

MMHF continues to grow the legacy

Written by Chris Lee

A crowd of about 40 people gathered at Melissa Memorial Hospital Sunday, Nov. 21 for the Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation Legacy of Thanks Celebration. The foundation continues to grow as it celebrated its 15th anniversary.

The event, which has previously been held at SunSet View, was moved to the hospital this year.

One of the main attractions of Sunday's event was the completed donor walls. It was fitting as the celebration was held right in the foyer of the hospital. "We appreciate celebrating in the hospital," MMH administrator John Ayoub said.

Ayoub gave examples of things going on 15 years ago in 1995 when the foundation began, including Forest Gump winning best picture, OJ Simpson was acquitted, the hospital and clinic were housed in separate facilities and the NASDAQ hit 1,000 for the first time.

He also noted three areas the foundation hopes to focus on including scholarships, equipment and an endowment.



MMHF executive director Cherrie Brown is pictured at left with Sunday's award winners. Next to Brown from left are Bill Krogmeier, outstanding adult volunteer; Vince Kropp of PC Telcom, outstanding business; Rich Brown, outstanding philanthropist; Larry Worth, NECALG and Kevin Tilson, Colorado Office of Economic Development, executive director's award; and John Ayoub, MMH administrator, Angel award. —Enterprise photo

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MMHF president Paul Wickenkamp welcomed the crowd Sunday afternoon and noted, "It's been a pleasure to work with this board." Wickenkamp will step down as president with Gary Krumm taking over the duties for the upcoming year.

Executive Director Cherrie Brown presented awards to PC Telcom and Vince Kropp, Outstanding Business Award; Bill Krogmeier, Outstanding Adult Volunteer; John Ayoub, MMH "Angel" Award; and Rich Brown, Outstanding Philanthropist. The executive director award went to Northeast Colorado Association of Local Governments (NECALG) and the Colorado Office of Economic Development.

Cherrie Brown said PC Telcom has been there for the hospital and foundation through many projects including the FBLA clock tower. Kropp said, "It's an honor to receive this award from a board that does so much for the community."

Krogmeier was recognized for his outstanding woodworking ability and the effort he put forward with the woodworking throughout the hospital.

Brown said Ayoub attends many if not all of the foundation's board meetings offering suggestions and ideas even given the fact he isn't on the board. "You do such an awesome job," Brown said.

Rich Brown was recognized for his creative fundraising efforts throughout the years.

Larry Worth of NECALG and Kevin Tilson received the executive director's award for leadership efforts with the Enterprise Zone. Tilson noted, "It's neat to see what all of you have accomplished."

MMHF treasurer Nancy Colglazier recognized six scholarship recipients. Cierra Sullivan, Brittany Young, Krista Schafer, Brittany Durbin, Shelby Beavers and Megan Colglazier each earned a \$500 scholarship from the foundation.

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Schafer, Durbin and Colglazier addressed the crowd, telling them their school plans and thanking the foundation. Nancy Colglazier said they never like to turn down applicants and hope to carry that on into the future. She also read letters of appreciation from Young and Sullivan.

Colglazier was happy to announce a scholarship in memory of Winona Rouze will be offered in the future. The scholarship will strictly be for those interested in becoming a nurse.

MMH board chair Steve Young closed Sunday's celebration by announcing the foundation's plan to host a Mardi Gras event Feb. 26, 2011.

A light meal was provided by Holyoke Marketplace prior to the celebration. Zion Lutheran Church pastor Gary Rahe gave the invocation. Lilli Mae (Ardie Besse) entertained the crowd with a skit titled "Enhancing Jean and Rich," which focused on Rich and Jean Brown.

A table full of old medical tools and memorabilia was on display for people to look at as well.