

Written by Bruce Alsobrook

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Saturday's Lights of Life Gala at the Civic Center is guaranteed to provide one memorable evening of dinner, dancing and fun for all. But the truth is the event is the culmination of hundreds of hours of work by dozens of devoted volunteers to improved the quality of health care for the people of Hopkins County.

This is the fourth years for the benefit. In previous years, the gala has helped build The Gardens at Memorial and the Children's Therapy Gardens, as well as helped renovate the emergency department and third floor children's waiting areas.

"We've reached our goal every year and been able to give something back to the community," says Jackie Thornton, director of the Hopkins County Health Care Foundation, which sponsors the gala.



This year's goal is to raise \$110,000 towards a new digital mammography system for Hopkins County Memorial Hospital. Foundation members decided to focus their fundraising efforts on digital mammography since bringing this cancer-fighting tool to the community will help women — and their husbands — avoid having to drive to Tyler or Dallas for care.

Along with the annual Lights of Life campaign and gala, the Health Care Foundation works year-round to help Memorial hospital provide quality health care services within Hopkins County. Ever since its start in 1997, the Foundation has encouraged philanthropic donations, giving individuals, businesses and corporations a way to advance health programs and services within Hopkins County and help turn possibilities into realities.

Donations are accepted year-round and provide a meaningful way to honor someone special or pay tribute to deceased friends or loved ones. All contributions, large or small, are greatly appreciated.

For more information about supporting the foundation's mission and leave a legacy through

Dinner, Dancing, and Digital Mammography: Lights of Life Gala raises the quality of health care in Hopkins

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philanthropic donations, call the Hopkins County Health Care Foundation at 903-438-4799.