

## TLCA holds Americana Sweetheart Dance, Feb. 13



**Above:** It was a full house for the Americana Sweetheart Dance held at the Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts Feb. 13. Both adults and children alike took to the dance floor for a night of music and dancing. The Valentines Day celebration featured a performance by WireWood Station, a group who has toured the nation, but has local roots. The Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts is a community center that aims to nurture emerging artist, and also provides a space available for

theatre productions, art classes, concerts and can even be rented out for private parties or wedding receptions. During the month of March Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts is preparing a Visions of Light Photography Exhibition with an opening reception planned for March 6. For more information on upcoming concerts, exhibits or the availability of the facility call 719-481-0475. *Photo by Jennifer Green-Lanchoney*

## Tri-Lakes Cares receives \$33,000 Wal-Mart Foundation grant



**Above:** This is Penrose St. Francis nurse Cindy Stickle providing medical services for a TLC client. *Photo courtesy of Tri-Lakes Cares.*

Tri-Lakes Cares recently received a \$33,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program to assist with medical services for low-income residents of the Tri-Lakes region. Specifically, this grant will positively impact the local community by supporting the in-house medical clinic and providing financial assistance to low-income households so they are able to afford medical services such as doctor's visits, diagnostic procedures, medical supplies and equipment, dental work, prescriptions, vision care, and more.

Tri-Lakes Cares (TLC) is a community-based, volunteer-supported resource center whose mission is to improve people's lives through emergency, self-sufficiency, and relief programs. Launched in 1984, TLC has been serving the Tri-Lakes area of El Paso County for 30 years, providing for the basic needs of low-income people. Tri-Lakes Cares offers a food pantry, medical clinic, case management, housing and utility assistance, seasonal programs, and more to help people manage and overcome poverty.

While the Affordable Care Act and TLC's in-house Health Care Guide are helping uninsured clients register for health care, there are still many households without coverage in

our community. Also, some insured households have trouble making co-payments or have high deductibles before their insurance coverage begins. TLC's medical services program addresses the two biggest barriers that clients in our area face when trying to access health care: affordability and local access.

TLC provides the only free, local clinic in the Tri-Lakes region, which includes the communities of Monument, Palmer Lake, and Woodmoor; northwestern rural El Paso County; the U.S. Air Force Academy; and parts of the Gleneagle and Black Forest neighborhoods.

The Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better, awarding grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact on communities across the U.S. In the last fiscal year, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave \$19.3 million to Colorado nonprofits. To be considered for support, prospective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program's online grant application. Additional information about the program's funding guidelines and application process are available online at [www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving](http://www.walmartfoundation.org/stategiving). To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit [www.foundation.walmart.com](http://www.foundation.walmart.com).