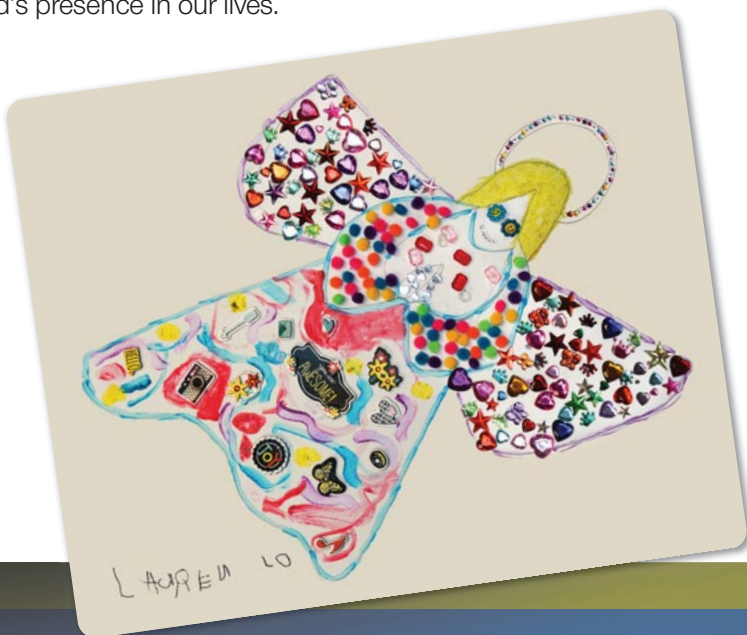


ONE ANGEL LEADS TO ANOTHER

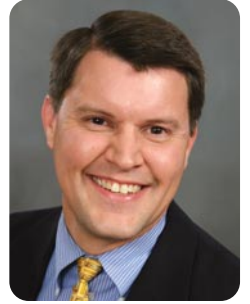
Nancy Grant wanted her granddaughter to see “Touch of Grace,” the exquisite angel who now greets everyone who enters Bethesda Health Clinic. Together, they marveled at the beautiful mosaic, with its intricate design. Nancy, who has been a Bethesda volunteer for many years, carefully explained to Lauren, age 4, the idea of an angel watching over Bethesda, its patients, staff and volunteers.

Inspired by what she saw, Lauren had an idea. She wanted her grandmother to have an angel too, an angel who would watch over her, especially when she was doing her volunteer work at Bethesda.

Lauren’s angel now watches over Nancy, one angel leading to another, a grandmother teaching her granddaughter about God’s presence in our lives.



A NOTE FROM JOHN



Stirring the Waters

We’ve always had a thing about angels at Bethesda Health Clinic.

The clinic’s name comes from the book of John, in which an angel is described as stirring the healing waters of Bethesda. The story’s symbolism still strikes a chord. Bethesda Health Clinic is a healing place, like the ancient pool of Bethesda, and the healing that occurs at Bethesda has been made possible through the years by so many angels who have “stirred the waters” of Bethesda Health Clinic.

This newsletter abounds with stories of angels: David Nichols, D.D.S., Harold Cameron, M.D., the “Architectural Angels” whose gifts made the recent building expansion possible, and the stunning artwork of Cassie Edmonds, a “Touch of Grace,” that now greets all who enter the clinic. Each of you, our friends, donors and volunteers, are angels who continue to stir the waters of Bethesda, making healing and hope possible for all who turn to us for care.

We are very grateful to have “angels among us” at Bethesda Health Clinic.

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