

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 2ND QUARTER 2017

A “High 5.”

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

As I lifted up my head following our noon prayer, I saw our volunteer pulmonologist greeting me from the doorway of our conference room. I told him we had just received a donation of expensive asthma medications that he was likely to need for the patients he would be treating over the course of the afternoon, and he rushed to assure me that I should let him know when we are short on medications so that he can ask drug companies to donate samples to us. We talked briefly about the difficulties we’ve had in finding affordable specialized studies for our patients, and brainstormed about how best to approach local labs and vendors regarding donated services. He then charged off with great urgency to see the patients that had been assigned to him for the afternoon.

By the time that I emerged from seeing my patient, he was engaged in adjusting the pressure settings on the CPAP machine for a patient with sleep apnea. Not long ago, treatment for sleep apnea was out of our reach, but now his patient was being treated and experiencing improved health. A short time later, a woman who had recently had a blood clot in her lung needed home oxygen, and I was talking with our volunteer once again. We had discovered a home health service that was willing to service our donated used oxygen compressor at a great discount, and he was so excited that this patient was going to receive this critical

service. His next patient was found to have an emergency condition that required transfer to the emergency room. With grave concern in his voice, he relayed the urgency of the situation to the patient through his translator, and made the arrangements for the transfer.

A few minutes later, this highly sought after pulmonary specialist met me in the hallway, energized by his clinic experience. He exclaimed, “This is a great afternoon!” He had helped patients with severe illnesses receive critical services that had typically been out of reach for them.

I thought about the experience our patients were having. Not only had God opened the door for them to receive expert care, but the specialist seeing them was excited and grateful to care for them.

Can you imagine having the privilege of seeing a doctor who walks out of your exam room following your appointment and gives a “high 5” to his colleague because he had the opportunity to care for you?

Praise God that he has sent such volunteers to serve at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic!



Endless Possibilities.

by Gary Plooster, Paul Lorentsen and David Tellez

For Kingdom minded purposes, the Clinic has acquired a home contiguous to the Clinic. As the Clinic Board made the decision for this purchase, the possibilities seemed endless. Allow us to share three of these possibilities, i.e. what could a Clinic possibly do with a home? But first about the home; it is directly adjacent to the Clinic on a lot that is zoned R3 which means it could potentially have up to three living units on one lot. It was built in 1923, is 850 sq. ft. and currently has two bedrooms. The good news is that Andrew Wong, the 2nd staff doctor with the Clinic will live in the property after the remodel project; this is really awesome! Now for the possibilities:

Possibility One: Because of its location, the property could potentially house some current Clinic functions (e.g. administrative activities) which would free up space in the Clinic to create additional exam rooms or dental suites. This is exciting to think about because the demand for dentistry is extremely high.

Possibility Two: If you read this publication regularly, you are aware of a Community Health initiative that was launched last Fall by over 30 community residents. Community Health is not a Clinic program; however, with the Clinic having a presence in the Community, we will certainly be able to have a positive impact as a resource to the community. Community Health is much like whole person care in that community residents focus on all aspects of Community Health including Spiritual healing, disease prevention, poverty alleviation, social & psychological healing as well as physical healing. Jesus is Lord over each of these areas and can bring about health in all of them. It is a tremendous blessing to have Andrew on staff and an incredible “God thing” for him to have such a great heart for whole person care and Community Health.

Possibility Three: as you know, the third aspect of the Clinic’s mission statement is “To train and equip healthcare professionals to respectfully share the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ in their daily practice.” Frankly, this aspect of the Clinic sets us apart from most other Christian clinics. Many Christian clinics care for people in the name of Jesus but few “share” Jesus while they care for



Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
February	742	78	813.5	58
March	877	79	*1001.5	65
April	779	73	774.0	40

* a new record

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Meet Alvaro Mora

My name is Alvaro Mora. I am originally from Mexico and lost my vision when I was 3 years old as result of cancer.

I came to the United States at the age of 16 not knowing English but I was determined to take advantage of my new opportunity. One of my strengths is knowledge of my native language and that encouraged me to learn English and to earn a BA degree in Spanish from ASU in 2010. Unfortunately, I had not been able to find a job which prompted me to consider the qualities that God provided me and eventually oriented towards being an interpreter in the medical field. What I have grown to appreciate is how this field will allow me to help others directly.

I am set to start classes in August to receive certification but could not wait to get started. This led me to the Clinic as a volunteer where I am making a good use of the skills that God has given me. From the start, every staff member and other volunteers have supported me in every way possible. I have interpreted most for Dr. Wong and he has been very patient and kind.

In fact, everyone at the Clinic, including volunteers and patients, are very kind. The Clinic is very special where patients not only receive medical treatment but they also receive spiritual care as well. When God blesses me with my first job, I hope to have an opportunity to share how the Clinic cares for people physically and spiritually and how they share the love of God.

Candidly, after not finding a job right after obtaining my bachelors I became frustrated. I thought I might never have an opportunity to show what I was capable of. The Clinic has afforded me that opportunity and I thank God for being the power that moves our world and for leading me to the Clinic. Whether I find a job soon or not, I know it will be in God's timing. Until then, God has me volunteering at the Clinic where I am blessed but can also be a blessing to others.



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people. This is the essence of the Spiritual Care Curriculum that we are developing with Grand Canyon University. We have had many requests from doctors, medical students, etc. from multiple places on the globe asking if they can visit for two or three months to "experience" the Clinic and to understand and to learn how we facilitate whole patient care, particularly Spiritual Care. The biggest impediment to these visits occurring has been the cost of housing and local transportation. The home "next door" solves this issue and now doctors from all over the world can come to learn about sharing Jesus in the exam room. They would then take this experience and training back to their own Clinics, thereby having a "Kingdom" impact in their practice and community.

Bonus Possibility: The bonus is that the Clinic, with the home, is now in a position to assume a greater role in an ongoing ministry of Bible study and fellowship with medical students, interns and residents. Many who have gone through this over the years now practice whole person care because of their experience. Marilyn & Dr. Paul Liu who initiated this Bible study fellowship will be leaving the Phoenix area and the Clinic is in the planning stages of assuming the responsibility of hosting these Bible studies and dinners in the Fall. This is an incredible opportunity to affect early on what healthcare professionals will do with their careers.

Each one of the above possibilities is Kingdom oriented by itself; it's exciting to think that some of each might be possible. To God be the glory!!

Footnote: through one church and a few generous donors, well over 50% of the purchase price of the home has already been received; Praise God for this! If you would like to be a part of renovation or building the additional living structure, please use the phone number or e-mail address in this issue.

Our Mission

Organized by a group of volunteer healthcare professionals, we exist simply to:

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



**The Neighborhood
Christian Clinic**

Restoring Health & Restoring Lives

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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.



Keep Current with Social Media!

Become a fan and a friend of the clinic today to receive quick updates on the Clinic!

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twitter Twitter/ChristianClinic

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.