

# The Pulse

## of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES · MARCH 2009

### A Note from the Executive Director

by Gary Plooster

As you can see in "Stats of the Clinic" below, the Clinic treated 11.1% more patients in 2008 than in 2007. On average, we turned away 125 patients per month during the last half of the year. We managed to keep expenses under budget (and less than 2007 expenses), but even then, they exceeded 2008 revenue.

Our current economic environment has reduced giving. That said, we are eternally grateful to those who continued to support the Clinic. We trust in God's provision and are not asking you to give more unless God prompts you to do so. To maintain previous levels of giving, we believe we must simply expand the number of those who support the Clinic. You can help in that regard by providing names and contact info for those who would appreciate hearing about the Clinic – just email me at [gplooster@tncclinic.org](mailto:gplooster@tncclinic.org). Please share with them what an incredible work for God is being accomplished.

#### Highlights

- 2009 is the Clinic's 10th year of seeing patients. Midyear, the Clinic will have surpassed 40,000 patient visits
- We will commemorate our 10th year with a Celebration Dinner on September 12
- An Endowment Fund will be established for estate and planned giving
- We initiated monthly Open Houses which are designed to acquaint volunteers and supporters with the Clinic's ministry. These events are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month @ 11:30AM. (RSVP for lunch appreciated).

Our needs are simple: **1)** pray that God continues to bless the Clinic and for the lives that are so incredibly touched; **2)** more volunteers to pace the patient growth; **3)** financial support.

*Now will I arise, says the Lord, because the poor are oppressed, because of the groans of the needy; I will set him in safety and in the salvation for which he pants. Psalm 12:5*

#### 2008 Revenue

Total	\$874,154
2008 Expenses	\$1,069,300
2008 Deficit	(\$195,146)

### A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

As I walked into the exam room, I recognized the familiar face of a woman that we've treated for years at our clinic. In spite of a debilitating and disfiguring arthritis, she always greets me with a warm smile. Unlike previous visits, she ignored her pressing physical needs and chose to bring me up to speed with her family situation. Her husband has struggled for years to maintain employment, and I had referred him to specialists and counselors. She cried as she revealed, for the first time, that he had begun physically abusing her already frail, broken body. A counselor had recommended that she divorce him, advising that their situation would only worsen. She understood the recommendation and the danger she faced, but told me that she had made a vow before God that she would not leave him.

Her face brightened into a glowing smile when she told me that following her husband's most recent visit to the clinic, he was a changed man. He came home smiling and speaking clearly, and sat down and listened to her for the first time in recent memory. This attitude had continued through the day of her visit, and she thanked God that He had blessed her through the clinic.

I asked her about her arthritis, which had left her with useless, rigid wrists and spindly, weak fingers, but she wanted to say more. "Doctor," she said with deeply grateful eyes, "without this clinic, I would be dead!" Not knowing how to respond, I carefully took her hands and prayed a prayer of thanksgiving to Jesus, asking him to protect her and heal her.

Please pray that God will continue to use this clinic for His Kingdom!

### The Good Samaritan

by Dr. David Tellez, President of the Board

Many times we breeze through the reading of the story of the Good Samaritan and think it is a wonderful example for someone else but it doesn't apply to us. In our everyday walk we probably don't come across someone who has major medical and financial needs. We may not see the need to help those that can't afford their own care.

Read Luke 10:33-35 and see what Jesus said as he described what "loving your neighbor as yourself" looked like...

*A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, "Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back."*



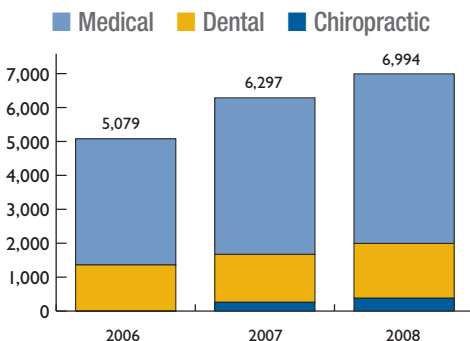
#### Helping Our Neighbors

The man's first need was for medical care to treat his physical needs. Secondly was the financial need to "take good care of him." The Good Samaritan didn't just bandage the neighbor's wounds, he made sure that he would be cared for until he was able to get on his own two feet again.

As you know, that is what we do daily at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic. Our neighbors come to the Clinic to have their physical and often, spiritual needs met, by those serving at the Clinic.

Through your support, whether that be volunteering, praying, or giving financially, we are able to meet the needs of our neighbors. "Love your neighbor as yourself" – thank you for helping us do that daily at the Clinic.

#### Patient Visits



The Neighborhood  
Christian Clinic

Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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