

# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • MARCH 2016

## God Provides.

by Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

A new lump is discovered, the biopsy is done, and the diagnosis is breast cancer. This is a surgical emergency, right? Nope, at least not according to most hospital systems. What about women who have gynecologic bleeding with severe anemia uncorrected by hormonal treatment and iron? Again, no. Oh, so then patients with painful hernias and inflamed gallbladders are probably not rushed to surgery either, right? Exactly. For years, our uninsured patients would go to the ER with these conditions, only to leave with a referral to a surgeon who requires a large cash payment prior to evaluation and a costly bill from the ER.

As each new patient shared their stories with us, we would begin the long process of helping them receive surgery. After months of calls to surgeons, business managers at surgicenters, and anesthesia groups, many patients received surgery, while others continued to wait. We even considered building a surgicenter. We began to pray as a clinic for God to provide for these patients. And God demonstrated his faithfulness by providing abundantly.

### His Provision

Rather than open one door to surgery, He opened many doors. A general surgeon arranged to have patients receive outpatient surgery for a very small fee paid to the hospital. A volunteer gynecologist led an effort resulting in the opportunity for our patients to receive surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital



and initiated a surgery fund to cover the discounted charges. Other surgeons stepped forward, handling cases themselves without requiring us to make the operating room arrangements. And our original volunteer surgeon, who had operated at no charge on many of our patients in the past, negotiated with Arrowhead Hospital to allow our surgeons to use their operating rooms at a steep discount, even for those patients that would need an overnight stay.

Yesterday, a patient that I have known for years came in for his post-operative appointment. His face glowed as he expressed heartfelt thankfulness for our care and for the surgeon that spent hours operating on

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## 2015 in Review.

by Gary Flooster, Executive Director

Before we completely put 2015 behind us, there are some noteworthy things to share; a few things we can measure and a few intangibles that we pray will positively impact God's Kingdom.

### Things we can measure for 2015:

- 1) 9,184 patient visits (up 4%);
- 2) 84 new volunteers were added;
- 3) 8,346 volunteer hours contributed to help care for the uninsured and to share the Gospel and love of Christ with patients.

Plus, we established a Surgery Fund which has received funding from some gracious donors. We continued our surgical relationship with Arrowhead Hospital and established one with St. Joseph's Hospital; both allow for in-patient surgeries which we have prayed for over the years.

### Train and Equip "the next generation"

There were also things which are less measurable but will likely have a positive impact in God's Kingdom. The Clinic's Board has often prayed for opportunities to train and equip "the next generation" of healthcare professionals to dedicate their lives to serving Christ with their education and training. There has long been a vision to disciple, mentor and train healthcare students to use their education and training to serve Christ with their lives after graduation. We want each student to see themselves as a Christian who happens to be a doctor rather than a doctor who happens to be a Christian – *a very big difference.*

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### Current Clinic Stats

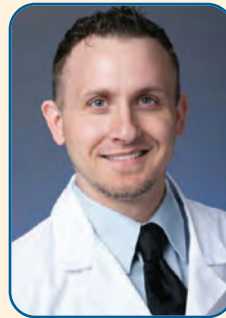
|     | Patient Visits | Volunteers | Hours | Turn Aways |
|-----|----------------|------------|-------|------------|
| Nov | 616            | 104        | 659.9 | 43         |
| Dec | 670            | 102        | 726.4 | 23         |
| Jan | 733            | 84         | 755.3 | 60         |

## Meet Ryan Martin PT, DPT

I was drawn to healthcare by a deep desire to help people and at the Clinic I am able to help provide assistance and relief to many. When volunteering at the Clinic, it is my hope to continue the bridge that exists between excellent medical care and a functional rehabilitation program. I am blessed to be able to volunteer twice a month with a focused attention on corrective exercises and posture awareness hoping someday that a progressive home program can be developed.

The Clinic has really touched my life with its faith based, whole person approach to healthcare. I witnessed firsthand how a patient who could not walk without assistance improved incredibly to a point of walking. After two or three visits to the Clinic, we worked with this patient's family who became involved with the therapy and learned how to activate his muscles at home and actually do his therapy for him away from the Clinic. What joy and love there is in this community.

The humble nature and the very appreciative spirit of Clinic patients makes volunteering at the Clinic a rich and rewarding experience. It is such a blessing to see how God works through so many people in order to bless so many others. I feel blessed to be part of something that so positively impacts people's lives. I receive far more in return than what I am ever able to offer.



*"God Provides" from front*

him. He also shared how his daughter was pleading with him to come to her church with her. He said, "Doctor Paul, after what has been done for me through the Clinic, I really feel like I should attend your church." I encouraged him to join his daughter in attending the healthy church that she had discovered in their neighborhood, and to demonstrate his gratefulness to God by living a life of faithfulness to his family and service to his community.

I praise you God, because you are able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine!

*"2015 in Review" from front*

It is very exciting to share that in 2015 we entered into formal relationships with three universities for students to do clinical rotations at the Clinic; 1) Grand Canyon University for Nurse Practitioner rotations; 2) University of Arizona Medical School for medical student rotations; and, 3) Arizona State University School of Nursing for nursing student rotations. Students have some degree of choice in where they do rotations; it is exciting that each rotation student thus far has chosen the Clinic because of our patient demographic but more importantly because of the Clinic's faith based approach to whole person healthcare.

Students complete their rotation requirement with a more thorough understanding of whole person care and how to deliver it; but, more importantly with a renewed energy to serve Christ with their lives and chosen career in healthcare. It's exciting to think about what the future holds for these students as they strive to not only care for patients in the name of Jesus but also share Jesus while providing care.

*My little children,  
let us not love in word  
or in tongue, but in  
deed and in truth.*

1 John 3:18



## Obedient to Serve, Pray and Give...



Before the first patient was seen (who by the way still comes) the Clinic was blessed by many, many volunteers, prayer warriors, and by those who were faithful stewards with financial support. It is encouraging to witness when those who were here on opening night still come to volunteer; but it is also inspiring to receive notes of affirmation from many, many of those who continue to pray for blessing upon and for God's Spirit to be at work in the Clinic's ministry. But, it is humbling to receive regular, ongoing financial support from hundreds and hundreds of people who God has prompted to give; and... to give faithfully. God's grace has truly been upon the Clinic.

Though not involved from the outset, the Board of Visitors has been faithful with awarding several grants to the Clinic; the most recent one was in January. It is wonderful to have such partnerships in caring for the uninsured, underserved; we are blessed to be associated with the Board of Visitors.

### 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.



## The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

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