

## **Foundation Gala Honors Volunteer with Ben Taub Humanitarian Award**

By Connie Chavez  
Harris County Hospital District

More than 300 guests recently attended the Harris County Hospital District Foundation Jubilee of Caring Gala to honor J. Evans Attwell, recipient of this year's Ben Taub Humanitarian Award.

The Ben Taub Humanitarian Award is named after the philanthropist who is partly credited with creating the Harris County Hospital District (HCHD). It is awarded annually by the Foundation to individuals, foundations and corporations who significantly support the hospital district's mission of improving our community's health.

"Mr. Attwell is truly deserving of this award," said Mary C. Spinks, Chair of the hospital district's Board of Managers. "His commitment and passion to helping the less fortunate who are in need of health care is admirable."

A former board member for more than six years, Attwell recently returned for a two-year term. During his tenure, he has been instrumental in creating a healthcare safety net for indigent and uninsured residents of Harris County. A native Houstonian, he is an exemplary citizen and respected counselor at law.

"I'm highly honored and a little intimidated to be the third recipient of this award," said Atwell, who is preceded by Ginni and Richard Mithoff and the legendary Dr. Michael DeBakey. "But the greatest reward has been getting to know and work with those dedicated to providing quality charity health care equal to that provided anywhere in the United States."

Atwell went on to commend the hospital district for its attributes and accomplishments, citing its world-class trauma care and outstanding growth from when it started operation 38 years ago. The hospital district currently provides a full range of high quality health care to over 300,000 patients, including meeting the special needs of AIDS patients.

"The hospital district has become the Rodney Dangerfield of Harris County," said Atwell. "It does a great job under difficult circumstances but gets no respect."

Before departing, Atwell expressed his renewed commitment to be proactive in addressing our community's health care crisis.

Event chair Jeanie Kilroy was also on hand to thank guests.

"I would like to say thank you to all who have attended and contributed to tonight's dinner," said Kilroy. "Your support will allow us to continue with the expansion of the hospital district's Mobile Health program."