



# Harris County Hospital District

Media Contact: John F. Martinez  
Office: 713-566-6486  
Cell: 713-301-6250  
John\_Martinez@hchd.tmc.edu  
On-call pager: 713-566-6430

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **Klein Oak High School Donation Supports Ben Taub's Shattered Dreams**

HOUSTON (Oct. 24, 2006) – The Klein Oak High School student council presented a check for \$8,000 to Ben Taub General Hospital's trauma services department to support Shattered Dreams, the hospital's anti-teenage drinking campaign, at the school's homecoming football game Oct. 20..

Each year, Klein Oak's student council recognizes a charity or other worthy program as part of its homecoming festivities. The 80 council members sold homecoming mums, wristbands and food to raise money.

"It was a decision by the students to raise money for Ben Taub," said Klein Oak teacher Frances Ditta, the student council's faculty sponsor. "We also had a parent who donated \$1,000 and others who donated various amounts."

Shattered Dreams, a nationally recognized program, uses graphic wreck scenes and other visuals to stress the dangers of alcohol and drug use. Ben Taub, part of the Harris County Hospital District, hosted a Shattered Dreams presentation on Oct. 12 at Klein Oak. Several area police, fire and ambulance personnel participated.

Nearly 1,200 juniors and seniors saw the elaborate two-car re-enactment. In the scenario, Klein Oak students played the roles. Students were told that three of their fellow classmates were injured, one died at the scene, one died later at the hospital and one was arrested on suspicion of drunk driving.

"We want to make young people aware of the consequences of driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs," said Robin Garza, Ben Taub's trauma coordinator. "When these preventable accidents occur, they not only affect the victims, but also their families, friends, health care providers, law enforcement, school officials, and others. This is a tragic domino effect we want to stop before it starts."

The Ben Taub trauma services department will use the donation to fund several more Shattered Dreams presentations across the county. The presentations coincide with school milestones – spring break, prom season, and homecoming – when underage drinking tends to be more prevalent, Garza said.

-more-

## **Klein Oak High Donation/Page 2 of 2**

### **Photo cutline:**

Accepting the \$8,000 check from Frances Ditta, Klein Oak student council sponsor (far left), during the Oct. 20 Klein Oak High School homecoming game at Klein Memorial Stadium are (L-R): Robin Garza, Sheila Henderson, Dr. Kenneth Mattox and Angela Biddle, all from Ben Taub General Hospital. Klein Oak student council members raised the money through the sale of homecoming mums and wristbands. The Harris County Hospital District will use the money to support future Shattered Dreams presentations at high schools across the county.

###