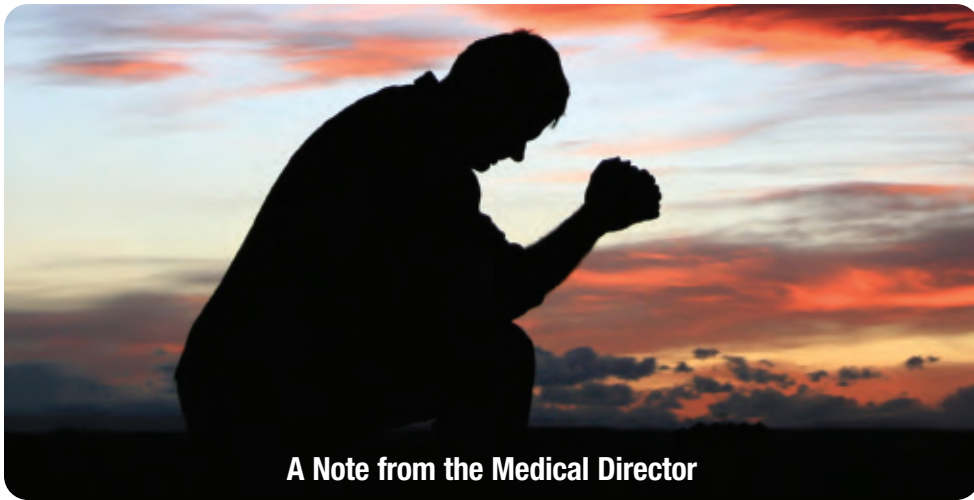


# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 1ST QUARTER 2010



## A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

Looking back on my first visit with Mario five years ago, I really didn't expect him to do well. In contrast to the typical hardworking, energetic male patients I usually see, Mario was unmarried, 28 years old and living with his mother. He had recently been verbally abusive towards her, and his social worker had insisted that he come to our clinic. The list of psychiatric medicines he was taking explained his dull, expressionless appearance. The agreement was simple. I would help him with his general medical needs, and he would continue to see his psychologist and psychiatrist through the state sponsored program that also provided his psychiatric medications. He accepted prayer prior to leaving the clinic that day.

As the years went by, Mario lived up to my expectations in many ways—in the odd jobs he took, and the unemployment between those stints, in the smoking habit, and later the methamphetamine addiction and the inpatient stays in rehabilitation programs that followed. Once during a psychotic delusion, he swung his fist violently towards a voice that taunted him, lacerating his hand. Mario stopped attending church, ashamed of his addiction and his life.

During one of his many visits, in addition to our time spent in prayer, I had shared the gospel with Mario. I hadn't seen any response. Shortly afterwards, Mario came in suffering from depression. His grandfather had died,

and Mario told me that he had been a Christian. We prayed some more.

Last week, our friend returned. He had relapsed again on crystal meth, and had just completed another stay in rehab. His face appeared tired, and his eyes were half shut from the combined effects of multiple psychiatric medications and fatigue. We caught up on his medical care, and then I asked him how he was doing.

He surprised me when he said, "You know, doc, I have these demons." Realizing that these may be more than hallucinations, I asked him what he did to respond to the demons. With eyes now clear and open, he said, "I pray to Jehovah God in the name of Jesus Christ." I was in awe. He went on to say that he was learning about prayer and had been seeking God. He said he had been experiencing an eagerness to learn more about God, and a new hope for his future.

As we closed our visit, as usual, I offered to pray. Mario was eager for prayer, but asked if he could be the one that led the prayer. I wish I could describe for you the amazement I felt as this hardened, scarred outcast prayed an honest, heartfelt prayer to Jesus.

Mario is rising above my expectations, because God is drawing him into a trusting relationship. Please pray that our Lord continues to work through the clinic to bring his children back to himself.

## Healthcare "Reform"

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

We are certainly in the midst of interesting economic times coupled with intense polarization on healthcare. Because the Clinic provides healthcare to the uninsured working poor, we are often asked what affect healthcare reform will have on the Clinic. Our only response can be "we don't know" because we don't know all the nuances of the healthcare bill that just passed.

Nor do we know the outcome of the petitions of appeal many, many states have or intend to file. We do know that in early March, Arizona legislature budget cuts ended a healthcare program for 47,000 low income children and removed 310,000 working poor adults from state funded healthcare. The result is that now more than 20% of Arizona residents do not have health insurance and actual healthcare reform takes effect in 2014.

We also know that Christ told us the poor and needy will always be with us and for us to have compassion on them. By the grace of God, the Clinic compassionately provides healthcare for the needy while sharing the Truth of the Gospel.

We are grateful to all who are part of the Clinic's ministry – through volunteer as well as financial support. Each is an equally critical component. Without one or the other, Christ-centered, compassionate care could not be delivered.

*Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him! He said, "There's one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me." - Mark 10:21*

## Spiritual Care

Prayer requests have been posted to our web site at [TheChristianClinic.org](http://TheChristianClinic.org). These requests come from our prayer "box" in the Clinic's waiting room. If you are inclined to do so, please join us in praying for these situations and that God will work in the lives of those we care for.

## Thinking About Estate Planning?

*Please keep the our Endowment in mind.*

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 Corner

### My Experience at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

By Teresa Stenoien

I was born in Maine and am the oldest of eight children. Because my father served in the Air Force, we lived in many different places like New York, France, Morocco, Nebraska, and California. At the age of ten, through the example of my mother and Sunday school teacher, I accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Savior.

While I was in high school, I realized Christ wanted to be my Lord as well as my Savior. Jesus wanted to have a relationship with me – a moment by moment walk. I attended college in Oregon and felt God leading me to foreign missions. After receiving my teaching degree, I taught for a few years in the States. I taught in a school for missionary children in Madrid, Spain for 17 years. Then, I returned to the States for further education. After obtaining my nursing degree, I served in the Gambia, West Africa for four years.

Currently, I am on furlough in the States and will return to Africa in July. I learned of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic when I was in nursing school and was able to volunteer before I went to Africa. Now, I am able to volunteer each week. I thank God for allowing me to be a part of it and for all those who make this wonderful ministry possible.



*Delight yourself in the Lord,  
and he will give you the desires of your heart.*

*Commit your way to the Lord;  
trust in him, and he will act.*

Psalm 37: 4 & 5

#### Clinic Stats

Patient Visits		Volunteers		Hours
December	649	December	94	746.0
January	711	January	103	770.1
February	691	February	94	735.9

NOTE: Patient visits up 5% from last year. Clinic Visits to date: 46,073

#### TNCC: 2009 Year in Review

- 10th Anniversary Year & Celebration Dinner
- 40,000 patient visits in May
- 8,029 patient visits for year (up 14.8%)
- Dental visits up 21.2%
- 7,511 volunteer hours (up 29.4%)
- First month over 700 visits
- First month over 700 volunteer hours
- Monthly Open Houses established
- Dental Director established fulltime
- Cindy McCain & Governor Brewer visited
- Established Endowment Fund
- Cost per patient down 15%
- 80 new volunteers added
- Added two new Board members
- Expanded Board potential size to 21
- Implemented online volunteer scheduling
- Created relationship with Light Charities for six pediatric surgeries in 2009

#### Keep Current with Social Media

The Clinic posts updates, news, pictures and information at both Facebook and Twitter. Become a fan and a friend today!

 The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

 Twitter/ChristianClinic

#### 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](mailto: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.



## Meet Two New Board Members

**Scott Brubaker:** Formerly with the Diamondbacks as Director of Sales, Marketing and PR including oversight of the Diamondback Foundation, Scott is currently engaged in a private consulting enterprise. Scott and Kristen live in Arcadia and are proud parents of four children that are high school and college age

**Paul Liu, M.D.:** Paul was a charter Board member and is rejoining the Board after a five year hiatus. Paul has been an Intensivist at Phoenix Children's Hospital for over 25 years and among many other things is the Board Chair for METS. He and Marilyn are proud parents of two high school age children.

*Welcome gentlemen!!!*

*Thank you for your willingness to serve.*

Beginning with 2010, the Board of Directors expanded the number of Board positions available as well as formalizing a committee structure to oversee many Board and Clinic activities. If you are interested in becoming involved with the Board or Board activities, contact Gary Plooster via e-mail: [gplooster@tnccclinic.org](mailto:gplooster@tnccclinic.org) or 602.254.0445.

#### Clinic Revenue & Expenses (through 2/10)

Year to Date Revenue	\$	80,552.58
Year to Date Expenses		138,314.81
Deficit	\$	(57,762.23)



### The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

*Restoring Health • Restoring Lives*

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602 258 6008 x 717

[gplooster@tnccclinic.org](mailto:gplooster@tnccclinic.org)  
[www.TheChristianClinic.org](http://www.TheChristianClinic.org)

#### Clinic Hours of Operation

Monday and Thursday noon – 9 pm  
Tuesday and Fridays 8 am – 5 pm

#### Volunteer Shifts:

**Monday** 12:30 – 5 pm and 6 – 9 pm  
**Tuesday** 8:30 – noon and 12:30 – 5 pm  
**Thursday** 12:30 – 5 pm and 6 – 9 pm  
**Friday** 8:30 – noon and 12:30 – 5 pm