

Volunteers kick off 24th annual Magnolia Ball

The song "My Old Kentucky Home" filled the air as roughly 150 volunteers gathered at the Carrollton home of Tee and Jennifer Green on Tuesday to kick off Tanner Medical Foundation's 24th annual Magnolia Ball.

The music was a hint for guests about the theme of this year's ball, which is a tightly guarded secret each year until formally announced at the kickoff.

Co-chairs Annette Jones and Nichole Pezold announced that "Kentucky Derby" would be the theme of the 2014 Magnolia Ball, which will be held on Saturday, Apr. 26, at the Richards' Family Estate in Carrollton. From the invitation to the decor, every facet of the ball will be inspired by the history and tradition of the first jewel of horse racing's Triple Crown.

Proceeds from this year's event will benefit a 30-bed expansion of the child and adolescent unit at Willowbrooke at Tanner. The need for expanded services for the child and adolescent population has grown considerably in the region.

In the past five years, Willowbrooke at Tanner has seen a 188 percent increase in admissions for inpatient and outpatient programs. The facility's current 12-bed unit often operates at capacity, and it is the only inpatient pediatric behavioral health and substance abuse program in 19 counties authorized and willing to accept pediatric patients covered by traditional Medicaid.

The child and adolescent unit expansion is something that is extremely special to Jackie Carden, who was announced as the 2014 Magnolia Ball honorary chair by Susan Fleck, vice-chair of Tanner Medical Foundation's Board of Directors.

"We live in a special place that really cares



Co-chairs Annette Jones and Nichole Pezold announced the theme of Tanner Medical Foundation's 24th annual Magnolia Ball, "Kentucky Derby," to 150 volunteers at a kickoff reception on Tuesday evening. The Ball is scheduled for April 26.

about the needs of our children, and commits to meeting those needs," said Carden. "I'm proud to be part of this effort."

Jones, who is overseeing this year's Magnolia Ball auction, agreed.

"Not all kids get the same opportunities, and it touches my heart that Willowbrooke at Tanner is there to help any child who needs it - even if their family doesn't have the resources many of us take for granted," she said. "So

many of us have been truly blessed with the means and the ability to help. This is our opportunity to make sure that there is a place for more of these kids to heal. We're working for a really important purpose."

"As the spouse of a physician, we talk about the need for healthcare that is accessible for everyone," said Pezold, who is leading the Magnolia Ball decorations committee. "Being forced to travel to another county, or even another



Jackie Carden of Carrollton was announced as the honorary chair of the 2014 Magnolia Ball, which will benefit a 30-bed expansion of the child and adolescent unit at Willowbrooke at Tanner.

requiring them to re-learn how to perform everyday tasks.

Each year, more than 200 volunteers work together to present the annual Magnolia Ball, assisting with every detail - from invitations to auction preparations and decorations. In addition, more than 350 individuals and companies support the ball through sponsorships, cash donations, donated auction items and in-kind services.

"We are so grateful to our honoree, the co-chairs and all of our volunteers who make the Magnolia Ball possible each year," said Kathy Mathis, director of Tanner Medical Foundation. "This event simply could not take place without all of their talent and hard work."

For information regarding sponsorships, ticket availability or donations, contact Tanner Medical Foundation at 770-812-GIFT (4438).

state, to find comprehensive care is a burden many families can't bear. We are fortunate to have superior, affordable health care right here at Tanner."

Last year's Magnolia Ball raised almost \$500,000 for a new comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation

facility at Tanner Medical Center/Carrollton, a 13,000-square-foot facility with 19 private rooms and a 320-square-foot transitional living apartment. Tanner Rehab Facility guides patients on their journey back from stroke, injuries and other conditions

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