



Walter Counts, Nancy Counts, Shirley Shafer, and George Shafer

## 2005 DBU-Oak Cliff Dinner Honors **Walter Counts, Hoblitzelle Foundation** with Good Samaritan Award

**D**allas Baptist University recently held the 17th Annual DBU-Oak Cliff Partnership Dinner. The event recognized Mr. Walter Counts and the Hoblitzelle Foundation, represented by President and CEO of the foundation, George A. Shafer, as the 2005 Good Samaritan Award recipients. Proceeds from the dinner go towards scholarships to help DBU students from the Oak Cliff area.

Mr. Walter Counts was the Church Administrator for Cliff Temple Baptist Church for 19 years. Cliff Temple Baptist Church has been located in Oak Cliff for over 104 years and has supported DBU since the institution's early years. Walter and his wife, Nancy, are faithful supporters of the DBU-Oak Cliff Dinner, as well as many other DBU programs and Oak Cliff ministries. Prior to serving at Cliff Temple Baptist Church, Mr. Counts was a controller of six subsidiaries of Whitehall Corporation in Dallas, including the Seismic Engineering Company, Seismic Explorations International, S.A., Seismic Division, Seismic Export Corporation, Geophysical Data Processing Center, and Crystek Crystals. He is a charter member of the DBU Legacy Society and is a trustee at both Mission: Oak Cliff and the Texas Baptist Children's Home and Family Services. Mr. Counts has volunteered at Mission: Oak Cliff, ASC3ND (a faith-based Oak Cliff after-school program), and Methodist Hospitals of Dallas. Mr. Counts is married to Nancy Lee Youngblood Counts, and they have two children, Emily and Andy, and three grandchildren.

Established in 1942, the Hoblitzelle Foundation has awarded over \$132 million in grants for social service, cultural, educational, and medical organizations in North Texas—especially those benefiting organizations in the Oak Cliff area. Approving over 2,250 grants, the Hoblitzelle Foundation list of recipients includes the Dallas Zoo, the International Linguistics Center, Oak Cliff United Methodist Church, Tyler Street Christian Academy, and Goodwill Industries. The Foundation has also been a strong supporter of DBU since its relocation to Dallas in 1965. Today, the Hoblitzelle Foundation is under the leadership of George A. Shafer, President and CEO, and Paul W. Harris, Executive Vice President.

Mr. George A. Shafer has held leadership roles in several other organizations, including president of Industrial Properties Corporation, chairman of the Texas Real Estate Commission, and chairman of the board and general campaign chairman of the United Way of Metropolitan Dallas. He has also served as director of many community organizations such as the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, Dallas Citizens Council, Salesmanship Club of Dallas, and Methodist Hospitals of Dallas. Mr. Shafer was presented the Russell H. Perry Free Enterprise Award at the 2002 dinner, sponsored by Dallas Baptist University. This award was presented to him for his integrity, dedication to protecting freedom and free enterprise, and his commitment to serving his community. George and his wife, Shirley, are active members of Prestonwood Baptist Church.