# **HELPING HANDS NEWSLETTER**



**Helping Hands Newsletter** 

September 2016

# SAYING GOODBYE TO A LEGEND

REVEREND JAMES N. HOLMES ~ JUNE 15, 1936—MARCH 3, 2016

In 1972, Reverend Holmes had a humble idea to help those who were poor and disenfranchised in the Tampa Bay Community. Under his leadership, he and the members of St. John Presbyterian Church began the Judeo Christian Health Clinic in an effort to provide free healthcare to those who could not afford it. Today the Clinic stands as a legacy to his tireless efforts championing and urging others to get involved in something bigger & greater than themselves. The Clinic's mission begins, "In the belief that we should do

justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God." These words were personified by the life and actions of Jim Holmes. His quick wit and loving heart always sought to right the wrongs of injustice and be of service to those who were less fortunate. Beyond being the founder of the Clinic, he was a beloved husband and father, he started a group home for people with disabilities and was involved in bringing Meals on Wheels to Tampa. He and his dear wife Patricia, volunteered at the Clinic, delivered meals for "Meals on Wheels", volunteered for Friends of the Library, and together continued following their passion of serving others. Jim's legacy will live on at the Judeo Christian Health Clinic. His humor, laughter, zeal for life, and southern draw, will be deeply missed.

Over the years, the Clinic has grown from a Sunday School



room to a 7,000 square foot facility where dedicated volunteers have treated hundreds of thousands of patients with free, quality, timely, and compassionate health care. This past year alone, the Clinic recorded approximately 30,000 patient visits. So many lives are much better because of Reverend James N. Holmes.

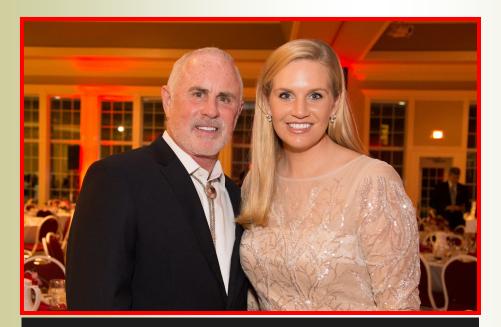
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2016 Humanitarian Award recipients Tom & Lauren Pepin

# **2016** "Affair of the Heart" **Testimonial Dinner**

The Annual Testimonial Dinner was truly "An Affair of the Heart" as the Clinic's board of directors, current patients and other supporters try to tell the story of how the Clinic helps those who have no other resources for their healthcare needs. This year's Testimonial Dinner was held on Thursday, April 14, 2016 at Higgins Hall in Tampa. The dinner is the Clinic's largest fundraiser of the year which provides much needed operating funds. Near 500 guests were in attendance for the event which started with a cocktail hour including hors d'oeuvres and music provided by Jazz Ambiance. The silent auction included certificates, jewelry, artwork, items for the home and other unique pieces that were all sold in an effort to raise funds as well. A sit down dinner and program included heartfelt accounts of the Clinic's work in the community by patients Luis and Carol Perez and a sympathetic introduction and plea for support by the evenings host Gayle Sierens Martin and Palma Ceia Presbyterian Pastor John DeBevoise.

Each year a Good Samaritan award is presented and a Humanitarian Award is also presented and given to individuals who embody the spirit of humanitarianism. Tom and Lauren Pepin were awarded the Humanitarian Award that was presented by Gayle Sierens Martin in recognition of their high ideals, courage, insight, deep understanding and generosity in making our community a better place for all of its citizens through the Pepin Foundation. Mr. & Mrs. Pepin gave compassionate and witty remarks regarding the their work and experiences with the foundation and in the community and how volunteer organizations like the Judeo Christian Health Clinic are so important. Cyndi Olstrom was awarded the Good Samaritan Award by Dr. Sylvia Campbell, for her work within the Clinic for over 12 years in many different areas of the Clinic. The event raised operating funds for the Judeo Christian Health Clinic and has helped the clinic to serve many more patients with health, dental, vision and pharmaceutical care this year. All who attend, help organize and donate to the event are greatly appreciated. Your support makes a difference!



Save the Date — Next Year's Testimonial Dinner April 20, 2017

## 2016 Good Samaritan Award



Cindy Olstrom is an RN who began volunteering about 12 years ago. She was connected to the Clinic through Van Dyke Church, where she is a member. She began volunteering in the Dental Clinic at first helping patients complete their new patient paperwork and helping the dental assistant to keep up to date with dental files. Soon after, Cindy's love of organization began to shine. She asked to help organize the Dental Clinic supplies and ended up helping to transform the dental clinic into a clean, and organized space, where everything had a place.

Cindy offered to help in other areas and soon she had organized and labeled all of the medical supplies and equipment, sorted through boxes of donated goods, created a master list of administrative forms and made them easily accessible to everyone. She has become the "GO TO" person for organization at the Clinic.

Even still, Cindy wanted to be more involved About two years ago, she began volunteering in a nursing capacity. She is here weekly by prepping & triaging patients in the Clinic.

Last year she contributed to our fundraising efforts by joining the silent auction committee. Cindy has graciously and willingly accepted every job presented to her, including learning the new electronic medical records system.

She has added talent, knowledge, experience and compassion for patients to our Clinic and we are better off and so thankful for her.

# **2016 An Affair of the Heart Testimonial Dinner Sponsors**

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### **Dinner Supporters**

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# A Patient's Perspective

Judeo Christian Health Clinic patients Luis & Carol Perez told a very touching story of how they were both helped with their healthcare needs by the Judeo Christian Health Clinic. Mr. Perez had a cardiac condition and credits JCHC volunteer Jackie Milch with saving his life.



(below) The Silent Auction had unique gifts like this popular item with Gasparilla collectibles.



# Testimonial Dinner Highlights



(left) 2016
Humanitarian
Award
Recipient Tom
Pepin, stops for
a picture with
the district
attorneys
representing
Testimonial
Dinner sponsor
Mark Ober.

(below) Rabbi Nathan Farb of Congregation Schaarai Zedek delivered the closing benediction.





(above) Guests Rick & Valerie Sanchez and Jack & Susan Terrana shop in the silent auction during the events' cocktail hour.



(above) Jean Aertker, DNP, ARNP, Haley Miller, PharmD and Jenna Giordano attended.

(right) Ross and Cynthia Alander enjoy the evening.





### Flavor of West Tampa Saturday, October 15th 11 am- 3 pm Al Lopez Park

The 7th annual Flavor of West Tampa has an exciting change of venue this year. The event will be hosted at Al

Lopez Park, boasting beautiful shade trees and ample parking. The event will be a family friendly celebration filled with fun, entertainment and a variety of cultural flavors from area restaurants including Mr. Empanada, Little Greek, El Gallo de Oro, La Teresita, Lanna's Entrees, Holy Hog BBQ, Queen of Sheba, Starbucks, Chef Inspired Popcorn, One Stop Jerk Center, Sugar Shack and more! Old McMickey's Farm will have a children's petting zoo, and be sure to stop by the Pumpkin patch to pick and paint a pumpkin! There will be music by the popular Off the Cuff Band, dancing by Frank Rey and Xtreme Dance Studio's and the world famous Belinda Womack!

The goal of the event is to raise awareness and funds for the Judeo Christian Health Clinic. The event is free to attend and open to the public. The Clinic serves those who lack access to healthcare in Tampa Bay. The presenting sponsor for the event is Gulf Tile & Cabinetry. The West Tampa Chamber of Commerce once again has been a great partner in organizing sponsorships and activities for the event. For more information on the details of the event or for sponsorship information visit FlavorofWestTampa.com. Like us on Facebook or Follow us on Twitter, @FlavorWestTampa for the latest updates. Thanks to our Sponsors especially, Gulf Tile & Cabinetry, FOX 13, The Tampa Bay Times, Telemundo, 92.5 Maxima, Altrusa International of Tampa, Florida Blue, and others that make this event a success.



# JCHC Board of Directors

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# Special Thanks to our Donors



The work that is accomplished through the Judeo Christian Health Clinic is made possible by those who give so generously to support our mission. Special thanks to all of our supporters and especially to: HCMA Foundation, Sheriff David Gee & HCSO Charities for coordinating the annual Fishing Tournament to benefit the Clinic, the Dorothy Thomas Foundation, the Walter Foundation, The William Stamps Farish Fund and the Women's Care Florida Foundation. And of course we thank all of those listed below who supported Gayle Sierens Martin's membership appeal. We simply could not do It without your support.

Dr. Jean H. Aertker Faye Alessi Anonymous

Rosemary Armstrong & Sandy Weinberg

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# JCHC Pharmacy Changes & Updates

The Judeo Christian Health Clinic Pharmacy is undergoing some changes. We are updating our pharmacy software system which will ultimately provide better quality and more efficient patient care. The new windows based program will also make it easier for new volunteer pharmacists to learn and volunteer in the pharmacy. Also, we congratulate valued team member Lorena Bitetto on her retirement. (pictured far left) She dedicated eleven years to the Judeo Christian Health Clinic as both a staff member and volunteer for various fundraising events. We wish her and her family well in this new chapter of life.

### **Monsignor Laurence Higgins**

September 3, 1928- August 24, 2016

Monsignor Higgins joined the Board of Directors of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic in 1996 and has been a leader and advocate for those who are underserved in our community for decades. He was a highly respected and admired spiritual and civic leader, who positively impacted lives in Tampa Bay, and especially right here at the Judeo Christian Health Clinic. As founder and pastor of the St. Lawrence Catholic Church, Monsignor Higgins was full of character and spoke with a charming Irish accent and a warm smile. His many passions included building strong families, building resources for those with mental health challenges, helping to secure housing for those

suffering with homelessness, advocating for the poor and of course administering to the sick who had nowhere to turn for healthcare, like the patients of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic. He has been instrumental in introducing the Clinic's mission to members of the Tampa Bay Community who have pledged support to the Clinic for many years. In addition, his participation in the Clinic's Early Capital Campaign fundraiser to build the Current site of the was invaluable. As a representative of the Catholic Church, his faith extended beyond religious beliefs as he worked with other faith denominations amongst our board members to achieve our mission. Monsignor Laurence Higgins served as a vibrant member of our board of directors for many years, and he will be deeply missed.



#### **Volunteers Make a Difference**

Thanks to all those who give of their time to the patients of the Judeo Christian Health Clinic. There are hundreds of healthcare professionals including doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and many others who volunteer their time in service to our patients. Please welcome our newest volunteers listed below.

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# **Contact Us**

Newsletter is published by: Judeo Christian Health Clinic, Inc. 4118 N. Mac Dill Ave. Tampa, FL 33607 (813) 870-0395

Visit us on the web at Judeochristianhealthclinic.org

Founded in 1972, Judeo Christian Health Clinic provides free medical, dental and eye care for medically indigent people who do not qualify for public assistance. The all volunteer clinic receives no government or United Way funding.

Helping Hands NEWSLETTER CLIP AND MAIL TO: Judeo Christian Health Clinic 4118 N. MacDill Avenue Tampa, FL 33607	I HAVE ENCLOSED MY CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$25 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER\$50 FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$100 SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP\$500 INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP Please contact me to arrange a presentation to my church or civic group.  I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.  Credit Card #:
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