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## Baptist Health Foundation awards \$4.8 million

[By Don Finley](#) - Express-News

The Baptist Health Foundation on Monday announced the recipients of 77 grants this year worth \$4.8 million — its largest award to date.

Grants included about \$769,000 for 562 health careers scholarships at four institutions, as well as assistance to dozens of not-for-profit, health-related programs in Bexar and surrounding counties.

“When our trustees met in January, they decided they would do at least as much as they did in 2008,” said W. Frank Elston, president of the foundation.

Although the foundation's endowment — about \$111 million at the beginning of the year — suffered along with those of most other charitable foundations in the economic downturn, the foundation received additional funds this year from the 2003 sale of Baptist Health System to Vanguard Health Systems.

That last, large payment kept the foundation from dipping into its endowment this year — something it won't be able to avoid next year, Elston said.

The largest single grant recipient was the Baptist Health System, which got \$508,947 for its School of Health Professions.

Our Lady of the Lake University, the University of the Incarnate Word and the University of Texas Health Science Center also received scholarships.

Other large grants included almost \$450,000 to CentroMed for equipment and children's services, \$225,000 to the Autism Community Network, \$200,000 for health services to Boys Town Texas and \$250,000 to Morningside Ministries for training to caregivers and others.

Other grants included \$75,000 to BEAT AIDS, \$75,000 to the Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas, \$70,000 to the Epilepsy Foundation of Central and South Texas and \$50,000 to Transplants for Children.

The awards will be presented at a ceremony Thursday.

The total amount awarded this year represented an 8 percent increase over last year. The foundation has awarded more than \$20.6 million to date.