

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 2ND QUARTER 2009

Governor Jan Brewer and Mrs. Cindy McCain Visit the Clinic

On Monday, May 4th, the Clinic was blessed by a visit from the Arizona Governor, Jan Brewer and Mrs. Cindy McCain.



The purpose of the visit was to introduce and inform the Governor about the Clinic, needs in the community, and to encourage the continuation of the Arizona Charitable Tax Credit.

Mrs. McCain stated, *"We have to keep a place like this going, but we also have to understand that things are tough too. I don't want to let donors completely off the hook and encourage them to get involved."*

Nearly 20 people from the state government, Senator McCain's office, media, our board and staff were involved in the visit.

This was a special event in the life of the Clinic as we work to obtain more support from the community.



Visit our new Web Site at
TheChristianClinic.org

A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

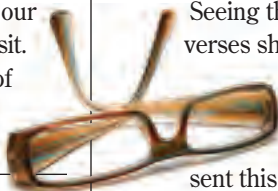
When volunteers spend an afternoon or an evening in service to the Lord at our clinic, they are giving possibly their most valuable asset; their time. Yet for some of them, even that is not enough. They understand from Psalm 51 that even our material assets are ultimately under the ownership of the Lord.

In the exam room, the patient told her story to our volunteer doctor and interpreter. Unlike some stories, this patient's story had hope. She had suffered from headaches and anxiety. Whereas most people seek medical treatment for their headaches, she instead began seeking God. After beginning to attend a church, her headaches began to resolve. Yet the anxiety persisted, and she came to the Clinic for help.

Following a thorough medical evaluation, the patient was given a document containing powerful scripture on the topic of anxiety. Through this, the medical team learned that blurred vision limited her ability to read. Undeterred, our volunteer interpreter lent her own reading glasses to the patient.

Seeing the patient's response to the verses she was then able to read using the glasses, the volunteer insisted that the patient keep the glasses, and gladly sent this patient on her way with new vision to receive God's life-changing truth.

Our volunteer doctor was humbled by the interpreter's generosity, and I can only imagine the effect that this caring act had on our patient. May God continue to soften all of our hearts as we consider the ways He is calling on us to serve the poor.



New Record for Patient Visits!

The Clinic's patient visits during the month of March set a new record at 721.

During the first four months of the year we unfortunately had to turn away 482 people waiting to get into the Clinic.

Ten Years of Seeing Patients

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

The month of May marked the Clinic's 10th year of seeing patients. Since that first night of seeing two patients in 1999, there have been many blessings along the way. We have grown from a "one night per week" clinic to being open for patient care 36 hours per week. During the first week of June, the Clinic passed 40,000 patient visits and is on pace to see 8,000 patients this year. Praise God!

On September 12, we will commemorate our 10th Anniversary with a Celebration and Fundraising dinner at the new downtown Sheraton. Our keynote speaker will be George Barna who is hailed as "the most quoted person in the Christian Church" today. He founded The Barna Group which is a leading research firm focused on the intersection of faith and culture. His perspective is always relevant and insightful. Tickets can be purchased online or by calling 602.253.6767. They are \$100 per person; however, I encourage anyone who is interested to sponsor a table of ten and to invite their friends to join them in support of the Clinic.

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Dr. Joe Lindner started the dental program at the Clinic in 2004 and has served as the Dental Director since that time. He will still be a part of the Clinic, but recently made a decision to spend less time in the Clinic and more time traveling with his wife as well as doing dental mission trips.

We are happy to announce that Dr. Gina Thorley will step-in as our new Dental Director. Gina has been with the Clinic on a part-time basis and will become full-time effective July 1. Her education is through ASU, NAU, UNC and AT Skill. She lives in Ahwatukee, is married and a mother of two. She believes all things happen for a reason within God's plan and has a passion for serving. We are excited she has accepted this additional responsibility.

Volunteer Corner



How God Used The Clinic to Help Prepare Nick Stygles to Enter Medical School at Emory University.

I started working at the Clinic for purely selfish reasons: I wanted the opportunity to hone my classroom-acquired Spanish and add to my premed resume. Despite these motives, God had plans for me at the Clinic. He has shown me a level of poverty I did not know and given me a heart for our patients. He has challenged me spiritually through interactions with coworkers, and has ultimately shown me a glimpse of what He has in store for me down the road.

The best part about being an interpreter has been sharing in the patients' lives - platicando y orando con ellos (chatting and praying with them). There is a palpable power in the prayers said by and for our patients. Although I am not sure exactly where I will practice or which area of medicine I will pursue, I am convinced that God will lead me somewhere to serve medically needy patients like those at the Clinic.

- God bless, Nick Stygles, *James 5:14-16*

Volunteer Stats

New Record Set in April:

Volunteers	98
Hours	718.2

Volunteers

January	84
February	69
March	72
April	98

Volunteer Hours

January	483.3
February	470.1
March	554.1
April	718.2

We had 27 new volunteers in the first four months of this year.

Diabetic Education

One of the Clinic's most dedicated volunteers, Martha Carey-Lee has begun to partner with Charlotte Thrall RN of Community Health Outreach for the purpose of offering a Community Diabetic Education class. The class has been offered on Tuesday evenings and has been well received and attended. Classes are held in the Clinic's waiting room.



Volunteer scheduling is now done online through the Clinic's Web Site at TheChristianClinic.org/Volunteer

Regional CMDA Conference to be held at The Clinic

The Christian Medical & Dental Association (CMDA) is the country's largest organization of Christian medical and dental professionals. Through Dr. Lorentsen, they have made arrangements for the Clinic to host their regional Student Conference in August. Medical students from as far away as Hawaii have already purchased tickets to travel to Phoenix for this event.

This is a great opportunity for the Clinic to become better known within the medical and dental professional's community as well as to bless CMDA with the use of the Clinic's facility God has provided.

New Board Members

Mark Harshbarger definitely has a passion for making a difference in lives of the underserved. In the wake of deciding to leave a successful career as COO/CFO of a national cosmetic firm; Mark set aside funds and is in the process of formally starting a foundation to provide surgical services for children who are not able to otherwise obtain much needed surgery. Mark contacted the Clinic and has already made a difference in the lives of patients with acute needs.

Dr. Steve Kessler attended a recent Clinic event at the invitation of long-time Clinic friend Barbara Dunlap and developed a desire to be a part of what God is doing here. Dr. Kessler brings the special combination of being a doctor while having a keen mind for business. He started one of the largest, best-known, and most respected Dermatology practices in the Valley today.

Ten Years, cont.

This quarter, we have expanded *The Pulse* to include other newsworthy events like the Governor's and Mrs. McCain's visit (check out the news coverage video on our web site); new Board members; a more up-to-date website; and Facebook & Twitter accounts. If you have comments or suggestions, we certainly welcome your input.

Finally, if you have not visited the Clinic previously, or if you have not been here in awhile, I encourage you to attend one of our monthly Open Houses. They are on the third Thursday of each month and begin at 11:30am with a tour and end with a light lunch being served while we share the history and pertinent information of the Clinic and answer any questions. They have been very well attended and receive wonderful reviews. Please come see the Clinic and meet the staff.

There will always be poor people in the land. Therefore I command you to be openhanded toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Deut. 15:11



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**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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