

KATY TRAIL WEEKLY

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Southwestern Medical Foundation

| By Sally Blanton



Sustaining a great medical center for the southwestern U.S. for 75 years.

Q What is your mission or highest purpose?

A Southwestern Medical Foundation (SMF) was formed to build and sustain a great medical center to serve the people of this region. In 1943, the foundation established Southwestern Medical College. Today, UT Southwestern Medical Center enjoys an international reputation for discovering the basis for disease through research, applying these discoveries to the clinical care of patients and educating the next generation of health care professionals.

Q How many clients are served each year?

A UT Southwestern has conferred more than 19,000 degrees. The medical center trains approximately 3,600 professionals each year and conducts more than 5,800 research protocols. Care is provided to more than 100,000 hospitalized patients and 600,000 emergency room cases. There are 2.2 million outpatient visits annually.

Q What percentage amount actually reaches those in need?

A Over many years, the Foundation has averaged 85 percent of its expenses spent on program support.

Q What events are held for SMF?

A The Sprague Award, our foundation's highest community distinction, was presented on February 7 to the Hoblitzelle Foundation at Old Parkland. It was a lovely place to honor a key Founder and the farsighted leader of Hoblitzelle Foundation on the location of the original school they helped to start.

Q What sort of volunteer jobs are available?

A The Cary Council is a group of young community leaders who also work to advance our mission and bring awareness of the need to maintain excellence in academic medicine for our community.

Q What do you think is the most important thing you do for the community?

A Help to improve public health in the southwestern U.S. through support of excellent research and education, which helps solve the mysteries that remain in the treatment and cure of illness and injury. Our community is healthier — literally and economically — due to the outstanding advances being made at UT Southwestern, our academic medical center.

Q What is rewarding about your job?

A Seeing the impact of those who have had the vision over many years "to plant trees, the shade under which they may never enjoy," and spending time learning from such visionaries.

Q Suppose your nonprofit received a \$20,000 check in the mail today ... where would it immediately be put to good use?

A If not otherwise specified by the donor, we would apply such generous philanthropy to the top priorities of the Medical Center in medical education, research or clinical care. A top priority today is the work of the Peter O'Donnell Brain Institute at UT Southwestern. Its funding will allow us to more rapidly advance our knowledge and treatment of brain illness and injury of all types.

Q What does the future hold for your nonprofit?

A Limitless opportunities to rally our community in support of the advancement of public health, where we live and raise our families.

Kathleen M. Gibson, president and CEO, answered this week's questions.