

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • DECEMBER 2019

Reflection and Celebration

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

On Saturday, November 9, under a clear cool night sky, I stood at a podium in the parking lot of our clinic and looked out at the crowd that had gathered to celebrate the clinic's 20th anniversary. Under large tents, beautiful tables with floral centerpieces were illuminated by candles, and well-dressed guests were awaiting a wonderful dinner that was warming on buffet tables behind them. I had already had conversations with many of these guests, including some who had inspired and supported us in the earliest years of the clinic's formation. I realized that many in attendance had not experienced those humble beginnings of the clinic; they have been blessed to experience the well-equipped facility that is the current home of the clinic. I shared with the group how our first facility was an old two flat apartment on McDowell Road across from the county fairgrounds. In our time there, we upgraded the building by adding hot water, radiant space heaters, and window air conditioners that often tripped the circuit breakers. We dreamed of a better-equipped medical facility that would accommodate our increasing number of patients and volunteers and provide space for lab testing and medications. I didn't imagine that this new facility would land on this site, which at the time was covered with piles of broken concrete, shattered glass and twisted rebar.

But God had plans that were difficult for me to envision at the time. That forgotten industrial site would become the Neighborhood Center, and our beautiful new clinic building would become its centerpiece. This site that could



have been considered to be a miserable example of urban blight became a thriving center of healthcare activities.

One Thursday evening in October, I was struck by the growth in services that God had provided through this new site. As I sat at our conference table in the center of the clinic, two volunteer doctors were reviewing charts for the patients they were about to see. Also at our conference table was one of our experienced volunteer nurses who was orienting three new volunteer nurses to begin serving at the clinic. Near the reception area, our diabetic educator was providing one-on-one training in home diabetes care. Occupying most of the rooms in the back of the clinic was a team of 10 optometrists and optometry students from Midwestern University who were examining patients for ocular disease and preparing to dispense new glasses. Separately, our staff doctor had stayed late to order mammograms for patients who walked in seeking the discounted mammograms that are available during the month of

continued on back

Hope for the Next Year

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

Dr. Lorentsen's article in this issue references the fact that on Saturday, November 9, we celebrated 20 Years of God's blessings upon the Clinic; he has indeed been gracious and generous with his provision. If you attended that evening, thank you for helping us celebrate.

Enjoy the pictures on the Clinic's website.

In his article, Paul went on to poignantly depict one particularly busy Thursday evening in October on which staff and volunteers served side by side to care for patients in many different ways. Undoubtedly, this brings glory to God. Candidly, many clinical shifts are like that one. Many patients were cared for that evening; however, in reality, we still turn away about 122 patients each month who seek and need care. Simply stated, we do not have the capacity to meet the demand.

Patients Turned Away

Average # of patients turned away each month due to lack of capacity.

| 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|------|------|------|
| 67 | 92 | 122 |

For this reason, we hope to open three additional clinic shifts in 2020 allowing us to be open six days each week. We are grateful for each donor and volunteer and for the way they support the Clinic with their God given time and wealth. The Clinic's Board is praying that year-end giving this year increases in comparison to previous years. Without reluctance, we ask for your continued support but also ask that you consider increasing your support this year. It would help us care for the ever-increasing number of patients who are in desperate need of care.

As you prepare to celebrate the birth of our Savior, please consider increasing your support of the Clinic. Many in need would be blessed by your generosity.

Merry Christmas!

Current Clinic Stats

| | Patient Visits | Volunteers | Hours | Turn Aways |
|-----------|----------------|------------|--------|------------|
| August | 802 | 131 | 1015.9 | 177 |
| September | 855 | 131 | 979.1 | 134 |
| October | 883 | 162 | 1098.5 | 59 |



Volunteer Corner: Tina Allen

My husband and I have known the founders of the Neighborhood Christian Clinic for over 20 years, and were privileged to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the clinic so many years ago. Occasionally we would join a forum event, and we participated in the 10th anniversary celebration as well. A few years later, we were able to begin supporting the Clinic financially; but, as we both were working full time and raising our children, volunteering was never an option.

Recently, I retired after 31 years from an administrative position with Maricopa County. I was eager to find a place to volunteer where I could serve and enjoy a sense of community on a regular basis. Though I am not in the medical field, nor is my Spanish that stellar, I spoke again to my friend involved in the clinic; she assured me that my skills could be put to use. I have been volunteering at the Clinic about five months and I am happy to share what a wonderful experience it has been. The Clinic is such a beautiful example of God's hands and feet at work. I serve as an administrative assistant, work in the medication room, stock medications, input data on the computer and any filing and research that is necessary. It is a joy to work with such humble and happy people. They minister to the uninsured and underserved in our community while demonstrating and sharing the love of Christ in a personal and meaningful way.

Each time a volunteer doctor or nurse looks at me and says, "Are you a Pharmacist or a Nurse?" I laugh and say: "No, I'm an English Literature major!" Clearly, God can use anyone who is willing just to show up. Come join me; Jesus will bless you and you will make new friends.



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October at a local facility. Afterwards, he would be meeting with an ASU student who is doing a research project through the clinic. Nurses were preparing to accomplish testing in the laboratory and draw up medications for injection. Volunteers in the fully stocked medication dispensary were labelling medications and insulin to be dispensed to our patients, and the clinic-wide electronic health record was utilized to document all of these activities. On the other side of the building, dental care was in full swing, with four dental suites waiting to receive patients coming in for hygiene care.

And what do I often spend so much of my time doing? Instead of celebrating God's blessings, I'm lamenting the lack of other currently unavailable resources that I believe would help my patients. Yes, it's my job to try to help our patients obtain all the medical resources that they need, but God calls on us to praise him for his blessings and to trust him with our futures. When we reflect on how he's met our needs in the past, and how he knows each of our days before any of them come to pass, should we have any doubt that he will richly provide for us in the future? Instead, let's celebrate what God has done, and remember Paul's words to the Philippians: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus."

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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.



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|-------------------|------------|--------|
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www.TheChristianClinic.org

Meet Dr. Hoyner

Earlier this year, Richard Hoyner, DDS became the Clinic's half time Dental Director. Effective January 1 he will join the Clinic fulltime in that capacity. Richard is a strong Christian who has a wealth of experience. He graduated from the University of Michigan ("Go Blue!") and earned his dental degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago Medical Center. After graduation, he immediately started a practice in the small town of Gaylord, MI. After 30 years in practice, his two sons have grown and followed in dad's footsteps by becoming general dentistry practice owners as well.



After moving to Arizona in 2011, Dr. Hoyner contributed to his profession as a dental instructor and as an associate dentist and administrator of a private practice. Richard had volunteered at the Clinic since 2016 and thoroughly appreciated being able to connect his professional skills with his faith by providing Christ centered care to patients.

Dr. Hoyner enjoys spending time with his wife Linda, being "grandpa," reading, serving his church and exploring Arizona's beauty by hiking and biking local trails.

Dr. Hoyner looks forward to the possibility of opening three additional dental clinic shifts once funding is secured. He certainly has the energy to help recruit additional dental volunteer professionals to help operate those shifts. It is a blessing to have him as part of the team.

Thinking About Your Legacy?

Join others who have decided to help secure the Clinic's future for the uninsured and underserved through their estate plan. "Please contact the Clinic (602.254.0445) or the Arizona Community Foundation (602.381.1400) about the Clinic's Endowment.



The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

Restoring Health • Restoring Lives

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