

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • SEPTEMBER 2013

A Tale of Two Mouths

by Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

On a beautiful Saturday morning a few days ago, I was enjoying a bowl of granola at breakfast with friends. My pleasant day quickly turned sour when a molar snapped, sending pain shooting into my jaw. I briefly broke into a cold sweat, then gathered myself, and did what most anyone else with insurance would do; I called my dentist. Although he was out of town at a conference, he quickly called back, and assured me that I would be seen promptly on Monday morning at his office. At the appointment, the news wasn't good. A root canal may allow me to save the tooth, and an appointment was quickly made for the following day at a specialist's office. Upon further evaluation after the root canal, I was told that the tooth was beyond repair, and that an extraction with a bone graft would be required. With each phone call to these offices, I was greeted by a pleasant receptionist who was eager to set an appointment for me as soon as possible, and I had the option to choose from multiple appointment slots. I was in minimal pain, waited for the upcoming extraction, and avoided granola.



My experience brought to my recollection a patient I had seen at the clinic. When I asked if she had any dental problems, she pulled up her upper lip and pushed on her gums, expressing profuse thick yellow discharge. This amount of disease had been smoldering for years. She was blessed to be seen in our dental clinic, and required multiple extractions and dentures. Most others are less fortunate. Many of my patients are reluctant to open their mouths for an oral exam, embarrassed by multiple broken teeth barely protruding from their gums, with deep black cavities in the remaining teeth. I often wonder how long the pain lingered from each untreated dental abscess before the tooth finally yielded to decay and simply fell out. Some patients have resorted to seeking care in private homes, where dentists from Mexico spend a weekend providing marginal treatment to as many cash paying patients as possible in a non-sterile setting. Others drive across the border seeking low cost care, or pay exorbitant fees to be seen in the emergency department only to receive antibiotics, pain medication, and a referral to a dentist that they can't afford to see.

It's hard for me to accept this disparity in care, and I wonder at times why my mouth receives such excellent care, while many of God's children must suffer without such care. Pray with me that God will provide resources to offer comfort and healing to those who present to our clinic with dental pain.



Meet Barbara Giancola

Barb is 4th of six children and is married to Joe who is a dermatologist that specializes in skin cancer. They have nineteen year old twins, Maddie and Nick; Maddie attends SMU in Texas and Nick attends Northwestern in Chicago. Twins seem to run in Barb's family as she has aunts that are twins, sisters that are twins, a sister who had twins and a brother who had twins – imagine that family reunion!!

Barb and Joe are originally from St. Louis and met in high school. Both attended undergraduate school at Creighton University in Omaha. He attended medical school at the University of Missouri in Columbia while



Barb went to dental school at the University of Missouri in Kansas City. They moved to Phoenix in 1990 the day after their honeymoon on a day when the temperature was 122 degrees. They worship at The Casa which is the Catholic church on the campus of the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale.

Barb was drawn to the Clinic because of the patients, her desire to care for the poor and because of her love for God. She even volunteers from time to time at the dental clinic of St. Vincent de Paul. Outside of the Clinic, she works for Maricopa County's Office of Oral Health.

A little about Barb personally; she loves to run, read, play tennis and travel. She once ran the New York City marathon and because her brother works for the Vatican, she even had a personal greeting with Pope John Paul II during one of her trips to Italy.

Barb thoroughly enjoys working at the Clinic and appreciates being able to pray with patients. She recalls praying with one patient in particular during one of her first days here and being impressed at how meaningful that time was to this elderly woman. Barb recalls that the patient was clutching her hand very hard and was deeply touched by the "connection" in prayer that was made. When asked further about this moment, Barb responded "that's what it's all about; people needing and helping people for the love of God and just being friends.

Come say "hi" to Barb!



Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
May	879	102	769.3	334
June	763	90	722.2	81
July	793	98	868.0	58

Meet Memo and Sebastian.

The Clinic has two very dear volunteers, Guillermo who is affectionately known by us as Memo, and his 12 year old son, Sebastian who faithfully accompanies his father to the Clinic. Their relationship with the Clinic began in 2002 as patients when the Clinic still operated in our old building. One day, as Memo was sitting in the waiting room of that first building he noticed problems with the AC window units. As a second generation air conditioning professional, he noticed they were not operating effectively and freezing up. After his appointment, he volunteered to clean and service the units and then maintain them ongoing. Thus began his volunteering for the Clinic which has now lasted nearly 12 years. Since that time, Memo has contributed enumerable hours for various projects, not the least of which was installing a much needed climate control system in the Clinic's IT and Telecom room when it began to overheat from the equipment. At a later point, when metal prices spiked and vandals began stealing copper and other metal from the AC units of the current Clinic location, Memo and his wife built an iron cage around the units with access gates that locked. More recently, in April of this year, the AC in the Clinic's waiting room stopped cooling. Memo and Sebastian worked tirelessly to replace the valves and hoses to resolve the issues. In addition to the special projects, Memo maintains and services the Clinic's AC units; frequently you will see Memo and son walking through Clinic checking filters, etc.

Guillermo Jr. and Sebastian have been learning the family trade and when old enough, they intend to carry on Memo's legacy that began with Memo's father. Along with the technical and practical skills of AC repair, Memo is intent on instilling in his sons the importance of giving back to their community and often you will see the entire family at the Clinic for various "projects" or service calls.

In addition to his service to TNCC, Memo also maintains (free of charge) AC units for two churches, neither of which is the one he attends. Memo believes his volunteering has matured his faith and he believes God blesses him when he blesses others. This past May, Memo's family was to be evicted but unexpectedly, without known reason, the lender changed its decision and allowed Memo's family to stay! It is continuously amazing and such a blessing to witness so many people coming together in God's name to use their skills and expertise to be a part of the great work God is accomplishing here. It is also amazing to experience how God impacts their lives.



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@tnccclinic.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

For Those Who Have Not Volunteered In A While...

...come check out the fresh, new look of the Clinic. We have been able to replace the badly worn carpet as well as other flooring throughout the Clinic. We are sure you will appreciate the fresh coat of paint throughout. It looks great and we want you to see it; schedule yourself for a volunteer slot and come check it out.

The Arizona Department of Health...

...recently completed a surprise inspection and gave the Clinic another exceptional report with ZERO deficiencies. This is an answer to prayer and we want to THANK ALL VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF who conscientiously worked together to make this possible. With so many variables this is amazing - but YOU DID IT!!! Praise God!!

Clinic Forum



The Neighborhood Christian Clinic is pleased to announce that Alan Sears will be our guest speaker at the next Clinic Forum on Saturday evening October 12. Alan serves as president, CEO, and general counsel of Alliance Defending Freedom.

ADF is an international, faith-based legal ministry that advocates for religious liberties, the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage. He leads the strategy, training, funding, and litigation efforts that have resulted in various roles in 38 victories at the U.S. Supreme Court and wins in eight of every 10 cases ADF has litigated to conclusion.

He has worked for the Department of Justice, served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney working at one point as Chief of the Criminal Section. In 1993, Alan left his very successful legal career to found ADF along with Dr. James Dobson, Dr. Bill Bright, Larry Burkett, Dr. James Kennedy, and Marlin Maddoux.

Alan has had numerous media appearances including television and radio interviews and features on The Today Show, Nightline, CNN, Fox News, C-SPAN, The O'Reilly Factor, Oprah, and The Lou Dobbs Show. He has co-authored several books, including The Homosexual Agenda: Exposing the Principal Threat to Religious Freedom Today and The ACLU vs. America.



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