### TMA’s PBF Family of Assistance Funds: Caring for Physicians for 60+ Years

[The Physicians Benevolent Fund](http://www.texmed.org/TMACares) (PBF) is one of TMA’ s best-kept secrets. PBF provides financial assistance to Texas physicians and their immediate families when they face times of personal hardship.

The late May Owen, MD, a Fort Worth pathologist and past president of TMA, started PBF in 1961 with a $2,500 donation. “Dr. Owen's foresight and recognition of this unmet need within the medical community set the course for this now thriving, charitable program,” said TMA Alliance member Sue J. Bailey, Austin, immediate past chair of the Physicians Benevolent Fund Committee.

Over the years, PBF has helped countless physicians and their families in the short- and long-term, including those who are elderly and no longer practicing medicine, are disabled or ill, and who are widowed and raising families. Funds are available to cover necessities – rent or mortgage, utilities, health insurance, medical bills, clothing, and food.

In 2020, PBF expanded to include the [PBF Wellness Fund](https://www.texmed.org/Hope/) to provide financial assistance for physicians who cannot afford treatment for conditions that impair their ability to practice medicine. Physicians’ families also can receive support for household expenses while their family member undergoes treatment.

"I don't know what I would have done without your help. Your generosity is a blessing. Thank you," one grateful PBF recipient said. TMA staff strive to protect the anonymity of fund recipients.

TMA family members can support PBF in two ways: contribute to the fund or share this valuable resource with friends or colleagues who may need assistance.

“PBF is successful because of the generosity of TMA members who help support their less fortunate colleagues and families,” said Ms. Bailey. “With ongoing support, PBF will continue to care for those in need within the Family of Medicine.”

Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by federal law. You can make a [secure, online donation](https://apps.guidebycell.com/gbc2/commerce/mobilepay/1723?mid=1723) or send a check to The Physicians Benevolent Fund, Texas Medical Association, 401 W. 15th St., Austin, TX 78701-1680.

If you know a physician or a physician's family who could benefit, please direct them to the [PBF webpage](https://www.texmed.org/pbf/) for qualification details and the confidential questionnaire. Or email Chris Johnson, PBF director.