

Hospital foundation planting 'Seeds of Change'

Written by Chris Lee

Roughly 50 people attended Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation's Legacy of Thanks celebration Sunday, Nov. 20 at Melissa Memorial Hospital.

The annual event is held to recognize and thank those who have contributed to the foundation throughout the year.

"I'd like to thank each and every one of you folks that are here today for the support that you've given to the foundation and also to the hospital," said Gary Krumm, MMHF president. "Without your support, we wouldn't all be here today and we wouldn't have this beautiful facility."

MMH Administrator John Ayoub addressed the crowd to say how the foundation has been planning for the future and how it has planted seeds of change. The seeds include focusing on people. MMHF provides scholarships to students and has begun looking into a "Grow Our Own Physician" movement.

Other seeds the foundation is planting include the foundation endowment and equipment for the hospital.



Five awards were presented during Sunday's Legacy of Thanks celebration. Pictured

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from left are MMHF Executive Director Cherrie Brown, Steve Young, Ken and Joan Roskop, Bob Brandt (on behalf of Molly Brandt and Alex Quintana), Tim Johnson and MMHF President Gary Krumm. Also not pictured are Chris Gerck and Kim Young.
—Enterprise photo

“A wise man once told me that everybody loves progress, but nobody likes change. I think that really is the truth,” Ayoub said.

Ayoub said looking at today’s health care, change is inevitable. “We are going through that as an organization,” he added.

“Whether it’s through the implementation of electronic medical records, the adoption of improved diagnostic equipment or change in our work force, as we look at newer generations and how they tend to work versus older generations, we have new challenges with work-like balances. I think these are challenges we can overcome, but we best overcome these challenges when we work together.”

Ayoub also noted the foundation as a whole has changed. They have gone from hosting numerous smaller fund-raising events to an annual large legacy event.

Annual awards were presented by MMHF Executive Director Cherrie Brown during Sunday’s celebration.

The Outstanding Business award was presented to Ken and Joan Roskop of Ken Roskop Tax Service, Inc. “You’ve gone above and beyond the job,” Brown said when recognizing the Roskops.

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Molly Brandt and Alex Quintana were recognized as Outstanding Youth volunteers. The HHS FBLA members were part of the clock tower project as well as volunteers at the MMHF first annual legacy event in February.

Brown noted her appreciation for everything past board member Chris Gerk has done for the foundation and recognized her as the Outstanding Adult volunteer. Brown said Gerk still does a lot in the background to benefit the foundation.

Steve and Kim Young received the Executive Director's Award. Brown noted the Youngs have been a big help to the foundation and community. The Youngs included their entire family when it came to preparation of the first annual legacy event.

Brown presented the Angel Award to Tim Johnson. Johnson serves as MMHF radiology director but has also worked with the foundation and its website.



Four of the five scholarship winners were in attendance to thank the foundation for the scholarships they received. Pictured from left are MMHF Executive Director Cherrie Brown, Krista Schafer, Briar Bergner, Megan Colglazier, Cierra Sullivan and MMHF President Gary Krumm. □ □

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Five HHS graduates were recognized Sunday for receiving MMHF scholarships. Four of the recipients were present to speak to the crowd. Cierra Sullivan, Brittany Young, Krista Schafer, Megan Colglazier and Briar Bergner were recognized.

All five received MMHF Charla Berry Medical Scholarships. Young was also recognized for having received the MMHF Winona Rouze Nursing Scholarship. This is the first year the foundation has awarded the Winona Rouze scholarship.

Paul Wickenkamp outlined donor recognition and explained the recognition wall at MMH.

Pastor Jeff Weaver gave the invocation at Sunday's celebration. Hors d'oeuvres were supplied by Kenny Owens and Brad and Jill Moline of Holyoke Marketplace.

Brown was sad to announce Lillie Mae (Ardie Besse) was not able to attend this year's celebration. She did send a poem which was read by MMHF board member Karen Weaver.

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