

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 2ND QUARTER 2010

Testing of Our Faith

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

Ever had your patience and faith tested? That is exactly what happened to the Clinic's Directors and staff this past April and May.

Historically, the Clinic has enjoyed healthy cash reserves. On faith, our Board has always held the position that God provided financial resources to be used to care for those in need. Demand for Clinic services soared; nearly doubling over a four year period. Using the reserves, the Board "stayed" the course and attempted to treat as many souls as God brought to the Clinic. As faithful stewards and loyal fiduciaries, the Directors closely monitored revenue, expenses and resulting cash positions. They witnessed reserves being whittled away over the last 18 months as expenses to pace demand were higher than donations. Because of the growth in patient visits, expenses were climbing and



reserves were being depleted. Multiple avenues for revenue were pursued; however, it seemed God had something else in store. Patience is difficult at times.

Reducing Services to Reduce Expenses

During a late night meeting in April, over prayer and agonizing debate, a vote was taken to reduce Clinic services in order to reduce expenses, protect a minimum reserve level and avoid shutting the Clinic down entirely. A significant reduction in services was approved including elimination of the Nurse Practitioner program, a virtual elimination of the dental program, a major reduction was planned for the pharmacy and labs that were offered as well as salary cuts for remaining staff. On April 26, with heavy heart, the plan was implemented. With faith that God would once again provide, we looked to the future resolved to care for as many of the poor and needy as possible with

what God had provided.

One month later, nearly to the day, a couple called to tell us a very sizeable six figure donation was on its way. PRAISE GOD for their faith and for them allowing God to use their resources. Praise God for the several

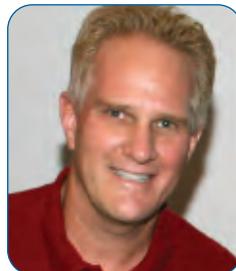


other significant checks that came in during the same timeframe. It was abundantly clear to us that God was at work.

Though these donations do not allow the Clinic to go back to pre-April services, they do allow us to increase patient visits to nearly 2009 levels. Some of the affected staff had taken other positions and were not available to return; some believed God was taking them into another "season"; however, at least two are returning. Because of staff changes, the Clinic will certainly not be the same; however, with faith we look forward to what God has in store for His Clinic. He definitely has a plan and it is our responsibility to accept His will on faith with patience and to continue to call on His name.

Thank You!

To all who read this; thank you for your faith in the Clinic. Thank you also for your financial and prayer support during this period. *May the Lord bless you in return!*



A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

*"No eye has seen,
no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived
what God has prepared
for those who love him."*



My patient certainly had no idea what was in store for him following his visit at the clinic. I had prayed with him, and had given him directions to a church in his community. I really didn't expect that he would get right in his car and drive over to this church. And I'm sure he was somewhat surprised that upon his arrival, a church staff member greeted him warmly and walked him over to a men's Bible study that had just begun.

As he sat and listened, the leader told the story of the life of a man who was coming to know the Lord. To his amazement, the details of the story described my patient's life perfectly. "I felt like he was talking about me!" My patient began regularly attending this spirit filled church, and found himself drawn into his new relationship with the Lord.

A few months later, he was back in my exam room with a grin on his face. "Doctor, you're not going to believe this." He described the story of his experience at church. "But listen, it doesn't stop there. There are now 11 members of my family attending church with me!" He began to testify to the healing he has received over the past few months, and praised God for the work of our clinic. "I was broken, and you healed me."

God has plans for us, and he has chosen to use the clinic to accomplish his purposes. We believe this, but the methods he uses to carry out His plans still catch us by surprise!

Used Cars

Have a used car? Want to donate it to the Clinic? Give us a call at 602 254-0445 or e-mail gplooster@tncclinic.org. We will arrange for pick up and handle all the paper work. It's a great way to support the Clinic AND receive a tax deduction.



Volunteer Corner

My Experience at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

By Dr. Robert Tully

I have been married to my wife Linda for 27 years and we have three children: Matthew 24, Ryan 20, and Katie 14. I have been blessed through the years with various opportunities to serve on medical mission trips far from home, but I'm always astonished at the high level of need right here in Phoenix. I began volunteering at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic about six years ago with a desire to help the needy.

While I was giving medical care to the underprivileged, I unexpectedly received a greater gift myself. Through volunteering at the Clinic, I learned how to feel comfortable offering prayer and praying with patients and how to respectfully share the gospel of Jesus



Christ. I was able to bring this valuable experience into my own medical practice of Internal Medicine. I specialize in Geriatrics.

The spiritual education I received from The Neighborhood Christian Clinic has revolutionized and fundamentally improved the spiritual care I'm able to give my patients, especially my hospice patients who often have six months or less to live. Only two things will last for eternity: the souls of people and the Word of God. I have practiced medicine for 29 years and, thanks to God's provision of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic, I am more equipped to practice my faith.

James 1:22

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic and work with such a committed and caring permanent and volunteer staff. With gratitude, I look forward to many more years of volunteer service.

Clinic Stats

| Patient Visits | | Volunteers | | Hours |
|----------------|-----|------------|----|-------|
| March | 698 | March | 92 | 649.6 |
| April | 634 | April | 88 | 607.7 |
| May | 413 | May | 63 | 479.9 |

Clinic Visits to date: 47,818



Thinking About Estate Planning?

Please keep our 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 Revenue & Expenses (through May)

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Year to Date Revenue | \$ 378,125.38 |
| Year to Date Expenses | 383,474.48 |
| Deficit | \$ (5,349.10) |



The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives

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Topical Scripture Displays Installed at the Clinic

For years the Clinic has handed out collections of scripture verses that address specific spiritual issues faced by our patients. Until recently, we have done that on photocopied paper containing several passages on multiple topics. Though still scripture, these handouts were not very convenient. Through the efforts of dedicated volunteers, there are now beautiful wood displays containing scripture cards in the hallways of the Clinic! Each card contains four to six Bible verses that specifically address a key spiritual issue. The verses are printed with English on one side and Spanish on the other. The volunteers have appreciated the ease with which they can now share scripture and the patients have even accessed them personally.



The displays were designed and built by a dedicated volunteer. Fred and his wife Jennifer operate a wood crafting business, and were excited about the opportunity to donate their time and supplies to build the displays. Fred explains his motivation this way: "The Bible talks about spreading the Gospel and giving back to your community. Through this project, I'm doing both things!"

There are currently three displays, and we plan to install more in each of the exam rooms and dental suites. We praise God that his Word is powerful, and we trust that it will now be even more available to our patients through these beautiful new displays. *Thank you Fred and Jennifer!*

Clinic Hours of Operation

| | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Monday | noon – 9 pm |
| Tuesday and Fridays | 8 am – 5 pm |
| Thursday | noon – 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 |
| Friday | 8:30 – noon and 12:30 – 5 pm |