

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 2ND QUARTER 2012

New Staff For Clinic Expansion

On Thursday morning, May 24, the Clinic opened the first shift of our expanded clinic hours. Recently, funding was secured for three years to open three additional shifts of patient care. The new shifts are Monday & Thursday mornings and Thursday evening. With current staff at capacity, additional part time staff had to be added and will include a dentist, dental assistant, nurse, reception/volunteer coordinator and volunteer recruiter. Two of these positions have already been filled.

Giovanni Blancas

Giovanni joined the Clinic in May as a nurse and will work Monday mornings and all day on Thursdays. Recently, Giovanni worked as a med/surg RN at Banner Good Samaritan and currently works at Maryland Garden which is a mental health and assisted living facility for seniors.

Giovanni is bi-lingual having been born in El Paso, TX. He found a great example in his grandfather who was a doctor that spent 10-15 years, post retirement, caring for the poor. Giovanni believes his grandfather found great joy in doing this and felt as though he wanted to care for those who are less fortunate as well and believes God ordained his path to the Clinic.

He has four children ranging in age from 22 – 10; three boys and a girl. He enjoys playing acoustical guitar and piano as well as watching and coaching his children in basketball, football and baseball. Giovanni lives in Mesa and enjoys worship at Mission Community Church in Gilbert. Welcome Giovanni!

Graciela Gomez

Graciela Gomez has joined our staff as well. Her journey to the clinic began in the early 1990s when she left Guatemala to move to Maryland to live with her brother. She later married and moved to Arizona where her daughter Samantha was born.



Eight years ago, Graciela was referred to the clinic when her daughter became ill. She became a friend to clinic staff and quickly accepted when invited to volunteer as an interpreter. She has also volunteered in the medication room during which time her excellent clerical skills were noticed and she was asked to help in the reception area. Hired as an employee in 2011 to help stock medical supplies and to provide backup support for the reception area, she has recently been given more hours along with the added responsibility of volunteer coordination. In addition to her hours as an employee, Graciela volunteers as well. She loves learning and is now enrolled in a one year course to become a Medical Assistant.

When asked what she likes most about the Clinic her response was "I like the way patients are cared for... not only medically but as people. The spiritual care at the clinic has also helped me grow in my faith and I have learned to trust Jesus as my provider as well as my Savior." We are thrilled to have Graciela at the Clinic.

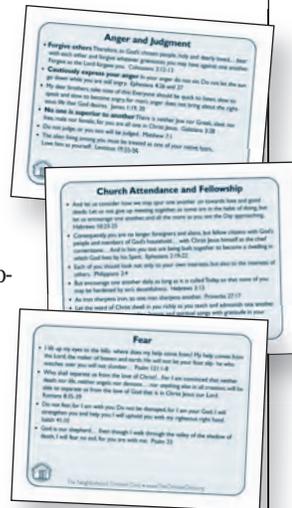


Power in the Word

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

If you had the opportunity to visit the clinic on a Tuesday or Thursday morning, you might be amazed by the variety of medical services that patients are receiving. In addition to expert medical care, you might see a patient undergoing ultrasound testing using our fourth generation ultrasound machine. One of the physicians is likely to be performing a biopsy or injecting an inflamed joint. In the procedure room, the physical therapist could be mobilizing a patient after a recent surgery, and nearby the pharmacy would be humming with activity. On the dental side, hygienists and dentists are carefully cleaning and repairing diseased teeth.

In so many respects, the clinic would appear like any other busy multi-specialty health clinic. Yet when you look more closely, you would find a low tech option that is capturing the attention of patients and volunteers. Throughout the clinic, in the conference room, exam rooms, and reception area, scripture is at work. Doctors are sharing topical scripture with patients in the exam rooms. Patients are standing by the scripture display in the reception area, selecting verses



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Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
March	705	93	767.7	219
April	726	94	762.2	270
May	753	83	682.3	350

Used Cars

We sold them all and need more!! Do you have a car you could donate? Call us. We will pick it up and you will be helping to provide healthcare for those to have no other means to obtain it. Call 602 254-0445 or gplooster@tnclinic.org



Planting Seeds

By Dr. Griggs

After a career of Internal Medicine, Pulmonary/Critical Care medicine I still love seeing patients. I was not ready to quit, though I admit that the burden of documenting patient visits and the constant concern over reimbursements were diminishing the joy of providing patient care.

In 2008 my wife's illness required my full time so I retired to care for her. She died in August 2009, and two weeks later I began to volunteer at TNCC, having learned about it from CMDA of which I had been a member since student days. As a committed Christian I had always looked for opportunities to share my faith with patients and pray with them if appropriate. It was not always easy to do so. The clinic however, gave ample opportunity to do just that. I found that I could provide excellent quality medical care to patients, and most patients welcomed our praying with them. I say "our" because most of the interpreters have a vital Christian faith and in addition to translating the language could explore the spiritual needs of the patients.

Meeting both the medical and spiritual needs of the poor is not only personally rewarding for me, but also gives me great joy in obeying Christ's command to care for the poor. The patients are a delight. They are warm, wonderful people who display their appreciation openly for the compassionate care provided by the clinic team. And it is a wonderful team: the professional and administrative staff members are capable and caring; the fellow volunteers share those same qualities. It is truly a family. While I am hopeful that I have contributed something to the mission of the clinic, I feel that I have gained far more than I have given.



Clinic Forums

Alice & Sheryl Cooper shared their story in April with over 170 friends of TNCC. What a wonderful and entertaining evening to see how God has worked in the Cooper's lives as well as gaining insight into the ministry of the Clinic.



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that address the particular life issues they are facing. Staff and volunteers are reading the Word together in the conference room. The pharmacy is stuffing bags that contain the patients' medications with key verses.

So often when I've entered an exam room, my patient has already collected two or three topical scripture cards to take home with them. I've become accustomed to offering these cards to my patients according to the types of social and spiritual problems they are experiencing. Therefore, when George, an 8 year old boy was brought in by his mom for insomnia, I closed the appointment by recommending scripture on anxiety. George accepted the scripture, but his face shone and his voice was strong as he recited his own verse that he had already been using at bedtime.

"I will lie down and sleep in peace, for you alone, O LORD, make me dwell in safety"

Psalm 4:8.

Yes, George and his mom needed this doctor to advise them that having a television in his bedroom was a recipe for insomnia. But they already had first-hand knowledge of the power in the Word to affect their daily lives. My prayer for the clinic is that all who enter here develop that same understanding, and put their trust in the author of Truth.



Thinking About Estate Planning? Did you know that you can name the Clinic as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy? Ask us 602.254.0445 or AZ Community Foundation 602.381.1400. Please help secure the future of the Clinic.



**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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