

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 3RD QUARTER 2009

Celebration Dinner

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

The Clinic's 10th Anniversary Dinner was a wonderful event. Feedback from those who attended has been extremely positive. It is our prayer that Christ was honored and that the evening brought glory to him and no one else. It was the Clinic's first such event, with 427 friends in attendance. The program ran a little longer than planned but nonetheless was wonderful. We hope you enjoy the pictures in this issue of *The Pulse* as well as those posted on our website and Facebook.

Trusting that God has a plan, we give thanks for the funds received at the dinner. We had hoped to raise a larger amount but are very grateful for and appreciative of those who financially supported the Clinic's ministry that evening. Your gifts will definitely have a positive impact on the lives of many who are in need. If you did not, please consider giving so that the critical ministry of the Clinic may thrive without any curtailment of services or reduction in the number of patient visits.



Dr. Kimmel, our emcee for the evening, shared with everyone that God was not in heaven wringing his hands over the finances of the Clinic nor is he worried about raising money. In the wake of those comments, George Barna challenged us with Jesus' health-care plan, i.e. to heal **Whoever** is sick; **Whenever** they're sick; of **Whatever** they have; **Wherever** they are. What a plan! What an inspiration!

Perhaps as a result, many committed to support the Clinic through volunteer efforts that evening. For some, it was a new commitment while for others it was a renewed or increased commitment. It is very encouraging for myself and the Clinic staff, as well as for other volunteers, that there was such a response to the prompting of the Spirit. Bless you!

In part, the dinner was a celebration of what God had done during the previous ten years. But, we had also hoped to communicate the Clinic's mission & vision and to raise awareness for the need of prayer, volunteers and financial support.

It was an honor to be in the room with so many faithful and loyal friends of TNCC. It is my prayer that God blesses and works through the Clinic during the next ten years as we continue to care for "the least of these."



A Note from the Medical Director

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

My medical training didn't prepare me for the story I was about to hear. My patient had a headache, and I asked the usual questions to screen the patient for a medical cause of her pain. It would have been easy to attribute her symptoms to sinusitis, but God wanted me to know more. As I asked her about her home life, she confessed that she would erupt in anger on a frequent basis, often when her headache was severe. Her seven year old daughter was crying about the verbal attacks she was receiving.

Probing further, the patient revealed that her father had left the family when she was young, and her mother had died during surgery when she was only five. She had been left to be raised by her aunt, who was herself suffering from chronic depression. As a young child, my patient became depressed and angry, and the headaches soon followed. Later came years of drug use.

By God's grace, she was introduced to the Lord seven years ago, and received Jesus as Lord of her life. He freed her from the drugs, but she continued to struggle with anger and depression. Now she was seeking my advice.

I had the opportunity to treat her medically, but also to pray with her and refer her to a counselor. When she returned two weeks later, the smile on her face lit up the room. She had not yet seen the counselor, and it was too soon for the medication to have improved her psychiatric symptoms. By God's power, she was experiencing His hope and peace. She shared that her daughter was thankful that her mother was kind to her again, and her depression had resolved. We together gave thanks to God for healing her from years of suffering.

The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

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Tax Credit Page

Current Arizona tax code allows for charitable donations of up to \$400 per married taxpayer filing jointly and up to \$200 per taxpayer filing as single to be deducted to a qualifying charity and returned to the taxpayer not as a deduction but as a credit!

*Taxpayers living in Arizona have the unique opportunity to actually redirect a portion of the state tax dollars they already pay into charitable channels at no additional financial cost to themselves!

Great News! The Arizona Tax Credit for the working poor has done away with the baseline year requirement. This means anyone who itemizes can take advantage of redirecting your tax dollars to TNCC. For more information go to TheChristianClinic.org - Tell your friends!

Volunteer Corner

Dr. Steve Hoshiwara

I have been married for 25 years and we have five children from 10 to 27 (we count a niece as our daughter since we raised her through her adolescent years!). I am a semi-native, having lived here over 40 years. I found salvation at the age of seven so I've had the "boring but wonderful" Christian upbringing. I've practiced in the Valley for over 20 years and in Scottsdale for the past 15. We attend Covenant Community Church and have been there the past seven years.

I had heard about The Neighborhood Christian Clinic from a number of sources, including through our church and I've had a desire to work in the inner city ever since medical school. But, with a full practice I had great difficulty finding the time to be able to volunteer. I have been searching the past several years for an opportunity to start a mobile medical clinic to the inner city and God presented me an option about a year ago. It seemed more wise to plug into an already existing structure that is participating in this type of ministry than to start from scratch. I am extremely excited to be serving in this capacity.

I have always enjoyed being able to share with patients because "soul medicine" lasts so much longer than prescriptions and of course I always get more out than I put in. Last week, Paul was talking about praising God and I see that in patients all the time who, in spite of their situations, have joy in their heart. Their praise comes not from their circumstances but from their relationship with God and that is so inspiring. Habakkuk 3:17-19

Clinic Stats

| Patient Visits | | Volunteers | | Hours |
|----------------|-----|------------|----|-------|
| June | 673 | June | 87 | 702.7 |
| July | 699 | July | 89 | 658.1 |
| August | 696 | August | 90 | 638.4 |

We are up 16% in patient visits over last year and we had 34 new volunteers in the 2nd quarter of this year!

Chiropractic Care at TNCC

*by Arlan W. Fuhr, D. C.,
Board Member / Chiropractic Director*

More than five years ago, TNCC added a Chiropractic Clinic. I volunteered to serve as the Director and began treating patients in the lunch room at the old location using a portable adjusting table. The service has grown so much that we now have dedicated space in the new Clinic, four volunteer chiropractors on our team, and patient visits have reached nearly 400 annually.

Because of the cooperative nature of all health care providers who serve the clinic, our chiropractic team has integrated with the staff with ease. We have been able to fill a very important role as we provide relief to patients with neuro-musculoskeletal problems.

We continue to grow our service and intend to add additional Chiropractic Clinic time in the evenings. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the "whole person" care of the Clinic and to help so many patients. It is a pleasure to work collaboratively with the outstanding professionals and volunteers affiliated with TNCC.



Endowment Established!

Just recently, the Board of Directors unanimously agreed to establish an Endowment fund to be managed by the Arizona Community Foundation. This action has been taken during the economic turmoil and intense, national debate over healthcare. The Board believes such a fund is necessary for the long term future of the Clinic and its vital ministry in the community.

The endowment is a restricted pool of monies invested long-term with the intent of using the interest and dividends to help support the operating budget of the Clinic. To endow the Clinic with such a fund is a long term proposition and the Directors felt the process had to be initiated. In fact, Board members provided initial funding personally.

Interested? Please contact Gary Plooster for more information 602 245-0445. *Please consider supporting the Clinic in a lasting way by contributing to the Endowment Fund.*

The Clinic posts updates, news, pictures and information at both Facebook and Twitter.

[facebook](#) The Neighborhood Christian Clinic
[twitter](#) Twitter/ChristianClinic

A Note from the Dental Director

by Dr. Gina Thorley

Hello, my name is Regina Delgado-Thorley and I am the Dental Director at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic. Around the clinic I am known as "Dr. Gina." I feel that I am truly blessed to have the opportunity to work and serve at TNCC. On a daily basis I get to witness incredible acts of compassion and dedication by the staff and volunteers at the clinic. It's truly amazing to see the difference that is being made and the way that the Lord is working in the community in which we serve.



I feel very passionate about providing quality healthcare to the working poor and underserved. While there are other clinics that try to address the needs of the underserved, I feel especially fortunate to work a clinic that addresses not only the physical needs of patients, but their spiritual needs as well. What a unique experience and awesome opportunity to be able to pray with a patient and to speak with them about the Lord. I truly believe that I benefit just as much as the patients do at TNCC.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support for the clinic!

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



**The Neighborhood
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Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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