



**A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded to bring people of all faiths together in a healing ministry, serving the working poor, their families, and the elderly through quality, comprehensive dental care**

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**Summer 2011**

## Beautiful Inside and Out

When you meet Beverly Mandina, her warm smile is the first thing you notice. After extensive work by Interfaith Dental Clinic staff and volunteers, Beverly is committed to her oral health. “I come here religiously!” Beverly laughed. “I now take care of my teeth.” This was not always the case. Beverly was an IV drug user for more than 25 years before she moved to Nashville and entered recovery. Ill from Hepatitis C caused by drug abuse, “I had to do something, or I was going to die,” Beverly explained.



*Patient Care Coordinator Bridget Oakley and Beverly Mandina at the Thistle Farms 10 Year Anniversary Celebration in June*



*Yolanda Garrett*

Like Beverly, patient Yolanda Garrett did not prioritize her oral health while she was abusing drugs and alcohol. “I barely brushed my teeth, and never flossed,” she lamented. Two years ago, Yolanda hit rock bottom. Her young son was taken out of her custody, and she lost her home and her car. “I almost lost my life,” Yolanda asserted. “It’s not going to happen another time – I am out of chances.”

Second chances, and the belief that love heals, is Magdalene’s message. Magdalene is a two-year program in which women who have faced addiction, abuse or prostitution learn to live new lives as sober, gainfully employed individuals in a safe community. Beverly and Yolanda are both Magdalene graduates, and their involvement in the program led them to our clinic doors.

Early on, Magdalene founder Reverend Becca Stevens learned that employment opportunities were few for former addicts and prostitutes, many with criminal records. In 2001, Stevens founded Thistle Farms, a social enterprise of natural bath and body products created exclusively by Magdalene graduates. Proceeds from the sale of the products go to the care of women in Magdalene, including their dental care, provided for many by Interfaith Dental Clinic.

“Tooth decay and loss, because of long term drug addiction and neglect of dental health, are universal for all women coming to Magdalene,” explained Cary Rayson, Executive Director of Magdalene. “Relief of pain and improved nutrition are certainly integral to their recovery, but it is the confidence in talking, smiling and laughing without shame that is incredibly important for each woman’s recovery.”

*continued inside*

# Rutherford County Clinic

The first dental clinic in Rutherford County dedicated to serving uninsured, employed, low-income families and the elderly, is slated to open in late Fall 2011. Interfaith Dental Clinic, presented with an opportunity to meet a growing community need, closed on the purchase of the top floor of a building in Murfreesboro on June 30, 2011.



*The top floor of the building at 210 Robert Rose Drive will house the new clinic*



*Dr. Rhonda Switzer and Director of Operations Gracey Davis with a gift from Middle Tennessee Electric*

An advisory council, chaired by Interfaith Dental Clinic Board Member Dr. Roy Thompson, orchestrated the purchase and is also leading the \$1.3 million capital campaign to pay for the new clinic. To date, more than two-thirds of that amount has been raised, thanks to a lead gift from the Christy-Houston Foundation. Additional funding has been received from the HCA Foundation, National HealthCare Corporation, BioHorizons, the Adams Family Foundation, and Delta Dental. Last year, Interfaith provided more than 700 appointments to residents of Rutherford County. While Rutherford is the second-fastest growing county in the state, there is only one public dentist who sees uninsured patients, nearly all of whom are children. As a result, many Rutherford County residents go without proper dental treatment and care, which can lead to pain, disease and a reduced workforce.

Dr. Roy Thompson, a general dentist in practice in Murfreesboro for more than 30 years, has credited the campaign's initial success to the high level of community support for the clinic. "More than 100 clinical volunteers have spoken up and asked to serve," said Dr. Thompson. "It is exciting to see individuals and businesses continue to come forward to pledge their support." Look for news about the clinic's grand opening!

## Remembering Dr. Baird Faulkner



*Baird Faulkner, DMD  
1953-2011*

Dr. Baird Faulkner, orthodontist and longtime volunteer for Interfaith Dental Clinic, passed away May 21, 2011. He is survived by his family, including his wife of 32 years, Janie Jernigan Faulkner, and many friends.

Dr. Faulkner practiced orthodontics in Hermitage and Lebanon for twenty years, and during that time, became a volunteer for Interfaith Dental Clinic. Dr. Faulkner provided orthodontic care to Interfaith patients in his office. These patients paid for their care on a sliding scale fee basis. "Baird never told me to stop sending patients to him through our program," recalled Dr. Rhonda Switzer. "He'd just say, 'Keep 'em coming! I am privileged to do my part.'"

Dr. Faulkner's commitment to the clinic was further illustrated by his family's request for donations to Interfaith in lieu of flowers. To date, numerous memorial gifts have been made in Dr. Faulkner's name. These gifts help to ensure that the clinic continues to offer quality, low cost services to patients on limited incomes.

"Baird truly believed in our mission, and we miss him," Dr. Switzer added.

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Interfaith Dental Clinic Executive Director Rhonda Switzer believes that rebuilding the smile of a Magdalene graduate can serve as an outward symbol of her personal progress.

“All of the self-improvement and healing going on inside this woman is represented by a healthy smile on the outside,” Switzer said. “These patients are motivated to protect their new smiles.” Magdalene Assistant Director Keri Seay agreed. “Smiling means so much more to a person who has endured the pain and suffering that these women have in their past,” Seay said. “It expresses the power of love, healing these women inside and out.”

Beverly and Yolanda’s experiences at Interfaith have been extraordinarily positive. “From that first day, the staff has been wonderful. Bridget and others have accommodated me, worked around my work and therapy schedule...I am so grateful,” she said, tearfully. Patient Care Coordinator Bridget Oakley loves seeing the transformation that happens from the first appointment until the patient’s graduation. “It’s amazing to watch these ladies change,” Oakley shared. “In the end, she is less like a patient, and more like a friend.”

Yolanda expressed her appreciation for the staff’s non-judgmental approach. She recently celebrated one year of sobriety, and her sights are set on staying clean for life. “I **know** this time I will do it,” Yolanda said, determined. During her years in Magdalene, Beverly received medical treatment and is now free of Hepatitis C. She is in her third year of college, working towards a degree in nursing and maintaining a 3.6 GPA. Beverly is thankful for each day, and is thrilled to see her “sisters” change, on the inside and the outside. Beverly described a co-worker at Thistle Farms, a woman with no teeth. “She will share sometimes in our group, but she hardly ever smiles. She’s an Interfaith patient. I can’t wait till she gets her teeth. Then I can tell her that she’s beautiful...” Beverly said softly. “She is already beautiful,” she corrected, “but I can’t wait to see her smile.”

*“Relief of pain and improved nutrition are certainly integral, but it is the confidence in talking, smiling and laughing without shame that is incredibly important for each woman’s recovery.”*

## Do The Bright Thing



Now in its 11th year, **Do the Bright Thing** is back! Whiten your smile at a volunteer area dentist’s office and support the mission of Interfaith Dental Clinic by participating in **Do The Bright Thing**, beginning in September.

For a donation of \$175 to Interfaith Dental Clinic, participants will receive custom-made trays, whitening gel and a carry case (a \$400 value). 100% of your donation goes to the clinic.

For a list of participating dentists, to become a participating dentist, or for more information, please visit [www.interfaithdentalclinic.com](http://www.interfaithdentalclinic.com) or call Maryanne at (615) 329-4790, ext. 102. Watch for news about the kickoff party at the clinic, scheduled for Thursday, August 4th, at 5:30 p.m.

**3M**

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# Something to Smile About

The May 6, 2011, “An Evening with Friends - Something to Smile About” concert at the Ryman Auditorium raised \$63,500 for patient care at Interfaith Dental Clinic. Presented in conjunction with the Music City Dental Conference and sponsored by Delta Dental, the concert was emceed by Shane Tallant, the host of HGTV’s “Designed to Sell.” The concert included performances by the Carter Twins, the Warren Brothers, Lance Miller, Mark Wills, and featured a standout set by five-time Grammy winner, Faith Hill. Featuring hits like “Breathe” and “This Kiss,” Faith Hill closed the show with a soulful rendition of the Pretenders’ “I’ll Stand By You.”



*Dr. Robert Sims, Faith Hill and Dr. Rhonda Switzer*



*Guitar winner Tiffany Scott gets an autograph from Faith Hill*

Prior to the concert, more than 350 dental professionals attending the Music City Dental Conference and their guests enjoyed dinner at the Renaissance Hotel, including State Senator Roy Herron and ADA President Dr. Raymond Gist. During the concert, fans had the opportunity to bid on an Oscar Schmidt guitar repaired by the late George Chestnut. George repaired stringed instruments for the Grand Ole Opry for many years, and donated the guitar to the clinic to help pay for his treatment. The final bid for the guitar was \$2,000, and winner Tiffany Scott received autographs from all of the performers. Proceeds from the guitar’s sale went to Interfaith Dental Clinic.

Special thanks to Dr. Robert Sims, who introduced the artists to the mission of Interfaith Dental Clinic, to Delta Dental for serving as sponsor, and to the outstanding performers and host.

## Gala Wrap Up 2011



*Dr. Cathleen Coyne & Dr. Annie Jones*

On February 26, 2011, the Loveless Barn in Franklin was transformed into a winter wonderland for Pearly White Night, Interfaith Dental Clinic’s 14th Annual Gala. This year’s event, co-chaired by Dr. Cathleen Coyne and Dr. Annie Jones, set records for attendance and money raised — more than 500 people attended, and the sponsorships, ticket sales and proceeds from the silent auction totaled a net of \$206,000. “Pearly White Night was an amazing opportunity to raise funds for patient care, while extending awareness of Interfaith’s mission to the dental community, and beyond,” remarked co-chair Dr. Cathleen Coyne.



*Dr. Phil Wenk & Dr. Rhonda Switzer*

The gala featured live music by Soul Incision, an oyster bar on ice, and a cigar lounge presented, by the Cigar Club of Rivergate. Guests dined on treats like the chopped salad wrap with couscous pearls and bid on auction items such as a trip to Belize, a weekend at BMW Performance Driving School, and two fur coats. A high benchmark has been set for next year’s event, tentatively scheduled for February 25, 2012. Mark your calendars!

Sincere gratitude goes to our 2011 sponsors, listed on the following page.

# Pearly White NIGHT

## PATRON'S PARTY

Dr. & Mrs. Chip Clayton



The *Pearly White Night* Patron's Party was held at the home of Dr. Chip and Mrs. Pam Clayton on February 11, 2011. Thanks to the Claytons and to all who attended!

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# Volunteer Spotlight: Dr. Arvind K. Patel

Dr. Arvind K. Patel opened his general dentistry practice in LaVergne in 1984 after serving four years in the U.S. Army.

LaVergne remains home to Dr. Patel and his wife of more than 30 years, Nayna. His daughter, Dr. Anu Patel, joined his practice in 2009. "I always wanted to live and work in a small town and have a practice where I could know every one of my patients," Dr. Patel explained. His personable manner makes him well-suited as an Interfaith volunteer.



*Dr. Patel and IFDC Dental Assistant Jennifer Walker*

With public dentistry experience at the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center in Smyrna, Dr. Patel understands all too well the financial challenges that dental care can present. "In private practice, some people just cannot afford dental care. It hurts me to turn them away," he said. "I am glad that so many of them have qualified to come to Interfaith." Dr. Patel enjoys serving his community and working alongside the staff at Interfaith Dental Clinic. "People put their heart in their work here," Dr. Patel said admiringly of the clinic staff. Thanks, Dr. Patel, for sharing your time and talent!

*Are you a dental professional with a heart for service? We want to know you! Please call Volunteer Coordinator Kristin Dillard at (615) 329-4790 or e-mail [kristin@interfaithdentalclinic.com](mailto:kristin@interfaithdentalclinic.com).*



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of Sumner County

Nitrous Oxide Monitoring Course for Dental Assistants  
Friday, September 16, 2011

Registration available online at [www.interfaithdentalclinic.com](http://www.interfaithdentalclinic.com)  
Contact Maryanne at (615) 329-4790 x 102 for more information.



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