



Contributed photo

From left to right, Mike Kessler, Sanjay Aggarwal, M.D., Frank Mauro, Dr. J.H. Bertheau, Mary Fuchs, Rosemary Allen and Mike Allen. Bertheau was recently honored by the directors of the The Live Oak Clinic in Clute.

# Dedicated to the Art of Healing

**"It takes a certain personality to be a volunteer doctor here. They give so much of themselves and see so much anguish in these patients ..."**

— Mary Fuchs, a founder of The Live Oak Clinic.

**Bertheau recognized for service to The Live Oak Clinic.**

Special to The Facts

CLUTE — For the past three years a group of local doctors, nurses, physician assistants and support staff have been volunteering their time and skills to those in our community who are medically uninsured but in need of diagnosis, tests, treatment and medications, some of them quite desperately.

As one of the volunteers at The Live Oak Clinic of Brazosport, located in the Dream Center in Clute, Dr.

J.H. Bertheau, a Lake Jackson primary care family practitioner, has dedicated a significant amount of time, energy and support to the clinic and the patients who need it.

For his commitment, Bertheau was recently recognized by The Live Oak Clinic board of directors.

"It takes a certain personality to be a volunteer doctor here," said Mary Fuchs, one of the founders of the clinic. "They give so much of themselves and see so much anguish in these patients who are usually very sick by the time they get to us, but they're paid nothing.

"Dr. Bertheau has a

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## Bertheau

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remarkable level of compassion and an innate need to help, to make life better for others," Fuchs said. "This is a passion for him to serve. Live Oak Clinic and the patients he sees there are blessed by what he does."

The Live Oak Clinic of Brazosport, an all volunteer, nonurgent, primary health-care clinic, provides a preliminary diagnosis and assists patients in securing the specialized care and medications when needed.

"Texas has one of the highest uninsured rates in the country, yet there's no funding to provide any kind of services," Bertheau said. "These are people who deserve good

medical care, and this clinic is an excellent avenue to provide it."

The clinic is able to see patients for approximately two hours on Thursday evenings. The hours of operation are limited by funding and levels of volunteer manpower.

"If a patient has an ongoing condition like high blood pressure or diabetes that requires ongoing medical monitoring, they're able to do that here," Bertheau said.

Operating solely on private donations, the clinic is able to provide medical evaluation, education, medication and low-cost lab work to patients who pass a vigilant screening process.

While difficult economic times continue to swell the ranks of the medically

uninsured, the importance of The Live Oak Clinic and the work of physicians like Bertheau become immeasurable.

"Along with answers and attention, these patients are given something perhaps more important: hope. The possibility for relief from pain and hope for a better future," Fuchs said. "Without Dr. Bertheau and the others who give of their abilities and time alongside him, that hope would be gone. He represents the best of what the medical field has to offer."

For information about The Live Oak Clinic of Brazosport, a 501-C non-profit organization, visit [www.liveoakclinic.org](http://www.liveoakclinic.org) or call 979-388-0809. The clinic is at 796 Brazosport Blvd. in Clute.