

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • FEBRUARY 2014

Grateful Hearts

by Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

What thought comes to mind when you hear the news that a 40 year old friend has had a heart attack? Probably something like “How could this happen, he is so young!” Or possibly “How is his wife going to manage now, with no income and young children?” As a medical doctor, I watch families walk through these crises on an ongoing basis. Some families respond with fear or bitterness, but others demonstrate an amazing degree of trust in the Father.



Carlos, for years, has had the spirit of a young man but has struggled with ongoing severe medical illnesses. Diabetes began to assault his body at age 22, and by the time we began caring for him in his 40's, he required the care of multiple specialists. Nevertheless, we were all surprised when he spent early November in the hospital for a heart attack. Only 49 years old, with a family and children, and multiple medical complications, he would be permanently disabled by any standard.

As we talked during his most recent visit, his usual smile spread across his face. Seated next to him with a smile equally radiant, his wife knitted clothes for the new grandchild expected to arrive soon. I worked through all the relevant medical issues, but wondered how they would ever manage to pay their bills and provide for their family without medical insurance or disability benefits. As they left, they again expressed their gratitude for the care they receive through our clinic, and for a gift they had received from clinic staff and volunteers who had heard of their plight.

A few days later, our nurse asked me to stop by the conference room.

When I walked in, Carlos and his wife were presenting the lunch they had prepared for the staff and volunteers.

A week later, they returned with another meal. Each time, they shared what the clinic has meant to them.

I praise God for the testimony of Carlos and his wife. They don't know how they will get through the next few months, but they are trusting God today for his provision, and have joy in their hearts that is independent of their circumstances.



Our 15th Anniversary!

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

May 2014 marks the 15th Anniversary of the Clinic providing healthcare for the uninsured, underserved. God has richly blessed and continues to bless the Clinic in amazing ways. God willing, we plan to celebrate this anniversary milestone in late September or early October and hope each reader will join us in giving glory to God for all he has done with and through TNCC. Watch for details.

I recently read the book of Ezekiel again and was impressed by how many times God said to the prophet “then they will know that I am the Lord God.” Though we are not living in Ezekiel's time, we certainly have ample opportunity to know who the Lord God is by how he works in and through our lives providing for needs we aren't even aware of.

Throughout the Old Testament, God instructed His people to “remember” what He had done. Many times he directed them to erect memorials and to ensure that future generations would not forget but remember. Certainly we have not built memorials at the Clinic but often find ourselves saying “remember when this happened or when that happened”; many times these events are described as “miracles” possible only through Divine involvement. It's worth looking back to some highlights of 2013 to “remember” what God did for the Clinic and His people in Central Phoenix.

2013 Stats

Patient Visits	10,201
Turn Aways	2,158
Volunteer Hours	9,809.5
Avg Patients/Volunteer	8.4
Monthly Avg Hours/Vol	8.0
Cost per Patient	\$125.65

Highlights of 2013: patient visits increased by 9% to 10,201; 87 new volunteers were added; volunteer hours increased by 15.4% to 9,809.5 (nearly 5 FTE); pro-golfer Tom Lehman and Alan Sears of Alliance Defending Freedom spoke at Clinic forums; medications with a value in excess of \$250,000 were donated; donations made possible a much needed remodel of the Clinic with new flooring, paint and landscaping; donations also made possible computer server upgrades to support medical and dental electronic record databases; and, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, BHHS Legacy and the Board of Visitors continued

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Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
November	803	96	850.2	62
December	624	103	725.0	67
January	814	89	735.3	112



Meet Lisa M. Kill, CNOR, CRNFA, FNP-BC

I was born number six of eight children in a small farming community in northern Alberta, Canada. My mother was a nurse and kept us well organized with household duties and ensuring that we cared for each other. My father was a school teacher and devout Christian. He instilled in us a sense of justice, equality and community. I learned at an early age to share whatever you had and to donate any excess. After graduating high school, I attended nursing school in Edmonton, Alberta and graduated in 1984 with a 3 yr. diploma in nursing. I worked primarily in the operating room, later focusing on open heart surgery. One of the surgeons I worked with sponsored me to attend Linfield College in Portland, OR and in 1996 I became the first RN First Assistant in western Canada. I worked in that capacity for many years in the fields of CardioThoracic, Vascular, Orthopedic and General Surgery.

I married in 2003 and moved to Phoenix with my husband where I worked at the Mayo Clinic. In 2004 I went back to school to finish my BSN. I went on to get my MSN FNP and continued working at the Mayo Clinic in Gynecology, where I learned from some very skilled and experienced physicians. I have been a lecturer and instructor for the British Columbia Institute of Technology and the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. I am also certified through the Bioidentical Hormone Initiative, State University of New York Downstate Medical Center.

My husband and I have since become US citizens. We have experienced so many fabulous opportunities here and we feel blessed to live in such a beautiful city, as well as a country that has allowed us to thrive. As my father taught me so many years ago, I felt the need to share my knowledge and experience and to begin to give back to my community. Volunteering at TNCC allows me, in some small way, to return the many blessings I have enjoyed. The experience is grounding, humbling, and faith affirming. There are mornings I struggle to get out of bed, but the enthusiasm and commitment of the folks at TNCC and the humble gratitude of Clinic patients, makes me feel honored to have the opportunity to serve. I always walk away having received more than I have given.



Three additional shifts possible...

Many readers are aware the Clinic opened three additional shifts with the collaborative and gracious support of three Phoenix area foundations. With three added shifts, the Clinic's capacity was expanded by over 2,400 patient visits annually. One of the foundations that made this possible is the Board of Visitors. Pictured from the BOV is Diane Rousseau & Rebecca Sexson presenting a check for \$50,000.00 to Medical Director Paul Lorentsen, MD and Board Chairman Dave Tellez, MD. Financial gifts of all sizes have a tremendous impact on a community in desperate need. Thank you!



Clinic Forum

Brian Mueller, President and Chief Executive Officer of Grand Canyon University will be our special guest speaker on Saturday, April 26th. In July of 2008, Brian began to usher in a new era for GCU by taking the success he experienced at Apollo Group (the parent company of the University of Phoenix) and guiding the institution to the first IPO on Wall Street after a nearly four-month drought when it went public in November of 2008.

Mueller began his higher education career as a professor at Concordia University and earned his Master of Arts in Education degree and his Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Concordia University.



Don't miss this.

Space is limited; RSVPs are necessary.

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their granted financial support for three additional shifts. The list seems endless to me and certainly evidences the fact that God deserves our remembrance.

Patients of the Clinic have glimpses of the Lord God and "know & remember" who He is when they receive medications not otherwise available, when depression is lifted through a recently formed group therapy session, when a neurosurgeon removes a brain mass, when an expectant mother decides to not abort, when a handicapped person is restored to wholeness, when lifestyle & health improve through diabetic education, when pain is relieved through acupuncture, when walking is made less painful through chiropractic treatment, when anxiety is mitigated through prayer, when relationships are restored with loved ones or when a lost soul accepts God's gift of eternal life – all examples of God's work through the Clinic.

God himself told us to "remember" and to share stories that demonstrate His power and love so that we would know that He is the Lord God. We are not erecting stone memorials to commemorate crossing the Jordan or Red Sea but we are very mindful of the fact that God blesses The Neighborhood Christian Clinic through a network of donors and volunteers who are obedient to prompts of the Holy Spirit to pray and to give of their time and wealth.

The Clinic is able to share God's Love, Truth and Gospel because of your obedience. Thank you!

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.



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