

# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 3RD QUARTER 2010

## Clinic Remains True to its Mission

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

**1993:** A vision for the Clinic was first conceived.

**1996:** The Clinic incorporated and seated its first Board of Directors.

**1997:** By Laws were finalized and nonprofit status was granted by the IRS.

**1999:** The first patient was seen.

By October The Clinic will see patient number 50,000.



**P**raise God! Over the course of eleven years, the Clinic has grown and many changes have occurred. More and more volunteers have contributed along the way including some who were here opening night; a new Clinic was built in 2003; a network of sub-specialists is established; pediatric surgeries are available; chiropractic and dental clinics exist; regular diabetic education occurs; physical therapy occurs every week; the list goes on and on and on.

### One thing that hasn't changed is the Clinic's Mission Statement.

Two visions and passions existed for starting an inner city Clinic in Phoenix. By the grace of God, both visions are still firmly embedded in the culture of the Clinic today. One vision was to care for the poor and needy while sharing the love of Christ. The other vision was that of inviting volunteer professionals to the Clinic and to encourage and mentor them through their experience here to include Christ in their private practices. Both visions are foundational. Daily, we focus on them, pray for them and attempt to faithfully carry them out in the name of Jesus.

The Clinic's Mission Statement is three simple bullet points as follows:

- To provide medical and dental healthcare services to the uninsured, underserved community
- To share the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ with interested patients and colleagues
- To train and equip healthcare professionals to respectfully share the Gospel and love of Jesus in their daily practice

Through love, prayer, scripture and sharing the Gospel, we treat the "whole" person. Yes, we pour ourselves into the care of our patients' medical and dental needs. However, we also carry great concern for our patient's emotional, social and spiritual wellbeing. Clinic staff members invest themselves into ministering to patients spiritually, and encourage and train volunteers to do this as well.

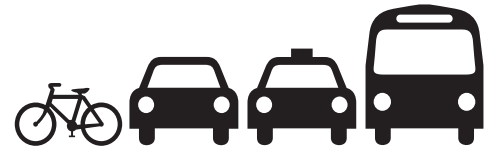
The sheer quantity of lives that have been changed by the Clinic is staggering. The impact that those changed lives have on the community is inspiring. Thanks to the support of those who read this, the Kingdom is expanding. It is an incredible and humbling experience to witness the presence of God at work. If you have never visited the Clinic or have not been here in a while; please come to see firsthand how God is working. To God be the glory!

*...let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. I John 3:18*



## A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen



I'm always intrigued by the forms of transportation that bring our patients to the clinic. Some patients walk in from the neighborhood, and others are dropped off by family members. Some arrive on the bus, walking down the block from the bus stop. Taxis occasionally rumble through the lot, and an especially memorable patient rode his bike in for his appointments, carrying an astonishing array of items along with him.

One elderly patient recently shared with me that her son drops her off for her appointments. Unfortunately, he charges her gas money for each trip to the clinic. In retrospect, I've noted that she wears the same old, threadbare clothes to each appointment. Over the past three years, she has searched for a doctor who will remove the nephrostomy tubes that were placed through her back into her kidneys during an episode of kidney failure. In short, she is impoverished, suffering from debilitating medical illness, with minimal support from her family. On a recent visit, she reported that one of the nephrostomy tubes had broken off, and the skin had closed over the broken tube orifice.

Given the circumstances, it would not have surprised me if she chose to curse God and her family. Instead the patient surprised me with a testimony to the degree that she trusts the Father. With a warm smile through her broken, crooked teeth, she began to thank God for his blessings. Her son had arranged a room for her to live in, paying the rent for her. Her other son was being released from prison one year early for good conduct. People from her church were preparing breakfast for her daily, and were caring for her when she became sick.

I was in awe when she said "I don't know how I can pay God for all he's done for me." I asked myself if I have such gratitude for the blessings God has showered down on me. Am I seeing all the ways he is providing for myself and my family? I thanked God for the powerful way in which he is speaking through this woman.



## Volunteer Corner

### Our Experience at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

By Mikell Denning

“Mucho gusto, Carmen” I say as I shake hands with my nervous patient. “Mi nombre es Miguel! Es un nombre para hombre!” Since I am obviously a female, that comment always brings a chuckle and gets the dental-hygiene appointment off to a good start. In the next operatory, my husband, Jerry, is using his limited Spanish skills to inform and treat his patient. His Spanish is tinged with a Texas twang, but they are pleased that he is trying to communicate with them and understand their needs.

In our 40 years of practicing dentistry in Phoenix, we enjoyed volunteering in several clinics in town. In the 10 years since we retired we have been free to work in other countries. Short-term Christian missions have taken us to Germany, St. Lucia, Tanzania, Kenya, Ecuador, Nicaragua, and Mexico.

The six years we have worked at TNCC have been so meaningful. Dr. Paul and the staff are skilled and dedicated, striving to meet the physical and spiritual needs of each patient. The volunteers are an eclectic group, each bringing their special gifts and talents to serve those who come. Once a day we gather to pray for patients and for each other. It is a very meaningful time.

Many of our dental patients have had little or no treatment and they so appreciate anything done to alleviate pain and improve appearance. Restoring a front tooth can assure a better job interview. Teaching families oral hygiene techniques gives children stronger teeth and better health in general. Everyone wins!. As they leave, they give us their most precious gifts; a smile, a hug, and that lovely blessing, “Dios le bendiga.”

Thank you, Lord! Sign us up for next month!

John 13: 34-35

*“I give you a new command Love each other. You must love each other as I have loved you All people will know you are my followers if you love each other.”*



### Clinic Stats

Patient Visits		Volunteers		Hours
June	440	June	68	565.8
July	490	July	85	596.9
August	635	August	75	557.3

**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](mailto: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.

**Thinking About Estate Planning?** 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.

**Keep Current with Social Media:** Become a fan and a friend of the clinic today!

 The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

 Twitter/ChristianClinic

### Clinic Revenue & Expenses (through August)

Year to Date Revenue	\$ 603,182
Year to Date Expenses	586,836
Surplus	\$ 16,346



**The Neighborhood  
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives

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## Introducing Emily Snavelly



Hello! I am Emily Snavelly, follower of Christ, daughter, sister, and nurse! I am so grateful to have been raised in a Christ-centered home and accepted Christ into my heart at a fairly young age. My family moved to Las Cruces, New Mexico when I was six years old, so I consider it my home; and, my parents still live there; my older brother lives in Brooklyn, NY and is recently engaged! I will also add that I think Las Cruces may have the best Mexican food!!! - green or red chile on everything! I graduated from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree. Phoenix has been my home since 2006, where I have worked as a medical-surgical staff nurse at Mayo Clinic Hospital. Gratefully, I finished graduate school at Grand Canyon University with a Master's of Science-Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner in April this year. I am very excited to see what God has planned for me!

I was able to spend six weeks in Mexico during college at an intensive language school learning Spanish; however, that was in 2001 and it is true that “you lose it if you don't use it.” As a registered nurse, I volunteered at TNCC for about a year-and-a-half. The clinic has always been in my mind and heart since. I feel honored and excited to be coming back, especially as a staff member! I enjoy being involved with my church family and a group of 26 of us travelled to Nairobi, Kenya this summer for a missions trip - an incredible, life exchanging experience! I was part of the medical team. I enjoy being active, being outside in this beautiful state we live in (i.e., hiking), hanging out with family and friends, learning new things and learning about people, and traveling!

I am looking forward to seeing what God has planned as I begin my new role as a Family Nurse Practitioner. My learning curve will be exponential in the next couple of years, adjusting to the clinic and being a FNP - I am humbled by Dr. Paul's willingness to teach and help me! It is going to be great getting to know everyone!