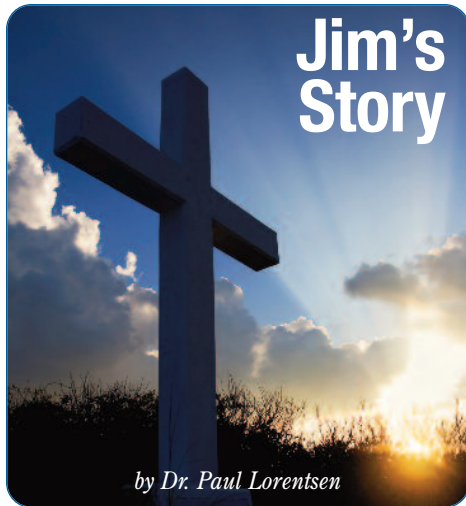


# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 1ST QUARTER 2012



## Jim's Story

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

I can still remember my first visit with Jim here at the clinic. His rough features and dirty clothes accurately reflected his life at the time. Although his diabetes was out of control and he had run out of his diabetes pills a few months earlier, the visit was prompted by concerns about a sexually transmitted infection. He had been drinking heavily, smoking cigarettes and was living with a girlfriend. He appeared ready to battle us at the clinic for what he perceived he needed, but he eventually relaxed as it became evident that angry demands weren't required here in order to receive our attention. I enjoyed meeting him, prescribed medication, but doubted that my efforts would result in an improvement in his health.

A year later, Jim returned, again long after running out of his diabetes medicine, this time with a fiery red foot and the potential to require an amputation. After a few rounds of antibiotics, he was free of infection, but was left with constant burning pain in his leg.

Jim never learned to care for his diabetes, and continued his pattern of coming in every year or so when a new infection caught his attention. He continued eating, drinking, and smoking, and rarely took his meds. However, people prayed for Jim. One volunteer doctor poured time into educating him about his diabetes, and also shared the gospel with him. After years of intending to return to church, he actually began attending, and shared with

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## Mercy Minds

For the working poor, mental health care is often out of reach. When faced with the choice to pay for food and rent, or pay for counseling services, the urgent needs of the day will usually win out. At The Neighborhood Christian Clinic, patients needing mental health care beyond the scope of the clinic have limited options, and no group of mental health professionals is currently receiving our patients.



Jan Hamilton is a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner who has founded Mercy Minds, an alliance of mental health professionals, to meet this need. Jan is working hard to build this group of volunteers in order to receive referrals of patients from partner ministries in Phoenix. In her words,

*"my career focus and passion is that people will have access to mental health services as part of their journey in becoming whole."*

Mercy Minds currently is seeking volunteers who are willing to volunteer their services.

If you are a mental health professional or if you know someone who may be interested in volunteering in this capacity, please contact Jan at [mercymindsjan@gmail.com](mailto:mercymindsjan@gmail.com).



## Clinic to Open Three Additional Shifts



At TNCC's most recent Board meeting in February, it was decided that the Clinic would open three additional clinic shifts, i.e. the Clinic would expand patient care to include Monday and Thursday mornings and Thursday evening. Seventy-five percent of the funding required for this initiative has been secured and the Board voted to proceed based on faith that the final 25% of the funding would become available. That's exciting! The Clinic's Directors will finalize planning in March and begin to implement the plan in April hoping that patient care during the three new shifts can begin in May.

If you would like to volunteer during one of the three new shifts be sure to let the Clinic staff know.



## Trends Charitable Fund Partnership

We are very pleased to announce a new partnership with the Trends Charitable Fund. From a long list of applicants, the Clinic was selected as a finalist for consideration and ultimately was blessed to have been chosen as one of five nonprofit funding recipients. With this very gracious grant the Clinic continues its Nurse Practitioner program which allows for a capacity of 1,500 patients annually and makes possible a "well woman" clinic. It is an honor to collaborate with Trends on such a critical endeavor in the community. We are grateful to Trends for helping to make healthcare available to a significant number of women, children and elderly who would not otherwise have access to such services.

## Planting Seeds

By Diane Comp

I was 15 years old and thought I was just looking for my first job to make that extra money so I could do and have all the fun things my parents did not consider “essential.” I am sure God was just sort of chuckling because He knew that my eyes would soon be opened to the amazing, unlimited possibilities in the field of healthcare that would be my life’s profession. He opened the door for a job in that busy pharmacy in that medical complex so I could step through it and begin my journey. As they say, the rest is history. I worked in that pharmacy all through high school and my first two years of college. That was in Kansas City, Missouri which at that time was still the Bible Belt of America. I had accepted the Lord as my Savior when I was in kindergarten and grew up in the church. When I worked at the clinic, which is what we ironically called the complex I worked in, I was surrounded by doctors, nurses, dentists and pharmacist who were mostly Christians. They worked long, hard hours but still had time at the end of the day to drop off that prescription for the elderly lady who just lost her husband or line up all the kids in the neighborhood who needed a physical to go to church camp. Sadly, it is not like that today.

Fast forward about 30 years and here I am in Phoenix, Arizona working as a clinical pharmacist. It was just a blink in God’s eyes since I went into that pharmacy looking for a job and actually it went pretty fast for me too. In that time I have been blessed with three wonderful children, one beautiful granddaughter and a husband who also volunteers at the clinic. I would encourage each volunteer at TNCC to always remember that you are not only serving our patients and their families, but you may also be changing another volunteer’s life. You are planting the seeds God wants you to sow so that in time He will water them and produce the healthcare volunteers we need to staff The Neighborhood Christian Clinic. It worked with me!

Blessings,  
Diane Estes-Comp



## Used Cars

Do you have a used car that you would like to get rid of? Want to donate it to the Clinic? Sales of donated cars have generated over \$10,000 in revenue! Imagine how many patient visits that pays for. Give us a call at 602 254-0445 or e-mail [gpllooster@tnccclinic.org](mailto:gpllooster@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.



**The Neighborhood  
Christian Clinic**

*Restoring Health • Restoring Lives*

1929 W. Fillmore St., Phoenix, AZ 85009  
602.254.0445  
[gpllooster@tnccclinic.org](mailto:gpllooster@tnccclinic.org)  
[www.TheChristianClinic.org](http://www.TheChristianClinic.org)

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Emily, our nurse practitioner that he wanted to grow closer to God. Simultaneously, friends began calling him, checking on his health and his life. Through conversation with Jim during his final visit to our clinic, Emily felt that he was aware that his life was ending.

Jim died last month at the age of 58. Although it should not have been surprising based on his lifestyle and medical problems, his death caught me off guard. I found myself thinking about the expectations I had for Jim. Expectations such as noncompliance, lack of self-discipline, anger issues and failure. He lived up to these faithless predictions. Yet God didn’t give up on Jim. He continued to call on his heart, through the tugging of the Spirit, as well as friends and medical professionals who were convinced of God’s love for him.

I don’t know where Jim is today. I hope he is in the presence of the Lord. But I’m determined to not let my faithless eyes doubt the power of the Lord to save the next Jim that walks through the doors of our clinic!



## Clinic Forums

The Clinic has recently hosted a few forums to introduce the Clinic to more people in the community as well as to provide opportunities to those who have not visited in a while to come see what’s going on. They have been hugely successful!! They started last year with conservative talk show host, educator and attorney Hugh Hewitt as our first guest host in April with Jerry Colangelo (who needs no introduction) coming in December. Mr. Colangelo shared a few entertaining yet impactful stories of his life and also doled out wisdom about how important family and God are to a rich, rewarding life.



Darryl DelHousaye, President Phoenix Seminary, pastor, author and theologian extraordinaire, came and shared about “Treasures in Heaven”; what an incredibly inspiring evening for those who attended.

## Coming in April

Alice & Sheryl Cooper. Hear his story; meet his wife; hear her side; ask questions. What an entertaining way to spend a beautiful evening in April while seeing firsthand what the Clinic is doing.



## Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours
December	614	76	558.3
January	674	81	621.1
February	658	80	635.6