

Spelman Medical Foundation Salutes its Heroes

Since the completion of its \$2 million drive to open a Center for Women's Care at Saint Luke's Northland Hospital a year ago, Spelman Medical Foundation has attracted many new volunteers. This profile highlights some of the many Spelman Medical Foundation volunteers who are making a difference in the health of Kansas City.

Dave Welsh lost his wife, Vicki Welsh, to ovarian cancer in January of 2006 at the age of 52, and three months later his mother, Lula Welsh, died from the same disease. He and a grateful survivor of ovarian cancer, **Darice Heishman**, have worked with the foundation to fight this cancer. Because of their volunteer efforts, the foundation published and distributed more than 5,000 copies of *What every Woman Needs to Know about Ovarian Cancer*, created www.thevickiwelshfund.org, and hosted the third annual Whisper Walk at Zona Rosa on Sept. 23.

Gayla Hiatt says, "I want kids to know that we all can be world changers." A realtor for Keller Williams, Gayla started the *Pink Ribbon Football Game* at Smithville High School. The second annual game was held Oct. 12 on a perfect, crisp evening, and plans are already being made for an even bigger event next year. The students, coaches and teachers work together to raise money to offer uninsured Northland women free mammography screenings.

The Clay Platte Medical Alliance is made up of spouses of physicians dedicated to the health of the Northland. Because of the vision and attention to detail of one of its members, **Lea Morrison**, the Clay-Platte Medical Alliance is about halfway to its goal of funding a serenity garden as part of the expansion of the Center for Women's Care. Lea explains, "We are creating this space at the Center to provide a quiet and calming space for women to contemplate their options when facing difficult choices."

Golf tournaments are part of the many ways that

Spelman Medical Foundation builds long-term support. **Susan Marquardt** loves golf and helping others. When she was asked to chair the Paradise Pointe Ladies Invitational, she decided that she would combine her love of golf with her philanthropic interest in Alzheimer's disease. Now in its second year, the Ladies Invitational has raised more than \$10,000 for Alzheimer's disease programs. **Dr. Bo Leitch** shares Susan's passion for golf and helping others. Dr. Leitch, an emergency physician at Saint Luke's Northland Hospital in Smithville, has used his sense of humor to create what he calls "raving fans" for the Spelman Golf Classic. More than 200 men and women play in the annual tournament, which has raised almost a million dollars in 26 years.

The *Vignoble Wine Tasting* event held early in the year at the Argosy Resort and Casino relied on several key volunteers to raise money to purchase new diagnostic equipment for The Center for Women's Care. The purchases enabled the Center, which has served more than

5,000 women in its first year, to maintain its edge in ever advancing technology. **Stephen Molloy, the owner of the Classic Cup restaurant**, was key to bringing in great wines, holding a VIP Champagne tasting, and recruiting **Richard Morehouse from Pedroncelli Winery** in Alexander Valley to be the event's celebrity vintner.

The Spelman Medical Foundation thanks all these heroes of health care. For more information and to find out how you can get involved call Sandi Shaw at 816-880-6259 or www.spelmanfoundation.org.



Dave Welsh (orange shirt) one of Spelman's heroes at the Whisper Walk.



The Spelman Foundation
816.880.6257
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