

Northern Lights

Beau Foundation board member Brenda Walton; Kathy Grisham, executive director of Community Clinic at St. Francis House; Debbie Evans; and Carolyn Schwyhart



Foundation helps mothers give birth to healthy babies

ROGERS — One by one, local hospital representatives spoke Monday about how the Beau Foundation is changing prenatal health in Northwest Arkansas.

During the foundation's annual Prenatal Charity Luncheon, a crowd of about 200 heard stories of how pregnant women who lack insurance are receiving medical help and improving their chances of having healthy babies, thanks to the organization started by **Gwen and Terry Matthews**.

The couple's son, Beau Alexander Matthews, died in August 2003 from a birth defect. He was only 11 days old. The following year, his parents formed the foundation with the goal of making prenatal care available to all women in the area.

Monday's luncheon was part of events for Prenatal Care Week, including a casino night held July 7 and a golf tournament on Monday. Organizers expected the three fundraising events to raise about \$150,000 for the Beau Foundation.

While enjoying a meal prepared by the Pinnacle Country Club catering staff, the crowd heard from guest speakers **David Engle**, executive director of Tree of Life Family Health Center; **Kathy Grisham**, executive director of Community Clinic at St. Francis House; and **Sally Grace** and **Dr. Scott Bailey** from Parkhill Clinic for Women.

"Bottom line is that healthier babies and healthier mothers mean a better life for everyone," Grisham said. Dick Trammel led a live auction that included two Razorbacks baseball season passes, two airline tickets and a child's dune buggy. Trammel also encouraged guests to donate to the Vitamins for Moms club, which provides clients with prenatal vitamins. During the luncheon, more than \$13,000 was donated to the vitamins club.

Guests also had a chance to bid on a dozen or so silent auction items, buy a balloon containing a prize for \$20 each and buy prenatal bracelets for \$3 each.

— Kara Isham



Gwen and Terry Matthews (clockwise from left) with Dr. Scott Bailey and the Matthews' daughters Brittany and Brooke Matthews

In babies' favor

July 10

WHAT: Prenatal Charity Luncheon
WHERE: Pinnacle Country Club
THE LOOT: Organizers expected Prenatal Care Week events to raise about \$150,000 for the Beau Foundation

Johnelle Hunt, Shirley Henderson, Amy Bain and Alisha Wood



Marilyn Limentato, Katie Holley and Lori Callahan

Richard Winesburg; David Engle, executive director of Tree of Life Family Health Center; Beau Foundation board member Susan Duke; and Dick Trammel



Jacqueline Tiarks, Debbie Pauling, Terrye Brosh and Robin Schnoes