

Travis County Medical Alliance <webmaster@tcmalliance.org>

12/18/2023 10:01 AM

TCMA Vital Signs December 18, 2023

To Deneitra Hutchison <denny@wadealliance.com>

Can't see this message? [View in a browser](#)



TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL ALLIANCE

*A Century of Supporting
Healthcare in Central Texas*

TCMA Vital Signs December 18, 2023

2023 FINAL EDITION

TCMA: Celebrating the holidays and a Century of Supporting
Healthcare

TCMA President's Holiday Luncheon

SLH Apartment Set-up

Call to Action: Support H.R. 6683

Donate to BookSpring

TCMS Broadway Austin Tickets

Week *in* Pictures



Celebrating the holidays and a Century of Supporting Healthcare

December has been an amazing month of holiday celebrations for our Alliance members. We've all had so much fun spreading cheer at the TCMA Holiday Luncheon (shout out to Carrie Connor for organizing); and at holiday parties for the Book Review, Chic Ladies, and Mah Jongg (thank you Shelly Odzil, Lara Norris, and Debbie Jones each for hosting, respectively).

The giving spirit was in full swing as our members wrapped holiday gifts while setting up a SLH apartment for a mom and her two daughters (kudos to Jeni Lowry for organizing such a meaningful experience, as well as to all the volunteers who helped make it happen. You ROCK!) Our members also gave their time volunteering at TCMS' Brunch with Santa (cheers to Kathy Thorstad, Karin Foster, Inga Ruchman, Carrie Conner, and Edie Finch); and thanks to Beth O'Farrell and Deneitra Hutchinson for joining me at VHC to help out with their annual mailing. More recently, Deneitra and her mother-in-law and Wendy Propst and her son assisted with mail prep for VHC's newsletter.

Over the next two weeks, our official Alliance activities will slow down as we focus on our nearest and dearest. But when January hits, be ready for a full swing of spring events to round out our Centennial Year Celebration, especially

the Party with a Purpose

on Friday, March 1, 2024.

With much love, warmth, hugs & best wishes,

Christi Dammert

TCMA President

President's Holiday Open House

On December 12th, Christi Dammert hosted the annual President's Holiday Open House at the home of Past President, Patty Loose. Guests enjoyed delicious refreshments surrounded by the warmth of holiday music and a crackling fire. Got FOMO? Join the leadership team and be a part of next year's celebration.





Saint Louise House Apartment Set-up

The next day, on December 13th SLH Chair Jeni Lowery led the charge to furnish, clean and decorate an apartment for a mother with two little girls just in time for the holidays. It looks like Santa's Elves did a WONDERFUL job!





TCMAF Fund Drive

Many thanks to those of you who have donated to our annual FUND DRIVE!

PARTNER (\$1000-\$1499):

Toni Fox Burns

Bob & Karin Foster

GOLD (\$500-\$999):

Julie Cowan & Dr. Robert Cowan

Dr. & Mrs. Mark Crozier

Christi & Mark Dammert

Karen Kim & Dr. Stanley Kim

Beth & Kevin O'Farrell

Richard & Susan Redfern

Melissa & Todd Smith (*In Honor of William B. Peterek*)

Carla Wilkenfeld

ASSOCIATE (\$250-\$499):

Margene Beckham

Dr. & Mrs. James R. Cullington

Dr. Mark & Patti Hernandez

Elaine & Michael Kasper

David & Ann McFarland

Patricia A. Wallis

CONTRIBUTOR (\$100-\$249):

Dr. Carolyn Biebas

Dr. & Mrs. Sean Blaydon

Jack & Jennifer Carsner

Mary & Byron Darby

Doug & Amber Elenz

Maggie Falvey & Dr. Thomas Falvey III

Arnold & Christina Fenrich

Edie Finch

Sherrie & Dr. Robert Frachtman

Dr. Paul Harford & Sandy Dunn

Charlotte & Sonny Haro

Deneitra Hutchinson

Janie Julian
Brian & Jemy Kim
Polly & Marcus Lines
Ike & Patty Loose
Dr. Gus Lowry & Jeni Lowry
Kay McHorse
Ann & Hector Morales
David & Cindy Nelson
Shelly & Erol Ozdil
Michael & Christina Romain
Maryann Sayers
Beth & Bob Schlechter
Lydia & Tony Soldano
Jenny Stern
Michael & Karen Teneriello
Willis & Kathy Thorstad
Dr. Zoltan Trizna
Mariette Wroe (*In Honor of Rene Aelvoet*)
OTHER DONORS:
Rasha Madkour & Dr. Ramsey Ashour

**Please contact us with any omissions or corrections.

If you haven't already done so, please consider making a [tax-deductible donation](#) today (**in \$50 increments**) to support our philanthropic efforts during this centennial year! **Paying by check or with bill pay allows the TCMA to receive 100% of your donation without paying a service charge.**

Karen Kim, Fund Drive Chair
karenckim@gmail.com





Call to Action: Support H.R. 6683

Physicians are facing yet another in a series of looming Medicare payment cuts, this time to the tune of 3.37% starting in 2024. But Rep. Greg Murphy, MD (R-NC) has introduced H.R. 6683 the "Preserving Seniors' Access to Physicians Act." Legislation, that if enacted, would completely eliminate the scheduled 3.37% physician payment cut.

The effects of these cuts will be exacerbated in rural and under-served areas, which continue to face significant healthcare access challenges. Medicare physicians and other providers do not receive inflationary updates in the Medicare program, which is partially why eliminating these potential cuts is so crucial.

Contact your members of Congress today and urge them to fix the flawed Medicare physician payment system by supporting H.R. 6683. Congress only has until January 19 to act, avoid a government shutdown and fund programs for the coming year.

U.S. Representative Lloyd Doggett ~ https://doggett.house.gov/zip_authentication?form=/contact

U.S. Senator John Cornyn ~ <https://www.cornyn.senate.gov/share-opinion>

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz ~ <https://www.cruz.senate.gov/contact/write-ted>



There's Still Time to Donate to BookSpring



In case you missed donating at the TCMA Holiday Luncheon, here's your chance. Please include TCMA in the note box when making your contribution.

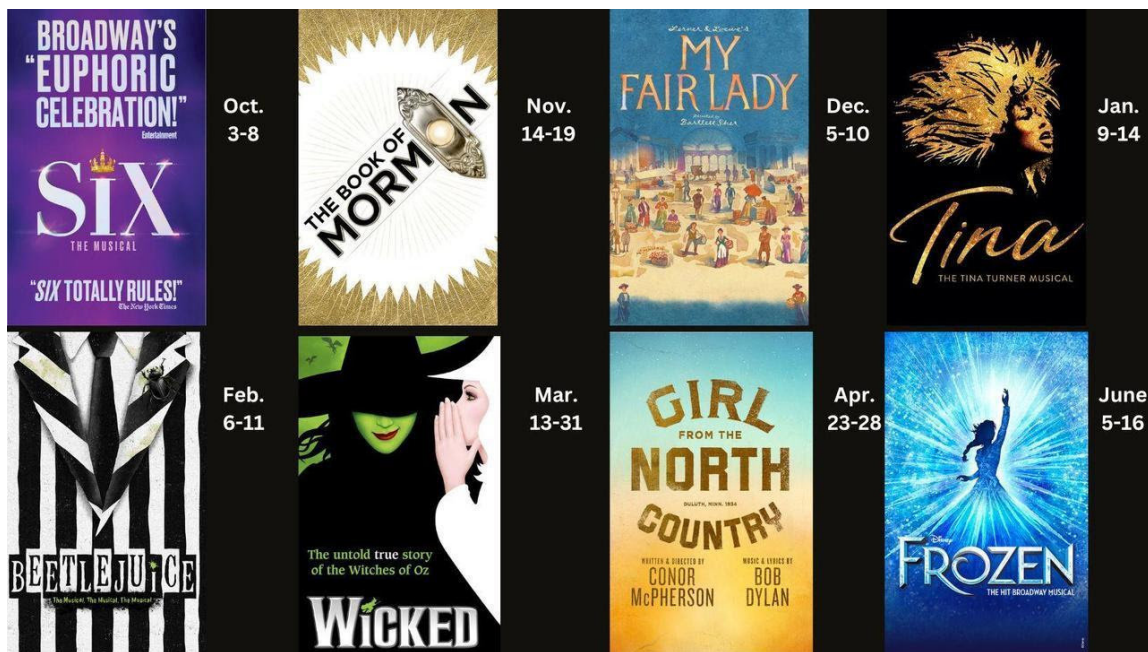
BookSpring has expanded beyond Central Texas and now promotes early literacy for at-risk kids across the state. More children are being served by directly shipping mostly Spanish books to homes. Skipping the warehouse and related storage fees means our TCMA cash donations have an even bigger impact!

BookSpring Board Member Carrie Conner thanks TCMA for supporting this great organization.

[Donate Here](#)

Discounted Tickets for TCMS, Family, & Staff

TCMS offers discounted tickets to Broadway Austin. Don't miss your chance to attend these amazing performances!



Discounted Tickets

The 2024 Membership Campaign

Remember to renew your membership before year's end. For your convenience,

Alliance members have three ways to renew:

- 1) Go online to [Renewing Members](#). Look for the "Renew" button.
2. Call the TMA Knowledge Center at (800) 880-7955 with your credit card information.
3. Print an application form available online at [Membership Dues Form](#) or use a paper statement; mail with check to

TMA Alliance
401 W 15th St
Austin, Texas 78701

Week *in* Pictures

Deneitra Hutchinson and mother-in-law help prep newsletters for the Volunteer Healthcare Clinic's mailing.



Survivors from the **Tango Pop!UP Social** (organized by Inga & Rich Ruchman, *far right*); Christina & Arnie Fenrich, *next to the Ruchmans*; along with potential, future TCMA members and their spouses.



Follow Us



Don't forget to visit/like/tag/share our [Facebook](#)
and [Instagram](#) pages.

Social media is your #1 source for updates on our

Centennial Year!

A large graphic for the 100th anniversary. It features the number '100' in a gold, 3D-style font. A blue ribbon with a white star and the year '1924' is draped across the '1' and the first '0'. Another blue ribbon with a white star and the year '2024' is draped across the second '0'. A white star with a red outline is positioned between the two '0's.

TRAVIS COUNTY MEDICAL ALLIANCE
Centennial Party With a Purpose
March 1, 2024 • Vuka North Loop • 5500 N Lamar Blvd

Join the Party!



Vital Signs and Social Media Submissions

This the final edition for 2023. Vital Signs will return to its regular schedule on Monday, January 8, 2024. Please submit content to Deneitra (denny@wadealliance.com) by 6pm, on Friday prior to distribution. Every effort will be made to include items after the deadline, with no guarantee. Content that is date-driven will appear in the newsletter until expiration.

Content for the public Facebook and Instagram pages may be submitted to the email address above or to Deneitra at communications@tcmalliance.org. No deadlines apply.

To submit information/content:


Share within the body of the email or attach a Word document (**.doc**) file.

Attach images (**JPEG, PNG or PDF**) or include within body of email.

Alternatively, content may be shared with Google Drive if link is provided.



4300 North Lamar Boulevard Austin, TX 78756
512-206-1270

www.tcmalliance.org 

This email was sent from [this site](#).
If you no longer wish to receive this email, change your email preferences [here](#).