

PBF Cares for Physician Families During Financial Crises

TMA Alliance member Sue Bailey, Kerrville, said she is amazed at the vast and varied needs of members of the medical community, many of whom have received support and care from TMA's [Physicians Benevolent Fund](#) (PBF) during its 61-year history. PBF provides short- or longer-term monetary support to help Texas physicians and their families get back on their feet amid desperate financial situations.

"If, for some unforeseen reason, you find yourself in need, we hope there would be someone out there – gentle, caring – who would provide assistance to us in our time of need," said Mrs. Bailey, immediate past chair of the PBF Committee. PBF is one such place.

During the past decade, PBF has directed more than \$800,000 to Texas physicians and their immediate families who have found themselves unable to meet their day-to-day expenses. After evaluating a family's needs, PBF staff can suggest possible resources, and ultimately make a recommendation to the PBF Committee for financial support. Funds can be used for rent or mortgage, utilities, medical bills, food, and other necessities.

TMAA member Muriel Mendell, Houston, has served on the PBF Committee for 29 years. She said she stays involved because she finds satisfaction in helping families that have nowhere else to go for financial assistance. "PBF is here to help," she said, "and to contribute to the successes of our physician families."

PBF relies on the generosity of physicians and their families to support the fund – and on confidential referrals from caring friends and colleagues to learn who may be in need. In addition, physicians or their families can apply directly to PBF.

Especially during this holiday season, if you know a physician or a physician's family who could use caring assistance, direct them to the [PBF webpage](#) for qualification details and the confidential questionnaire. Or [email Chris Johnson](#), PBF director, who will contact those who are referred to determine if they qualify for assistance. TMA strives to protect the anonymity of fund recipients.

If you'd like to help sustain the fund to support physicians in need, contribute via [secure, online donation](#), or send a check to The Physicians Benevolent Fund, Attn: TMA Finance Department, 401 W. 15th St., Austin, TX 78701-1680. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by federal law.