The 18th Annual DBU-Oak Cliff Partnership Dinner recently welcomed community leaders and citizens to DBU’s Hillcrest Great Hall. Over 260 attended the annual banquet, which honored Warren L. Rutherford and Wynnewood Baptist Church as the recipients of the 2006 Good Samaritan Award. Proceeds from the dinner fund scholarships for DBU students from the Oak Cliff area.

Dr. Glen Schmucker, pastor of Cliff Temple Baptist Church, greeted guests to the DBU campus. DBU President Dr. Gary Cook also welcomed participants and reconfirmed the university’s ties to the Oak Cliff community.

For sixteen years, Warren Rutherford has served Oak Cliff through the Methodist Health System, which includes Methodist Dallas Medical Center and Methodist Charlton Medical Center. As a senior vice president, executive vice president, and chief operating officer, Rutherford helped to ensure quality health care services for the Oak Cliff community. He is past chairman of the Oak Cliff Chamber of Commerce and a past president of the Oak Cliff Rotary Club. Rutherford and his wife, Barbara, are members of Highland Park United Methodist Church.

Rev. David Michael accepted the 2006 Good Samaritan Award on behalf of Wynnewood Baptist Church. The congregation has called Oak Cliff home for 55 years. When Decatur Baptist College relocated to Dallas in 1965, the church welcomed Dallas Baptist College to the community. Since the church’s first gift in 1964, Wynnewood Baptist Church has never missed contributing a monthly gift to the institution that has grown into Dallas Baptist University.

Wynnewood Baptist Church has played a historical role in the Oak Cliff community, holding its first services in a tent on the land that is now the church’s parking lot. Founding pastor Rev. Kenneth Sutton served the church until 1971. Rev. David Michael has served as senior pastor of the church for two years.

According to John Clem, DBU director of development and coordinator of the event, “We are so very grateful for our Good Samaritans, Warren Rutherford and Wynnewood Baptist Church, and also for our many supporters who provided funds for scholarships for our students from the Oak Cliff area.”