

Dustin's dream continues to unfold

Event raises nearly \$32,000 for clinic.

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Dustin Chamberlain's sister, Danae Chamberlain, and parents, Deondra and Don Chamberlain, got ready for the balloon release celebrating Dustin's life. The balloon release was held after Dustin's Sixth Heavenly Birthday Party.

Dustin Chamberlain's Sixth Heavenly Birthday brought in nearly \$32,000 to support Dustin's dream of advancing medical missions.

The event was held at Community Christian Fellowship and included a presentation by Dr. Layla Chanquin, director of Heart of Love Clinic in Guatemala, and her husband, Pastor Saul Perez, as well as a silent auction, live dessert auction and a balloon release celebrating Dustin's life.

Dustin was a Siloam Springs High School graduate who dreamed of becoming a doctor and serving as a medical missionary. In 2011, he was tragically killed during a home invasion while he was home on Christmas break from Baylor University in Texas, where he was studying pre-medicine.

Dustin's Dream, an organization established in his honor, raises money for building medical clinics in third world countries, funding medical mission trips and providing medical scholarships for students in Siloam Springs. The organization has specifically focused on building the Heart of Love Clinic in Guatemala City. Dustin's Dream operates the clinic in partnership with Life of Hope Ministry, in Joplin, Mo., and Dustin's Dream recently pledged to increase its contribution toward operating costs from 20 percent to 50 percent.

Preliminary calculations show that the event raised \$31,800, and with money still coming in, according to Deondra Chamberlain, Dustin's mother.

"We were so blessed by the support of the community, I can't say it enough," Deondra said. "This will help us fund the clinic's operating costs at 50 percent and we can focus on getting the construction project for the lab done and some equipment Dr. Layla is needing."

The top selling item of the live auction, conducted by Dillon Butler, was a handmade quilt, titled "Stairway to Heaven," created by Mary Adams. Dr. Carl Duncan purchased the quilt for \$2,000 and gave it to Dustin's parents, Don and Deondra. The second highest selling item was a cherry pie that was auctioned for \$1,800.

A number of local businesses and individuals donated to make the fundraiser possible. Deondra said she was especially touched by the number of Dustin's former teachers who donated baked goods to the auction.

During the evening, Chanquin, Perez and translator Ingrid Diaz Garcia, who helps coordinate the organization's mission trips to Guatemala, were presented with Dustin's Dream Champion Awards.

Perez said he is thankful for help, collaboration, money and prayers the clinic receives from supporters of Dustin's Dream.

"We just want to give thanks to you guys for allowing us to be part of this and we are thankful for what God's doing here and in Guatemala," Perez told the audience through a translator. "In the past few years that we've been around the garbage dump just working around we've been able to see how God has blessed us, and its because of your participation and your help that we've been able to get a lot done."

"I don't have the words to express how grateful I am for the help that you've given us and I'm just thankful to God for your help," Chanquin said through a translator. "A lot of the help that you are giving is given to people that you might not know but it's a blessing to them and they are very thankful for everything you do for them. Thank you because, even though you might not know us, you are a blessing to us and our lives."

Marvin Cucul and his sister, Heydi Cucul, were also introduced. Marvin is the medic that runs the clinic in Campur, Guatemala, where the Dustin's Dream missionary team spent several days during their trip earlier this year. His sister, Heydi Cucul, a Walton Scholar at John Brown University, connected Dustin's Dream with her brother's clinic. She graduated from JBU on Saturday morning.

The Heart of Love Clinic is located near one of the largest garbage dumps in the world. Most of the people the clinic serves live in poverty and work in the garbage dump.

Devin Chance, director of Life of Hope Ministries, said the clinic sees 800 patients each month, or about 10,000 a year. He commended Dustin's Dream for committing to not only build the clinic, but partner to cover half the cost of daily operation.

"We're seeing pies in front of us," Chance told the audience, "but the result is (Chanquin) sees 10,000 people in the clinic because of what's going on here and because of what God's doing through Dustin's Dream and what God's doing through Life of Hope."•