

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 4TH QUARTER 2010

Pray For My Family

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

As a medical clinic in urban Phoenix, we are busily providing care for people with all sorts of medical problems. From high blood pressure to hives, from influenza to ingrown toenails, we are daily challenged by the complexity of the medical problems experienced by our patients. As we treat these diseases, we know that although pain or fever often prompts the patient to seek medical care, each person has spiritual needs as well, and we want to be ready to address each issue that our patients face.

Walking into the exam room, I was warmly greeted by a young man who had difficulty rising to shake my hand. Observing his swollen legs that were covered with numerous abrasions, I imagined he was in tremendous pain. He had walked for miles, and was told that he could receive inexpensive medical care at our clinic. I expected that he would ask me for pain medicine, and possibly an injection to relieve his symptoms, so I began my medical interview.

To my surprise, he quickly brushed off my medical questions. "Doctor," he said, "I really need your help! I need you to pray for my family!"

I have had patients begin their appointments by asking me to help them understand the Bible, and others begin by literally asking me how they can know God. But to my recollection, this is the first patient that understood that prayer should come first in a medical visit, because our Lord is sovereign over all of our needs; physical, social, and spiritual. Amazed, I grabbed his hand, and we prayed together for his family and his health, and thanked God for his provision. Thank you, Father, for revealing truth through this young man's desire for prayer.



Counting Our Blessings

by Carol McCourt, Administrator

Looking back on the Clinic's first eleven years I am amazed at how the Lord has provided...often before we knew we had a need! Below are a few of many examples of how God worked in situations to create the beautiful Clinic of today:

- The card table reception desk was replaced with beautiful modular furniture donated by a physician who closed his practice.
- Old carpet, held together by duct tape, was replaced with vinyl by a local flooring contractor at no charge.
- Heat and hot water were wish items the first winter. Patients shivering from the cold were given sweaters from the clothing bank for warmth. Portable space heaters were rewarded with blown fuses. The Lord brought two retired electricians to re-wire the building and install window heating/AC units along with a hot water heater - for free.
- One hot summer, the A/C units did not work. Rather than close, we directed patients to a nearby church which served as a waiting room. Patients were called by cell phone to come when the provider was ready.
- Patients jokingly referred to us as the Bingo Clinic. Often 60 patients would be in line for an evening clinic. Who arrived first?! Paul suggested we follow biblical direction and draw straws. We told all patients to arrive at 6 pm to receive a bingo number. Within 30 minutes bingo balls were selected and typically eight patients could be seen.
- As we considered a new building, the Lord's blessing poured out via, e.g. architectural talent, computer and telecom equipment; furnishings and financial blessings that allowed us to move in debt free!
- Returning from a Health conference, I was led by the Lord to talk to fellow travellers and forsake my novel. As I waited, a woman began talking to me. She worked for a Christian philanthropic organization and donated \$50,000 for our dental program!

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Christmas Hope

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director



Thanksgiving provides an opportunity to think about and be thankful for the many things we are blessed with.

Often at this time we think of family, friends, possessions, health, jobs, freedom, etc.

Christmas on the other hand gives us an opportunity to consider and celebrate the incredible hope God provided to the world through the gift of His son Jesus – something to be really thankful for. In fact, to some degree, it renders the aforementioned things meaningless. It is my prayer that each who read this take some time this season to fully appreciate what true hope is and then share it with others.

As a father of four sons, I marvel at the fact that God sent such incredible hope into the world as a baby boy and I often wonder what Jesus was like when he was growing up fully human and fully divine. Did he whine at having to stop play; grovel for an extra moment when going to bed; was he sleepy when he woke up? All interesting to ponder; but one thing is true - He submitted to His Father; obedient even in death. He arrived as a baby yet remains Lord – do you believe this?

Hope – what an incredible word!

What a powerful thing!! What do you place your hope in? I believe I've learned much about hope through my association with the Clinic. In many ways, the Clinic's existence, through staff, volunteers, friends and donors and by the grace of God, provides hope to a community that in many ways doesn't have any. Through God's mercy, the Clinic provides reason for medical hope to many. But, the real ministry is to all year long provide the hope that we celebrate at Christmas.

By all means, give glory to the birth of a King; but, above all, share and spread that hope with others as you consider what it means to you!
Have a blessed Christmas



Volunteer Corner

My Experience at The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

By Joe Martinez

Since 2007, I have been privileged to volunteer as a Spanish interpreter at the clinic. As an Arizona native, I am the youngest of three children. My parents came to the United States from Mexico, so I was fortunate to grow up bi-lingual. My older sister also volunteers as an interpreter at the clinic.

When volunteering, I think of Mathew 25:34-40 and see the patients as those mentioned by Jesus in the verses. Also, seeing the way the patients demonstrate their trust in God is encouraging to me.

My experience at the clinic has been a strong influence in my decision to practice spiritual care with my future patients. Ever since I was young, I wanted to be a doctor. Dr. Paul summarized it best when he said, "you're learning an approach to patient care that you are unlikely to learn elsewhere" it is truly whole person care! I attended college at ASU and graduate school in Philadelphia during which time I participated in various medical mission trips to Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras utilizing my Spanish. I then trained to become a Spanish medical interpreter which allowed me to find employment combining my medical background and bi-lingual skills while preparing for medical school.

Currently, I am completing a master's program at Midwestern University in Glendale, and am applying for admission to medical school for the 2011 class. My hope is to continue volunteering at the Neighborhood Christian Clinic or a similar clinic during medical school.

Regards,
Joe Martinez



Clinic Stats

Patient Visits		Volunteers		
				Hours
September	624	September	78	490.0
October	633	October	78	538.3
November	611	November	77	513.5

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. 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.

Thinking About Estate Planning? 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.

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- Most recently, God brought Magellan who will assess the Clinic's technology for HIPPA compliance – also for free! They will write security manuals and will assess hardware and server security.

The list goes on & on. Praise God for the Clinic He raised up and for the way He continues to work miracles as it grows.

Free Flu Clinic: On December 9, in conjunction with Maricopa County, the Clinic hosted a day of free flu vaccinations for the community. The Clinic provided the facility and one volunteer while the County provided all the vaccinations and administration. In addition, the County donated over 200 doses of vaccinations for all age levels to be given to any Clinic patient who asks. To promote the event, a video was produced at the Clinic in November with 2008 Olympic Gold medalist Henry Cejudo. Henry is very active in the Phoenix Hispanic community and is the youngest gold medalist in Olympic wrestling history. The County promoted the event and Telemundo broadcasted the video daily leading up to the Clinic.

Clinic Revenue & Expenses (through October)

Year to Date Revenue	\$ 679,351
Year to Date Expenses	727,355
Deficit	\$ 48,004

"Giving Without Giving"

Tax Credit

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 for a qualifying charity and returned to the taxpayer not as a deduction but as a credit. *Note: there is no longer a separate year classification!*

↳ Taxpayers filing 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!

This is the time of year when most people are thinking about supporting their favorite charities. But, for most, times are tough! If you live in Arizona, did you know that you can "give without giving"? What is true for the Public School Tax Credit and the Private School Tax Credit is also true for the Working Poor Tax Credit for charities such as The Neighborhood Christian Clinic.

For many, handling their finances and their tax obligation is a matter of stewardship. What better stewardship is there than to give your tax dollars to a qualifying charity rather than to the state. Dollar for dollar, your tax liability is reduced by what you donate (up to the limits below).

	Individual	Couple
Working Poor	\$ 200	\$ 400
Private School	\$ 500	\$1,000
Public School	\$ 200	\$ 400
Combined Total	\$ 900	\$1,800

The Bonus: you can take advantage of all three tax credits simultaneously each year AND, your donation may be deductible on your federal returns. If you have already given to the Clinic this year, don't forget the credit when you file your Arizona returns. If you have yet to give, please consider a donation of at least \$400 - **IT WON'T COST YOU A THING.**

For information visit: www.azdor.gov.
Donate online at: TheChristianClinic.org or download a form to mail-in.



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