

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 4TH QUARTER 2016

“The Best Doctor’s Appointment Ever!”

by Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

When I think back on my years in college and in the decade immediately afterwards, in addition to hours spent in the classroom and the hospital, I invested hours into bicycling, running and playing basketball with friends. Being able to be physically active in the prime health years of my life brought great joy. In fact, most of my friends enjoyed similar activities. I recall a road trip with some friends, where upon arrival at the edge of the Grand Canyon, instead of admiring the view and moving on, we threw on some running shoes and ran in and out of the canyon in one day without any training or preparation.

In many ways, we took for granted our ability to engage in physically strenuous activities. In contrast, young people growing up with asthma don’t share this experience. In the best hands, an asthma patient can carefully manage their activities and medications to the point where they can generally engage in most of their activities.

But for those without medical insurance, access to expert care and expensive medications is out of their reach.

Maybe this background will help us understand the comment shared by a young man that I’ll call Francisco. For him, there was no freedom to join his friends for basketball; over the years he had learned to

avoid all exercise in order to protect himself from dangerous asthma flares. Because the family rarely had money for doctors’ visits or medications, he resorted to borrowing medications from friends when his breathing problems worsened. When his shortness of breath persisted without relief for two months, his mother recommended that he visit our clinic.

At his appointment, my recommendations were fairly straightforward, and I expect that he will soon have the ability to exercise without limitation. I was able to provide him with state-of-the-art asthma medication from our medication room, and finally closed the appointment with prayer, which led to the memorable comment. As Francisco looked up from prayer, a wide smile spread across his face, and he exclaimed,

“That was the best doctor’s appointment ever!”

In my heart, I agreed, it was a wonderful opportunity to provide this young man the freedom to be physically active without restriction, and to demonstrate to him that this blessing came from his heavenly Father!



Whole Community Health. Update

by Gary Flooster, Executive Director

Clinic Staff & Board members, and now members of the Community, continue to pray for the health of our community. In the last *Pulse* we shared about an initiative of engaging residents regarding the overall health of the community and that an oversight team had been formed to initiate the process. Since then, we have hosted two Community Health meetings with residents who were excited about being a part of this ground breaking work.



Over 30 community residents have been involved in the two meetings on 8/13 and 9/10. Great discussion and ideas came from both meetings and at the second meeting the group divided itself into three smaller groups. Each group will focus on one of three aspects of Community Health; 1) Eating Habits & Nutrition, 2) Exercise and 3) Civic Engagement. The groups are underway meeting on their own and will reconvene on Saturday, December 3 to update each other on progress and to discuss next steps.

The groups will engage community members to understand what health is, what impediments to health there are and to help identify community resources to remove those impediments. The Clinic’s role in this was to energize the effort and to foster a culture wherein the community “owns” its own health issues and devises ways to address them with resources available within the community.

The intent is to have the Community recognize that Christ is Lord in all and of all. Spiritual healing, disease prevention, poverty alleviation and social & psychological healing are the intended outcomes.

It is a long term undertaking but it is underway. Praise God!



Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
August	739	68	741.8	92
September	747	75	699.8	113
October	969	94	826.2	109

Introducing Andrew Wong, M.D.

I was born & raised in inner city Phoenix and am excited to return “home” to join the awesome ministry of TNCC. Like so many raised in an inner city, I grew up in a broken home, but by God's grace, came to know Jesus in elementary school. I attended Central High and the U of A. The Lord blessed me with a heart for the city and I've been called to live and serve among the underserved. While attending U of A medical school this calling prompted me to family medicine and I just completed residency in Wichita, KS at the Via Christi Family Medicine Residency Program this past June. I have been blessed to know many faithful Christian physicians who were examples of missional living and incorporating ministry into medicine. During residency, I lived in an underserved, South Wichita neighborhood with several other residents & physicians. There, we started a local home church with the goal of “doing life” with those we served and ministered to. I have the same missional living vision for the Clinic's community and pray that God creates an opportunity for me to move into the surrounding neighborhood. He has already eliminated barriers & opened doors allowing me to serve at the Clinic where I once volunteered as a medical student. It's a joy to work with volunteers and staff who share a similar vision and so generously sacrifice their time to care for the poor.

“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter - when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” -Isaiah 58:6-7



“Working Poor” Charitable Tax Credit doubled!!



Couples may donate \$800.00 to the Clinic and have their Arizona income tax liability lowered by the same amount. It's like giving without giving!!! Single filers qualify for a \$400.00 credit.

Effective with tax year 2016, the credit amount has doubled from \$400 to \$800 for couples and from \$200 or \$400 for individual filers. You may double your tax credit donation to the Clinic this year without cost to you.

Charitable Tax Credit

	2015	2016
Individual	\$ 200	\$ 400
Couple	\$ 400	\$ 800

The impact for the Clinic of this change is huge. If each Clinic donor doubled their tax credit donation to the Clinic, thousands of more patient visits could be facilitated each year. That's thousands of more opportunities to positively reach the community for God.

Please consider doubling your tax credit donation to the Clinic this year; it will cost you nothing and will help us see more patients.

Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; Proverbs 3:9

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.

Volunteer Appreciation!

In October, the Clinic hosted a Volunteer Appreciation event with over 150 people present. There was a full picnic buffet with hamburgers and hotdogs; but, what helped make the event special was an amazing response from local companies who donated gifts like memberships, sports tickets, gift baskets, gift cards and more to help make sure Clinic volunteers felt appreciated. Volunteers brought families & friends to meet and fellowship together and to show their loved ones where they served.

We want offer a big THANK YOU to each company that supported this effort; we could not have done it without them. The following companies understand what “community” is all about: The Four Seasons / Phoenix Zoo / Desert Botanical Gardens / Arizona Coyotes / ASU Athletics / AZ on the Rocks / Diamondbacks / Lowell Observatory / Arena Sports Grill / Lucky Strike / iPic Theaters / On the Border / Chick-fil-A / Sun Devil Auto / Bashas / Fry's / Oregano's / Trader Joes / Chili's / Wet 'n' Wild / My Payer Packages / Gourmet Gift Baskets / Massage Envy / Nordic Care / Sauce / AMC Theaters / Panda Express



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