M*A*S*H Bash Raises $85,000 for the Underserved

A new venue and a little bit of a facelift was all M*A*S*H Bash needed to draw a record crowd and record proceeds. Over 400 guests braved the heat and humidity to attend InterFaith’s signature fundraiser on Saturday, July 18th, held for the first time at the Island Home airport. The 16th-annual M*A*S*H Bash raised over $85,000 this year to provide health care for Knoxville’s working uninsured and underserved. This equates to around 2,125 individual patient visits, or about 2 months of care at the clinic.

Major sponsors of the event included Pilot, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Buck & Linda Vaughn, UBS Financial Services, Morgan Stanley, Hazen & Brettany Mirts, and Ullrich Printing. Beverage sponsors Jack Daniel’s and Ole’ Smoky Moonshine were also on-site offering tastings and product samples. Jeff Arnett, the 7th Jack Daniel’s master distiller, was present to conduct private whiskey tastings and host Q&A sessions about Tennessee’s signature brand, and he even auctioned off a private tour of the Lynchburg facility and a signed whiskey barrel, which sold for $1,200.

After perusing the five authentic army vehicles and Korean war memorabilia provided by the Smoky Mountain Military Vehicle Club and snapping a selfie in the army jeep photo op, guests enjoyed a delicious meal provided by Sweet P’s. State senator Richard Briggs spoke briefly about the state of health care in Tennessee, followed by Sheila Kiser, a grateful patient who shared the story of how she found health and hope at InterFaith. Next up was a lively auction, with items such as an aerobatic plane ride, an exclusive tour of the UT athletic facility, and a weekend trip to Norris Lake up for bids. The evening concluded with dancing to the music of The Coveralls, capped off by a colorful sunset just outside the doors of the hangar.

Melissa Knight, InterFaith’s Executive Director, said the proceeds from this year’s event will help provide care for those who fall through the cracks of the health care system. “Since the majority of our patients don’t qualify for subsidies under the Affordable Care Act, there’s still a tremendous need for clinics like InterFaith. Seeing this show of support from our community means that we can continue providing medical homes to hardworking East Tennesseans as long as the need exists,” Knight said.

InterFaith would like to extend our sincere thanks to the board members, volunteers and sponsors who made M*A*S*H Bash 2015 our most successful year yet. Your commitment to InterFaith translates into better health care for Knoxville’s working underserved community.
Patient Receives Lifesaving Treatment at InterFaith

Sheila Kiser’s unbelievable story is one she’s generous to share. As a local small business owner and longtime InterFaith patient, Sheila shared her story with the crowd at M*A*S*H Bash this year. Sheila first came to InterFaith in 2010 for what she thought would be a routine check-up. However, the next two years turned out to be a whirlwind of broken bones, emergency room visits, and hospital stays. During that time, Sheila suffered both a heart attack and a stroke and was diagnosed with an extremely rare condition known as cerebral arteriovenous malformation (AVM). The rarity of her condition coupled with the fact that she was uninsured left Sheila with few options. Because she was an InterFaith patient, however, Sheila received all of her diagnostics and surgeries at only 10% of the cost of care. In addition, InterFaith’s specialists arranged for Sheila to receive treatment at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, where she had surgery on the 9 cm. mass on her brain. Sheila’s outlook on life is refreshingly positive, and it reminds us at InterFaith that we are here to help one person at a time, one day at a time, as long as the need exists.

"I have received everything I’ve needed from the clinic. I am humbled by the fact that people in the community are supporting it."

Sheila Kiser
Owner, Affordable Wallpaper

Inter-Faith is proud to be a United Way of Greater Knoxville partner agency. Look for Inter-Faith as one of the agencies featured in this year’s campaign video! Thank you, UWGK, for your support of our health care ministry!

Which of America’s founding fathers had a profitable moonshine business on the side?

Come to InterFaith’s 3rd-annual Trivia Night to find out!!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WHEN: Thursday, November 12th from 7-9 pm (doors open at 6:30)
WHERE: The Standard (412 W. Jackson Street in Knoxville)
COST: $15/person or $100 for a team of 10
INFO: bar food and 1 drink ticket provided (may buy additional drinks), lots of great raffle items, corporate sponsorships available
QUESTIONS? Call Debbie at 243-3035 or email dvalentine@interfaithhealthclinic.org

Official Knoxville’s Biggest Brain trophy goes to the winning team!