

The Intelligencer

HealthLink marks milestone at anniversary fundraiser

By Jenny Wagner

Posted Sep 27, 2018 at 6:09 PM

Updated Sep 27, 2018 at 6:09 PM

HealthLink Dental Clinic celebrated a milestone year and honored several donors and supporters during its annual Anniversary Cocktail Party fundraiser Wednesday.

HealthLink Dental Clinic celebrated a milestone year and honored several donors and supporters during its annual Anniversary Cocktail Party fundraiser Wednesday.

The Upper Southampton clinic surpassed 25,000 free dental appointments to people in need since it opened in 2001, leaders noted during the event at Twinning Hall in Bensalem.

“These haven’t been just appointments scheduled in our system,” said Bela Amado, clinical director and dental hygienist at HealthLink. “These have been people who are no longer afraid of a visit to a dentist, who are finally out of pain that they have been enduring for years, who can finally feel like whole, healthy adults because a group of dedicated volunteers donated their time and talent to assist us in our mission.”

Attendees heard from a few of those people in testimonial videos.

“When your teeth start to go, that’s a big part of you — for eating, for smiling, for appearance,” said local veteran Dennis Doherty.

For the first time, the Barbara Hartnett Volunteer Award was presented to Dr. Robert Singer in recognition of his contributions to the clinic and its patients through the donation of his time and dental skills since 2001. The award is

named in memory of Barbara T. Hartnett, former member of the clinic's board of directors and a health care advocate.

Lorina Marshall-Blake and the Independence Blue Cross Foundation received the Eugene Jackson Humanitarian Award in recognition of contributions to not only HealthLink, but also the overall health of the region.

And Manor College's Dental Hygiene Program received the new Community Partner Award in recognition of its collaboration with the clinic. Dr. Virginia Saunders, who accepted the award, noted that the collaboration allows Manor students to receive diverse and valuable experience, while enabling HealthLink to provide oral hygiene services to a greater number of patients.

HealthLink's services are available free to qualifying low wage-earning adults and veterans in Bucks and Montgomery counties, and its ability to do is supported entirely by donations from local community members and businesses. Board member Rick James noted that for each dollar the clinic receives, it provides \$1.66 worth of services.