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Charles Ted Mettetal, MD, receives the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Humanitarian Award

ARLINGTON, TEXAS — Charles Ted Mettetal, MD, of Athens, Texas, has been awarded the Texas Academy of Family Physicians Humanitarian Award. Dr. Mettetal received the award during TAFP’s Annual Session and Primary Care Summit in Arlington on November 10. The award honors physicians who provide extraordinary and enduring humanitarian efforts.

Mettetal practices full scope family medicine with OB and hospital work at Lakeland Medical Associates in Athens. In 2010 he started Hope Springs Water, following a trip to the developing world as part of a medical team.

“There he saw suffering due to a lack of clean water,” TAFP President Janet Hurley, MD, said at the awards ceremony. “Noticing how much bottled water fills the shelves at the grocery store, he saw a way to connect the water we buy with the water needed around the world. He began selling Hope Springs bottled water, with 100 percent of the profits going to service around the world.”

In addition to selling bottled water, Hope Springs Water sends out volunteer teams several times a year to drill wells, build latrines, and teach good hygiene practices. His earliest projects with Hope Springs Water were in Nicaragua and Belize, where they reclaimed 150 abandoned wells. In 2011, they began working in Africa – funding wells, rainwater catchment and storage systems, and a water treatment project in Sierra Leone, which helped ward off an impending cholera epidemic.

Hope Springs Water’s mission is simple yet powerful – to bring hope to the world through clean water, reliable sanitation, and hygiene education.

Family physicians like Mettetal are qualified to work in all major medical areas and trained to treat more than 90 percent of all cases they encounter. Family physicians care for patients of all ages.

The Texas Academy of Family Physicians is the premier membership organization dedicated to uniting the family doctors of Texas through advocacy, education and member services, and empowering them to provide a medical home for patients of all ages. It has 33 local chapters and is a chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Visit www.tafp.org for more information.