

FBLA's Building a Legacy project plans for clock tower, time capsule at MMH

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

- After four years of planning and fund raising, FBLA members Samantha Redfern, Parker Redfern and Mark Edmonds focus on completing their Building a Legacy project. The group worked with Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation's executive director Cherrie Brown to coordinate the design of a clock tower for the new Melissa Memorial Hospital.
- The clock tower will honor students, administrators, healthcare professionals and community members who contributed to the new hospital building which opened March 7, 2008.
- Through the team's Bricks & Benches fund raising campaign, community members could purchase bricks or benches that will be memorialized with their choice of inscription. The bricks will be placed in the bottom base of the clock tower, and the benches will be placed around the structure.
- In addition, a time capsule will be buried at the hospital. Pill bottles from previous years will be placed inside the capsule. The time capsule, which will be opened in 50 years, represents the project achieved by the students and honors those who have given to and were committed to the project.
- The students met regularly with Brown to research and apply for numerous grants. They also presented the Building a Legacy project to the Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation Board, the Melissa Memorial Hospital Board and the Phillips County Economic Development Board of Directors, and the project was honored at the Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation Legacy Celebration in November.
- Misty Hielscher of Hielscher Drafting & Design donated plans and sketches for the design of the clock tower.
- The team notes that the community of Holyoke has been very supportive and generous to the Building a Legacy project over the past four years. The project symbolizes the passion of the community, the dedication of volunteers and the collaboration with foundations like Melissa Memorial Hospital Foundation can together achieve the dream of quality healthcare close to home.
- The group hopes to have the project finished and the clock tower set in place in March.