

Ask *the* Expert

What is the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation?

For over eleven years, the NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation has been meeting the needs of people all over our region. Consisting of five programs, the foundation helps those in our community at no cost, regardless of where they receive their medical care. Founded by the physicians of the then NEA Clinic as a way to give back to their community, the award winning foundation was originally started with one program, the Medicine Assistance Program (MAP). MAP acts as a liaison between pharmaceutical companies and patients to help them get much needed prescription medications at no cost. There are now over 1900 people enrolled in the program with over \$4.2 million dollars in medications given in 2012.

Throughout the years, four additional programs have been added to the foundation:

- **Center for Healthy Children:** a program that helps children at risk for obesity by equipping them with the skills they need to take ownership of their own health. By teaching the kids (and their parents) about proper nutrition, exercise, and positive self-esteem, Center for Healthy Children prepares the participants for a healthy childhood and a healthy life.
- **Wellness Works!:** a program that helps patients who are dealing with a chronic illness, whether it's diabetes, cardiac disease, or cancer. In this program, patients receive a free 12-week membership to the NEA Baptist Wellness Center and meet with a personal trainer who develops a program specific to their situation. Patients also attend disease-specific classes to help them deal with their chronic condition.
- **HopeCircle:** a program designed to assist patients and families dealing with a catastrophic illness. Most of the patients are receiving treatment for cancer. HopeCircle offers patients and their families many types of support, including wigs for those dealing with hair loss as a result of treatment, resources and educational materials that help patients gain more knowledge of their disease, and emotional support and encouragement from HopeCircle volunteers. Many of our volunteers are cancer survivors themselves and understand this difficult journey.
- **ShareHope:** a program that reaches out to parents who have experienced the devastating loss of a child in infancy or during pregnancy. Each precious child is honored with dignity and love through

tangible remembrances. Monthly support group meetings are held and each fall a Walk to Remember gives parents and families an opportunity to honor their precious child. The event culminates in a beautiful balloon release.

The NEA Baptist Charitable Foundation is funded by the generous gifts of our supporters. Additionally, each year events are held to raise money to help fund the five programs. For the past eleven years, Duck Classic has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to allow us to offer these free programs to help those in our community. We would like to thank everyone who has helped make Duck Classic such a huge success over the years.

If you would like more information about any of our programs, or to lend your support, please visit our website at NEABaptistFoundation.org or email me at robbie.johnson@neabc.com.



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