

A Letter from the Mayor

As Mayor of Neptune Township for the second time, I take great pride in announcing the 21st Annual Mayor's Charity Ball for 2014. This annual event extends a hand to individuals and charitable groups in need of financial assistance.

This year's theme is "**A Stronger Community through the Gift of Health**". Proceeds from the Ball will be given to the "**Child Life Program**" at JSUMC's K. Hovnanian Children's Hospital and the **Jane H. Booker Family Health Center**.



The Child Life Program recognizes that a hospital stay can be an intimidating experience for children, teens and their families. Child Life specialists create a fun and positive environment, helping to reduce stress and anxiety.

Whether it's bedside, in the playrooms or in the teen lounge, numerous activities are afforded throughout the day to provide hours of distraction for children and their families to

normalize the hospital experience. They provide support and distraction during medical procedures such as art therapy, pet therapy and music therapy that designed to bring smiles to pediatric patients and their families. In addition, the Child Life Specialists provide information, advocacy and support to the family.

The **Jane H. Booker Family Health Center**, located on West Lake Avenue, is a valuable community resource that provides acute and preventive health services in an affordable, accessible environment. Specialty services include medicine and surgery, pediatrics, women's health, prenatal care and denistry. Additionally, infectious disease experts address disease specific concerns, including those related to HIV/AIDS.

The 2014 Mayor's Ball Committee wants the proceeds to be directed to two areas of need in the **Family Health Center: angio-screening and prescription help**.

Angio-screening is a vascular screening that provides information about circulation and risk for heart attack and stroke. Every 30 seconds someone suffers a heart attack and every 45 seconds someone has a stroke. By identifying the 'silent' symptoms with the screening, it is possible to prevent a cardiovascular event. By supporting this need, we have enabled more residents to have this potentially life-saving procedure.

Access to affordable medication remains a challenge for many. Supporting the **Family Health Center's prescription program** will help prevent complications of disease, reduce visits to the Emergency Department and enable patients to better manage their health and well being. On behalf of myself the the Mayor's Ball Committee, please join us in strengthening our community through the gift of health.

OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS OUR SUPPORT and
GOOD HEALTH SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITY!

Come enjoy a memorable evening while supporting these positive causes!

I look forward to seeing you on June 13th.

Gratefully,

Mayor Dr. Michael Brantley