

# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • MARCH 2015

## Spiritual Multiplication.

by Dave Tellez, Chairman of the Board

*“And what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

2 Timothy 2:2

Recently I had the opportunity to speak at a Christian medical conference in Tulsa Oklahoma. Over 60 health care providers attended; many were residents and students. It was an incredible event designed to train and equip the next generation of healthcare providers in the practice of whole patient care, i.e. caring for patients spiritually, emotionally & socially as well as physically. If what we are doing at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic is important for God's Kingdom then we must duplicate ourselves and what we do in the lives of the generation(s) that follow.

Whole person care conferences are wonderful but spiritual multiplication can also be achieved in other ways. Not only have several Christian clinics been birthed by providers who volunteered at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic, but recently, Dr. Lorentsen opened the Clinic to medical students who are interested in doing clinical rotations during which time they will learn how to integrate their faith with patient care. They will be encouraged to look at their patients as Jesus modeled and learn to see them as more than just broken cells that need fixing but as people who have broken lives that need the healing of a Savior. The vision is to inspire young healthcare providers to make career decisions to serve God in their medical career long before



other options are presented. Additionally, the Clinic has a vision to make whole patient care training available to healthcare professionals worldwide. To that end, we have recently submitted all our teaching materials to Grand Canyon University who has graciously agreed to help us develop online webinars and training for providers who desire training in whole person spiritual care. What an incredible vehicle this will be when it is launched.

“As followers of Jesus Christ healing for the Christian medical professional cannot be merely science, even humanitarian service in the name of Christ. To be authentic, we must integrate our Christian faith with our healing.” Yang Chen, MD (mentor and founder of the Medical Strategic Network).

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## Barriers to Healthcare.

by Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

What cash price would you pay for life saving care? One hundred thousand? Maybe a million? Really, if it was to save the life of your family member, you would do whatever possible, right? You hope it would never come down to that.

*I saw her walking across the waiting room, and had a sinking feeling in my chest.*

Sometimes I think I can see cancer walking in the door; and her emaciated features matched my mental image of metastatic disease. I hate to see this in anyone, especially someone so young. As I spoke with her, I learned that she had six children, only one old enough to live independently from her, as well as one who was only a baby. As her condition worsened, she began to have difficulty getting her children to school, and a concerned school official had engaged the help of a local church staff member, who brought her to our clinic.



There were no smiles in the exam room. Instead, she wore a look of anxious desperation. A couple of years ago she had been told she had cancer, and would need to pay \$5,000 for curative surgery. Unable to pay, she went without care, until severe bleeding resulted in a hospitalization earlier this year. There, she was told that there was a chance that radiation therapy and chemo might still cure her, but the price was now many times greater than the original fee. Still unable to afford care and uninsured, she went from ER to ER as her health declined, until the day she arrived at our clinic.

A CT done with the help of the church showed advanced, metastatic disease, and

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### Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
November	614	84	511.5	22
December	674	90	660.0	25
January	788	94	663.5	61

*Spiritual Multiplication continued from front*

In April, Dr. Lorentsen, Gary Plooster and I will travel to Atlanta, GA to speak at Christian Community Health Fellowship's annual meeting. This is a large, national conference attended by healthcare providers from around the country who serve in clinics that care for the poor and underserved. Our Clinic is a unique model in that we are not funded through federal or state grants; rather, we are completely funded through a very gracious and wonderful community of donors and we are often held out as the "standard" for whole patient care. Our passion for equipping the next generation(s) of physicians and other healthcare professionals burns bright and it's recognized by our colleagues nationwide. Many seek to emulate what we do and we have been asked to facilitate several talks and workshops on how we do this.

We look forward to developing these wonderful opportunities that God has given us and to fulfilling His vision by reaching the world for Christ through the healthcare profession.



*Barriers to Healthcare continued from front*

within weeks, she could no longer leave her home. Nevertheless, she hung on to hope that she would be healed. We prayed together for this, but urged her to make arrangements for her children.

I visited her block wall, windowless apartment in North Phoenix a few days before she died. I'll never forget the image of her lying semi-comatose in her bed, with her baby's crib set alongside her mattress. Her life ended so soon, and her children have lost their mother.

This young mom prayed to receive Christ, and we believe she is with Him for eternity. Her children need adoptive parents, and are now in the care of Child Protective Services. Me? I'm wondering why \$5,000 was a barrier to life saving surgery. I'm thankful for the large group of friends of the Clinic that make possible the care that our patients receive, and for the dedicated group of volunteers who don't let finances get in the way of healthcare.



## Continuing to Provide Hope.

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

In many ways, 2014 was memorable. God continued to richly bless the Clinic as we were able to accommodate 8,805 patient visits; the dental team set an annual record with 2,910 visits. Volunteer hours exceeded 8,100 with 67 new volunteers added; yet we still turned away nearly 900 patients for lack of capacity. 2014 was the 2nd best year on record for contributions and in October we celebrated the Clinic's 15th Anniversary of caring for the uninsured and sharing the Gospel. We rec'd a donation to replace desperately needed work stations and a phone system that really didn't work; we added a second provider mid-year; and, we hired Cheryl to replace Carol McCourt in the wake of her retirement.

2014 also marked a deepening of our relationship with Grand Canyon University. GCU has long been friends of the Clinic by supporting their faculty and students in volunteer efforts. And in December, we reached an agreement with them to write, launch and host Spiritual Care curriculum thereby making it readily available worldwide to healthcare professionals who want to learn more about how to include their faith in Christ in a patient setting.

Another highlight is a new relationship with Arrowhead Hospital to provide a limited number of low cost, overnight stays required for certain surgical procedures. This has not been available to Clinic patients previously and will make a difference in many lives.

So many exciting things are happening; however, we have not lost sight of our mission, i.e. to care for the uninsured, working poor, to share the Gospel while doing so and to equip healthcare professionals to include their faith in Christ as they care for patients in their professional setting.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, your time and your financial support as we strive to glorify God in all we do!!

## A Car Donation with a History to Inspire.



The Clinic has had a steady flow of cars since we began accepting that form of donation. In January, we received a typical call asking "do you take used cars as donations." Right away, this call seemed different. The caller immediately said he didn't have much but he wanted to help to the extent he could because of what the Clinic had done for him in 2007. The Clinic helped him through a particularly difficult time in his life by providing some much needed and effective treatments that reestablished him and allowed him to resume work. The caller had a car he wanted the Clinic to have to help other patients in their time of need.

Praise God for his car and what it will allow the Clinic to do; but praise God also for a "life changed."

Please consider donating your used vehicle too; it will change lives!

If you want to donate a car to the Clinic, give us a call at 602.254.0445 or e-mail [gplooster@tncclinic.org](mailto:gplooster@tncclinic.org). We will arrange for pick up and handle all the paperwork. It's a great way to support the Clinic, impact lives and receive a tax deduction.

### Thinking About Estate Planning?

Join others who have already decided to 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.



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