

Grahams team up for Empty Bowls '09



Cynthia Hubbard (left), Ellen Risk, Frances Bevel, Penni Graham and Todd Graham will take part in Empty Bowls 2009, a fundraiser for the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma.

MIKE SIMONS/Tulsa World

Tulsa football coach Todd Graham and his wife, Penni, invite you to tackle hunger when the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma holds its Empty Bowls 2009 from 5:30-9 p.m. Tuesday at the Renaissance Hotel.

The Grahams are honorary chairs of the hunger awareness dinner and benefit, which will offer a meal of soup, salad and dessert.

A silent and live auction will be led by Tulsa's charity auctioneer Jay Litchfield.

One of the great items up for bid is a Napa Valley Vineyard Retreat, donated by Far Niente partner, Jeremy Nickel.

It includes a three-night stay at the exclusive Far Niente Winery guesthouse, includes six bottles of various Nickel Family Wines to enjoy during a weekend and a VIP tour and tasting at both



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the Far Niente Estate Winery and its sister winery, Nickel & Nickel.

Many celebrity-auto-graphed items will also be included: Handcrafted or hand-painted bowls from local artists and the Northeastern Oklahoma Woodturners Association.

WaterWorks Art Studio is donating handmade ceramic bowls that will be given as souvenirs for each guest.

Borden is the presenting sponsor. Renaissance Hotel is the hosting sponsor.

Platinum Bowl sponsors are George Kaiser Family

Foundation and the Zarrow Families Foundation.

Gold Bowl sponsors are Magellan Midstream Partners LP, and the Oxley Foundation. Silver Bowl sponsors are Charles and Gretchen Heinberg, Optimus Industries LLC, the Williams Cos., Gene Robinson and Yvonne Hovell Dodge Chrysler Jeep of Tulsa. Bronze Bowl sponsors are Clinical Perfusion Systems, Cox Business, Francis Oil & Gas Inc., Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Glazer's Oklahoma, McFarland Davies Architects, Ken Ray Underwood Law Office and T.D. Williamson Inc.

Individual tickets are \$35 and include dinner and a souvenir bowl. Sponsorships are still available. For more information or to purchase tickets for the event, contact Frances Bevel at 585-2800, ext. 109, or fbevel@cfbeo.org.

Gratitude is her attitude

Widow lauds Rebuilding Together crew

BY MATT GLEASON
World Scene Writer

The tip of Beatrice McConnell's red thumbnail scratched at the handle of her walker. Tears wet a pair of 92-year-old eyes.

"Well, I've done so much for other people, and I think God is repaying me," Beatrice said in her immaculate living room, where the carpet matched the color of her red fingernails, and Jesus hung from the wall.

In all her years, Beatrice baked cookies for neighborhood children, and made sure a sickly woman, who was known to sneak liquor, didn't fold herself up in a mechanical bed. And Beatrice never did reveal how she got the Holy Family's laundry white as the Eucharist.

Long ago, she married a good man named Dean, and stayed with him for 46 years. Together, they raised two daughters.

So, yeah, maybe the lord's payment did come in the form of Tony Rainwater, a Rebuilding Together Tulsa volunteer. In 2005, Rainwater spent two days building Beatrice's wheelchair ramp. In exchange, Beatrice sent children's books to his two boys. Then, a few months ago, Rainwater returned to check on her back porch handrails, and to ensure Beatrice's electric wheelchair could make it through her front door. When he finished, Beatrice asked him, "Tony,



Beatrice McConnell, 92, talks about the help she received repairing her home on Rebuild Day several years ago.

SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World

Rebuild Day

APRIL 25
To volunteer, visit tulsaworld.com/rbtvolunteer
Rebuilding Together Tulsa, 742-6241 or see tulsaworld.com/rttulsa

won't you take something?" Rainwater simply said "No" and gave her a smile.

Ask Rainwater about Beatrice and he'll say, "There couldn't be a nicer person on earth."

There have been other Rebuilding Together volunteers who repaired Beatrice's roof and replaced her termite-infested bay window.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa is a part of "the nation's largest volunteer organization preserving and revitalizing low-income homes and communities," according to its Web site. Its annual Rebuild Day is Saturday, when "local corporations, organizations, churches and other groups will come together to make home repairs in Tulsa."

There was a time Beatrice handled all the home repairs herself, but, as she said, when Dean died in '88, she "began to go down." So did the north Tulsa home the McConnells built in 1954. During its year-long construction, the couple from New York slept on a twin sofa bed at Dean's mother's place. Their two girls slept in a tiny bedroom without heat.

Rebuilding Together Tulsa facts

- Client profile:**
1. Low-income, as defined by HUD
 2. Primarily seniors over 60, and/or living with a disability
 3. Live in Tulsa city limits
 4. Homeowner

- Types of Home Repair:**
1. Replace roofs, electrical wiring and plumbing for those who live in substandard housing.
 2. Scrape, paint and caulk houses and windows.
 3. Provide home modifications, such as grab-bars, wheelchair ramps and handrails.
 4. These, and other, repairs are made by skilled and unskilled volunteers, and focus on safety, security and weatherproofing.

Source: Rebuilding Together Tulsa

Twice a day, Beatrice and her girls would walk from the family's grocery store on North Yorktown Avenue and Apache Street to their future home on East Young Place.

Finally, the home welcomed its young family. "It was quite a thing," Beatrice said. "We call it a miracle."

Later, that miracle needed iron bars on the windows. And, later still, volunteers prompted grateful tears in an old woman's eyes.

"They say what you put out, you get back," Beatrice said, her finger still working that handle. "It's true."

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THE BIG EASY: Kimberly Rivers Roberts returns to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in "Trouble the Water," a film by Tia Lessin and Carl Deal. 7:30-9 p.m. Thursday on HBO, cable 300 ZEITGEIST FILMS

tube picks : Don't miss TV for Thursday

The following information was not available when the Sunday TV World went to press.

- 7 a.m.**
8 8 Good Morning America Chef Wolfgang Puck takes the \$15 dinner dare; solutions to pet shedding. (HD) (CC)
9 2 Today Beyoncé Knowles ("Obsessed"); Amy Poehler ("Parks and Recreation"); recycling; author Jessica Valenti ("The Purity Myth"). (HD) (CC)
8 a.m.
6 6 The Early Show Jim Parsons ("The Big Bang Theory"); George and Cindy Anthony discuss the death of their granddaughter, Caylee.
9 a.m.
9 2 Live With Regis and Kelly Amy Poehler ("Parks and Recreation"). (CC)
10 a.m.
8 8 The View Guest co-host Meghan McCain; Beyoncé Knowles ("Obsessed"); Jim Parsons ("The Big Bang Theory"). (HD) (CC)
11 a.m.
8 8 Rachael Ray Chef Paula Deen; Marg Helgenberger ("CSI: Crime Scene Investigation"); fried chicken.
3 p.m.
6 6 Dr. Phil A mother of four flees a violent marriage; steps for escaping an abusive relationship. (HD) (CC)
8 8 The Bonnie Hunt Show Heather Graham; Barry Watson. (CC)
9 2 The Ellen DeGeneres Show Lindsay Lohan; Prince performs; 10-year-old author Alec Greven. (HD) (CC)
4 p.m.
6 6 Oprah Winfrey Updates on notorious newsmakers from the 1990s, including

- Tonya Harding and Lorena Bobbitt. (CC)
10:35 p.m.
6 6 Late Show With David Letterman Jamie Foxx; The Dead perform. (HD) (CC)
9 2 The Tonight Show With Jay Leno Jules Sylvester; Ryan Reynolds; Big Bad Voodoo Daddy performs.
11:37 p.m.
9 2 Late Night With Jimmy Fallon Ali Larter; boxer Mike Tyson and director James Toback; Tinted Windows perform.
12:06 a.m.
8 8 Jimmy Kimmel Live Channing Tatum; Elisha Cuthbert; Depeche Mode performs. (CC)
12:07 a.m.
6 6 The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Eddie Izzard; Martina McBride performs. (CC)
12:36 a.m.
9 2 Last Call With Carson Daly Eliza Dushku; Brett Dennen performs. (CC)
Changes
176 BBCA Coupling (6-8:30 a.m.)
176 BBCA Antiques Roadshow (10 a.m.)
4 44 Loan Modification (1:30 p.m.)
62 TVLD Hogan's Heros (4 & 4:30 p.m.)
62 TVLD Green Acres (5 & 5:30 p.m.)
62 TVLD Beverly Hillbillies (6 & 6:30 p.m.)
8 8 Grey's Anatomy (7 p.m.)
30 DISC Dirty Jobs (7 & 10 p.m.)
4 44 P90X (11 p.m.)
4 44 Homecare Solutions (4:30 a.m. Friday)

BAILEY:

"It's about celebrating life," he said of the Oklahoma City half-marathon.

Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where he met with a pioneer of prostate cancer therapy — the man who penned "Dr. Patrick Walsh's Guide to Surviving Prostate Cancer." (These days, Bailey gives that book to each prostate-cancer patient he meets.)

After meeting with Walsh, and reading his book, Bailey opted for a radical prostatectomy in October 2007. It was a success, he said, but there were side effects both physical and mental.

"I went through some emotional stuff," he said. "I was mad. I was frustrated at just the process of having to get treated, the treatment

itself and healing from it."

Actually, it bothers Bailey when some people underestimate the effects of a radical prostatectomy.

"They're kind of dismissive," he said, "like it's no big deal." But it is.

Running for his life

Six weeks after the procedure, Bailey found an emotional and physical release in his first post-surgery run.

"For me, it was a statement to myself that I'm going to get back," he said. "This is a just a speed-bump."

As he ran back to normal life, Bailey ran a half-marathon in St. Louis, then the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon Relay in April 2008. For the latter, Bailey signed up with two fellow cancer survivors, Robin Almendares and Ron Winn, who survived melanoma and bladder cancer, respectively. Together, they were three examples of cancer survival in motion. Bailey wore his yellow "Live Strong" T-shirt.



Prostate cancer survivor Kirk Bailey (center) begins a practice run with a group of runners. Bailey found an emotional and physical release in his first post-surgery run.

JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

For more

Prostate cancer patients interested in contacting Kirk Bailey can e-mail him at kirk.pca@gmail.com.

This weekend, Bailey returns to Oklahoma City for the half-marathon.

"It's about celebrating life, surviving and celebrating the life you've been given," he

said of the race, "and honoring those who lost their life to tragic events."

Looking back on his journey with prostate cancer, Bailey drew a comparison to running.

"It's really a matter of keeping focused on your ultimate goal," he said, "which is to finish the race."

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