

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 1ST QUARTER 2013

2012 in Review

by Gary Plooster, Executive Director

In May of this year, the Clinic will have provided care for the uninsured and underserved for fourteen years! Through those years God has provided for the Clinic in ways that are almost unfathomable. He has blessed the Clinic in ways that leaves one uttering “it is of God and cannot be of man.”

As we present the first Pulse of 2013, allow me to share with you some of the wonderful things God has done through the Clinic in 2012 because of your stewardship. Patient visits increased by 21% to 9,367 visits while the cost per patient decreased by 3.6%; 101 new volunteers were added and volunteer hours rose by 10% to 8,500 hours; over 180 new donors joined us; Alice Cooper, Lee Strobel and Tom Lehman visited the Clinic; Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust, BHHS Legacy and the Trends Charitable Fund granted financial support for opening three additional shifts (which opened in July); medications worth over \$225,000 were donated; solar panels were donated lowering utility costs by 10%; and, the pace of patient visits approached 10,500 annually by the end of the year. The list goes on and on; to me, it exemplifies God’s hand in providing. He is worthy of all praise.

Is it what God desires of us?

As I crafted the above list for your review, I was again struck by the fact that God might not consider it a list of “success.” Certainly it sounds impressive; but is it really what God desires of us? Yes, of course we work very diligently to maximize results with resources that God provides but, each morning over breakfast, I read the Bible to my two youngest sons and when reading Isaiah with them recently I was reminded that God’s ways are not our ways. As I consider this, I recall words in Isaiah 42 that tell us that God will make darkness into light and that he will guide us into straight places and not forsake us. This happens repeatedly through patient care at the Clinic, i.e. God turns darkness into light for patients and He does not forsake them, the least of these.

For example, when patients decide against abortion as a result of prayer; when an addiction to alcohol is removed and relationships are healed; when minor cosmetic dentistry helps to provide job opportunities and provisions for a family; when loneliness and depression are lifted through prayer; when a much needed surgery is met with a surgeon volunteering out of the blue; when donated medication shows up at the moment it is needed; when three young men in our waiting room accept Christ because a volunteer was faithful to share the Gospel; when overwhelming grief is relieved; when a volunteer chooses fulltime ministry because of their Clinic experience; when a marriage is saved or when personal growth of staff & volunteers occur as they encounter

continued on back

2012 Stats

Patient Visits	9,397
Turn Aways	2,861
Volunteer Hours	8,500.6
Avg. Patients/Volunteer	8.6
Avg. Hours/Volunteer	8.6
Cost per Patient	\$120.72
New Volunteers	101

Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
November	846	105	769.8	236
December	754	103	725.8	124
January	898	96	869.1	264



An Unexpected Blessing

by Paul Lorentsen, Medical Director

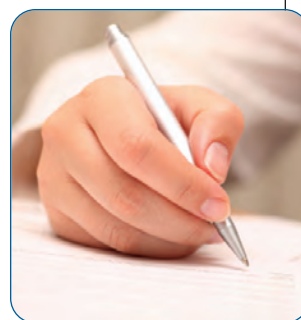
When was the last time you experienced an unexpected blessing, maybe in the form of a gift card for a favorite restaurant, or a debt that was cancelled? At various times in our lives, we’ve received undeserved gifts. When I think back on some of those times, I recall the surprise and joy that they brought to my day, completely changing my outlook. But truth be told, I would usually quickly move on, forgetting the blessing and preparing myself for the next challenge or problem that would emerge in my life.

Our patient, Clara, has a different approach to life. Although her life is not filled with the trappings that wealth provides, her heart understands that she’s been blessed by God. When she began to struggle with health problems, she came to the Clinic and was referred to one of our volunteer surgeons. Her surgeon went the extra mile, and not only donated his time, but arranged for both the hospital and the surgeon to donate their time and facility fee. Clara underwent surgery and experienced freedom from her symptoms as well as from major medical bills.

Clara could have moved on, but that didn’t seem right to her.

Instead, she purchased gifts for the Clinic, wrote encouraging letters to the doctors involved in her care, and came to the Clinic to bless us with those gifts. Her daughter accompanied her, and their smiles and kind words were sufficient for me. However, she wasn’t finished yet. Clara had obtained an estimate of what the discounted hospital fees would have been if she’d paid cash for her surgery, and brought a check for that amount to the Clinic as a donation.

As I received her check, I could hardly speak due to my surprise. Her face demonstrated both joy in her heart and conviction that this donation was the right thing to do. Praise God that our volunteers pour themselves into caring for the poor, and that our patients can see God’s blessing in the midst of their trials.



I woke up with “Interpreter” in my mind.

By Rosa McGinness

Alongside my late husband, for 26 years, we built a very successful, national business in hospital and medical recruiting. After the loss of my best friend, business partner and mentor, I took a long sabbatical, praying a lot and to care for my elderly parents.

I grew up speaking Spanish and throughout my adult life found myself interpreting for my parents and others when communication was needed with medical staff. I found myself becoming an advocate as well, helping my Spanish-speaking family and friends to ask the “right” questions to get much needed and appropriate medical care. One morning I woke up with “Interpreter” in my mind and the thought would not leave me. I took that as an answer to prayer and felt it would be a smooth transition to blend my life experiences into becoming a skilled and certified Spanish Medical Interpreter. I was ready to help patients and medical staff better communicate in critical, lifesaving settings by removing the barrier of poor communication and understanding for both parties and to assure that each received communication accurately with full understanding. I have always been committed to working in the medical industry because it’s so important to be in a “helping” profession that positively impacts lives. At the end of each day in my profession, I have a great sense of accomplishment knowing that I conducted myself in a professional manner treating all parties with respect and with heart felt compassion.

After graduating from Estrella Mountain Community College in Avondale in June 2012, I joined The Neighborhood Christian Clinic as a Volunteer Spanish Medical Interpreter.

I interpret mostly for doctors and nurses but I have also assisted the dental department, volunteered in the medication room and have assisted the administrative staff.

TNCC is extremely organized and dedicated to patient care with very knowledgeable and caring staff and volunteers. I thank God for directing me to the Clinic. It has been a very rewarding, positive experience and I am proud and honored to be associated with such a ministry.



Clinic Endowment Grows

El Remanente Fiel (The Faithful Remnant) of the former First Hispanic Baptist Church of Phoenix attended the Clinic’s monthly Open House in January. As the tour was ending, they blessed the Clinic with an incredible check to our Endowment. First Hispanic Baptist Church worshipped for nearly 90 years and charged El Remanente Fiel with the stewardship task of deploying proceeds from the sale of its property into God’s Kingdom for the purpose of “laboring in the fields of the Lord,” (i.e. caring for the poor and sharing the Gospel). *Praise God from whom all blessing flow.*



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continued from front

examples of incredible faith in some of our patients. It is very clear that God does not forsake the poor nor does He forsake those who seek Him. I am witness to the fact that God’s Spirit moves in and through the lives of many at the Clinic.

We are eternally grateful for volunteers and deeply appreciate those who support the Clinic through prayer and financial support. It is because of such efforts and resources that God impacts His Kingdom through the Clinic. We fervently strive to share God’s Love, Truth and Gospel and could not do so without the support of so many. Thank you for trusting that God will use you to bless a community that so desperately needs His care and love.

Used Cars

We sold them all and need more!! Do you have a car you could donate? Call us. We will pick it up and you will be helping to provide healthcare to the working poor.

Call 602 254-0445 or
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Introducing Gary Derbyshire

I was born in Tucson, AZ but my family moved to rural Thailand when I was three. My father is a doctor (Family Practice & General Surgery) and my mother manages a nonprofit organization. Both had hearts for fulltime mission work and joined the International Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention and still serve with that organization in Thailand. After high school, I returned to America with a family background in medical missions and a heart like my parents for fulltime ministry.



I graduated from ASU in December with a degree in Nonprofit Leadership & Management. I married Rezwana, my high school sweetheart, over four years ago and four months ago God blessed us with a beautiful baby boy. As a student, I served as the Youth Pastor for UnCommon Church in Litchfield Park and continue in that capacity.

I first became familiar with the Clinic through our Nurse Practitioner, Emily Snavely and deeply appreciated the Clinic’s ministry the first time I walked into the building. There are hundreds of organizations that care for the poor; but not many do so in the name of Jesus while proclaiming the Gospel. Many non-profits place an emphasis on “doing good” which at times can be self-serving and not glorify God. My parents always emphasized evangelism and caring for the less fortunate which explains who I am today. My desire was to serve in an organization that is Kingdom-minded and I have found that to be true of Clinic.

I began part-time until I graduated and became the full-time Volunteer Recruiting Coordinator in January. More specifically, I develop and coordinate leads and applications of prospective volunteers. At some point, I hope to attend seminary and eventually work fulltime in international missions. In the meantime, I pray that the Lord uses me as I serve at the Clinic. I look forward to making a difference in the lives of many more patients through growing the Clinic’s volunteer corps.