

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 4TH QUARTER 2009

A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

As we prepared for our Anniversary Dinner, I asked one of our patients if she would be willing to share her story with those in attendance. She smiled broadly, and agreed to think about what God would like her to say.

A few days later, she was back in the office with a foot infection. I stood at the end of the exam table, preparing a syringe to inject an anesthetic. Instead of staring anxiously at my needle, she was gazing reflectively at the ceiling. Inquiring, she revealed that she had been considering the number of ways God had blessed her through the clinic. So many times her children, and now her grandchildren, needed urgent care. The traumatic year when her husband was diagnosed with leukemia, later dying from the disease. The depression that followed, and the hope that she received through prayer at the clinic.

But foremost in her mind was the testimony of a life saved. She looked at me and said, "Dr. Paul, do you remember the first time I

came to the clinic?" She told how she came in when, at age 36 and already the mother of teenagers, she became pregnant. Wanting to end the pregnancy, she learned that local clinics were willing perform the abortion. Nevertheless, her children had received care at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic, so she sought us first. After completing her exam, we prayed with her, and encouraged her to see the baby as a gift from God.

As I completed treatment of her infection, her eyes welled with tears, but not from discomfort from the procedure. She shared that her boy is now 9 years old, and she cannot imagine life without him. We both praised God for her son, a life saved through prayer to his heavenly Father.



Holiday and Year-End Update

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

I trust this *Pulse* finds you healthy and prosperous and praising God for your blessings as you prepare to celebrate the birth of our King. It has been an incredible year for the Clinic with so many positive things. Below is a brief review.

You may know that on May 6th, the Clinic marked its 10th Anniversary of seeing patients. One week later we achieved a milestone of 40,000 patient visits since opening. Many records or "firsts" were established throughout the year, e.g. first month of over 700 patient visits, first month of over 700 volunteer hours, first month of over 10 patient visits per volunteer and dental volunteer hours hit 95 for one month. And...we held our first ever "event" by hosting a 10th Anniversary dinner in September; 430 people attended. We initiated monthly open houses and created a new video which is up on our website. Cindy McCain and Governor Brewer visited the Clinic and we established an Endowment Fund. Andrew Tallman of Christian talk radio station KPXQ will broadcast live from the Clinic one night in December pushing for donations. We are on pace to have 8,100 patient visits which is up over 15% from last year with dental visits up over 20%. Our cost per patient is down about 15%! Whew!!!

God's Blessing

The above stats are easy to compile; however, it is also apparent that God is blessing the work of the Clinic in ways that numbers can not reflect. These things are not as easy

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"Giving Without Giving"

This is the time of year when most people are thinking about supporting their favorite charities. But, for most, times are tough! If you live in Arizona, did you know that you can "give without giving"? What is true for the Public School Tax Credit and the Private School Tax Credit is also true for the Working Poor Tax Credit for charities such as The Neighborhood Christian Clinic.

For many, handling their finances and their tax obligation is a *matter of stewardship*. What better stewardship is there than to give your tax dollars to a qualifying charity rather than to the state. Dollar for dollar, your tax liability is reduced by what you donate (up to the limits below).

	Individual	Couple
Working Poor	\$ 200	\$ 400
Private School Tuition	\$ 500	\$1,000
Public School	\$ 200	\$ 400
Combined Total	\$ 900	\$1,800

The Bonus: you can take advantage of all three tax credits simultaneously each year AND, your donation may be deductible on your federal returns.

If you have already given to the Clinic this year, don't forget the credit when you file your Arizona returns. If you have yet to give, please consider a donation of at least \$400 - IT WON'T COST YOU A THING.

For information visit: www.azdor.gov.
Donate online at: TheChristianClinic.org or download a form to mail-in.

Volunteers provide H1N1 vaccine

Our volunteer nurses held an H1N1 vaccine clinic day! After being selected by the Arizona Department of Health Services to receive H1N1 vaccine, our group developed a plan to administer the vaccine to needy members of our community. The group was able to use nearly our entire supply on the first day, and additional vaccine has arrived for our next vaccine day.



The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives

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Volunteer Corner

My Experience at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

By Marcela Waggener

There are two aspects of my experience at the Clinic that I would like to share. First, it reminds me of ministry where I was born. I am from Honduras where I went to dental school. Twelve years ago I married a wonderful, Christian American man and came to live in Arizona. Eight years ago, I heard about the Clinic through Scottsdale Bible. At the time, it was located in a humble building, a setting which brought back many memories of serving the poor in my home country where I could pray with patients and share the gospel. While I pursued a dental hygiene degree at Phoenix College, I began to volunteer at the Clinic by translating. After being licensed I began to volunteer in the new dental clinic which was a place to share the joy of knowing Christ with others just as I did in my country.

The second aspect of my experience is that I feel God is pleased with the ministry. God has blessed my time there and has blessed me while serving. The first example came while I was volunteering as a translator. I needed specific cases for practical exams and easily found those patients at the Clinic while classmates struggled to find such patients. The second example came after my husband and I had our second child. We nervously waited for news on my citizenship application. I had taken some time off from volunteering and as my family struggled to balance family life, work, and ministry, we recognized my participation at TNCC must be a priority. God affirmed that. On the very next day after returning to volunteer in June 2007, we received notification of my exam for citizenship.

A third example is more recent. After five years of working at the same dental clinic, I left to find work elsewhere. My prayer was for a location close to home with a schedule that would be easy to pick up my children from school. But, more than that, I wanted to work with a Christian dentist who shared many of the same values I do in how to care for patients. I found employment at a dental office that answered all three prayers. During the interview for the position, the dentist, Dr. Robert Harrigan, shared that after the interview he was going to volunteer at TNCC! I know that my Lord is pleased for the little time I give to the ministry of the Clinic and I know the Lord rejoices when we serve each other with kindness and gratitude.



Clinic Stats

Patient Visits		Volunteers		Hours
September	693	September	96	646.1
October	669	October	88	687.1
November	616	November	85	579.0

We are up 15% in patient visits over last year.

Meet Our Volunteers



Graciela Gomez, Interpreter



Sheryl Carlson, Pharmacy



Paul Larios, Interpreter



Lori Ann Wilcox, MD

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to report on but I assure you God is very present here each day. Physical lives are being saved, many decisions are made for Christ and it's incredible to witness how patients are healed emotionally and spiritually. The life changing stories are too numerous to recount.

The Clinic is blessed with a Board that has a heart for Jesus. On faith, they desire to treat all those who God brings to the Clinic and have chosen to not cut programs even though giving has not matched expenses. Because patient visits have gone up, expenses have as well. Cash reserves have gone down - all for the right reason which is to care for "the least of these." But, we still turn away over 100 patients per month.

It is amazing to see how God has provided for and worked through the Clinic this past year. Many of you have done much already by way of financial support. THANK YOU! I am not asking you to do more unless of course the Spirit prompts. If you have not supported us this year yet, please consider doing so. With your friendship and support, I am confident God will be faithful to provide for the Clinic's second decade in much the same way he did for the first.



May the Lord richly bless your Christmas & 2010!

Thinking About Estate Planning?

Please keep the Clinic's Endowment in mind.

Help secure the Clinic's future of Restoring Health & Restoring Lives for the uninsured and underserved.

Interested? Please contact the Clinic or the Arizona Community Foundation at (602) 381-1400 or 800-222-8221.



Clinic Hours of Operation

Monday and Thursday noon – 9 pm
Tuesday and Fridays 8 am – 5 pm

Volunteer Shifts:

Monday 12:30 – 5 pm and 6 – 9 pm
Tuesday 8:30 – noon and 12:30 – 5 pm
Thursday 12:30 – 5 pm and 6 – 9 pm
Friday 8:30 – noon and 12:30 – 5 pm