

The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES • 1ST QUARTER 2017

“This is a Great Place to Work.”

by Dr. Barney Davis

Once or twice a month, we are blessed to have Dr. Barney Davis join us at the clinic. Barney is a psychiatrist who loves the Lord and is in demand worldwide to provide psychiatric care and to educate healthcare providers who provide mental health services. Jokes about our clinic staff benefitting personally from visiting with the psychiatrist aside, Barney is well loved at our clinic, and has provided much needed mental health services to our patients.

Following a recent visit, Barney shared these thoughts with us:

“...for I, the Lord, am your healer.”
Exodus 15:26, NASB

It's been almost six months now, and still no discernible change. When she was first brought in by her family, they gave a history that she had recently become very depressed, was refusing to eat, and just stayed in bed all day. She speaks no English and I can only speak rudimentary Spanish. She is thin to the point of emaciation, having to be led to the exam room where I sit in front of her and try to get her to respond; she continues to look toward the floor, and will only answer in one or two word phrases, in an almost imperceptible whisper. When she does look up, her eyes carry a look of deep sadness and anxious hopelessness. I have seen countless patients with depression in my 40+ years of psychiatric practice, so one learns to look for those

“other things,” the medical conditions that can mimic, aggravate, or even cause such a morbid picture. I sense that this might be the case here, so we do labs. We do X-rays. I tap on knees. I take her blood pressure. Several doctors in the clinic are involved with her care. But over time, nothing changes. I try medications, nothing seems to work. Certain lab studies suggest a significant endocrine problem which might be contributing, so multiple visits and efforts are geared toward trying to find an accessible endocrinologist to do a special evaluation. Still, nothing changes, each visit the same: led in by family, sits with head down, answers monosyllabically if at all, initiates no conversation. I can get her to maintain eye contact for only a few seconds.



I therefore spend most of every visit trying to get more history from the family, give them explanations about what we think is going on, refill medications that truly do not appear to be having any significant impact, order more lab work, talk to more doctors, and then hold her hand while I pray (or have the interpreter pray). She gives no response, and nothing changes. The routine continues.

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2016 in Review.

by Gary Flooster, Executive Director

We are well into 2017; but what a year 2016 was!! God richly blessed the Clinic in so many ways throughout the year that we can't begin to mention them all. Here are a few: the Clinic was able to accommodate 9,099 patient visits with the Dental team setting a new patient visit record of 3,115 visits. Volunteer hours were up 5.1% to 8,769.6 hours with 90 new volunteers added.

December donor contributions set a record, 26 surgeries were facilitated, a vacancy was filled by hiring a second MD, a community health initiative was launched and writing began on the Spiritual Care Curriculum with Grand Canyon University. And... actual expenses were 7% below budget.

The above are stories by themselves; but, in the Clinic's history, there is story after story of how God provides; one such story occurred in December:

As you might imagine, equipment wears out from time to time, such was the case with the Clinic's very old, dental x-ray sensors. Many times, we had decided to not make the replacement expenditure which obviously delayed the inevitable. Dental staff and volunteers had become increasingly frustrated with their inability to clearly read x-rays which tremendously diminished the quality of care. It was no longer a choice, we finally had to say "yes" and made the decision to purchase new digital sensors even though the \$9,000 cost had not been budgeted. Within three hours of making the decision, God physically brought someone to the Clinic who had only recently heard of the Clinic. While there, this individual covered the expense of the dental sensors!!

This person, in a real way, lived out Proverbs 3:27; “Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is within the power of your hand to do so.” What a blessing to be part of a ministry where God's Spirit is so intimately present and moving.

We are truly excited to see what God has in store for the Clinic during the rest of 2017 and beyond. Each day, we commit the Clinic to Him and He has never disappointed.



Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours	Turn Aways
November	832	70	760.1	62
December	741	76	713.8	51
January	840	77	794.0	60



Meet Thomas Gazda, M.D.

My quest has taken me from the physical to the metaphysical to the delusional and back and I have made one of the most important discoveries of my career - one of the most important discoveries of my life and that is, it is only in love that any logic or reason can be found. You are the reason I am - you are all my reasons.”
(from the movie “A Beautiful Mind” with Russell Crowe)

I started as a family practitioner, then became a psychiatrist, trained as a psychoanalyst and in neurosciences research. The TNCC offers a heart, soul and mindful experience to serve the underserved in the truth and love that comes from Christianity as well as with the skills we have all been fortunate to acquire with God’s help. The staff at TNCC are truly inspirational from our Medical Director, Dr. Paul, on down to everyone involved in the clinic in all capacities. My wife Susan is a pharmacist and together we truly feel so fortunate to have this opportunity to give back in fellowship!

Thomas Gazda, MD
Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst



Thinking About Estate Planning?

Join others who have already decided to 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.



The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

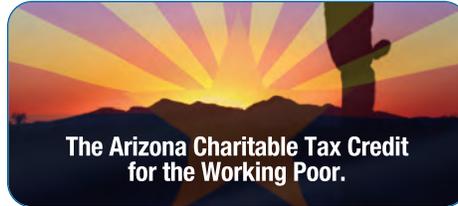
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DON'T FORGET...

The tax credit deadline for 2016 has been extended to April 15, 2017. This means you can still make a 2016 tax credit donation to the Clinic of \$800 if you are married or \$400 if you are filing separately. If you missed the opportunity before year end to make a donation to the Clinic, you can still take full advantage of making a 2016 tax credit donation; AND... get a 2017 federal tax deduction at the same time. Call 602.254.0445 to find out how, or simply go to www.TheChristianClinic.org to donate today.

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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 The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

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The most recent visit: she is led in but there is something subtly different; she maintains a bit of eye contact, appears more animated. Still thin, “cachectic” is the word we use in medicine to describe the picture we sometimes see with chronic and, often, terminal illness, her voice still very soft; nevertheless, she is more verbal. Something, finally, is changing for the better. But why? We have done nothing different; I have been slogging through the same routine each previous visit, trying to act like I knew what was going on while simply going through the motions, being regularly puzzled by this enigma. So today, as things look a little bit better, I start back up with the routine: questions of the family, review of lab work, more discussion with Dr. Paul and the staff, review medications. Deciding to not make changes since something, whatever it might be, appears to be working, I refill her medications, talk about when I might see her again, and bidding her goodbye, I stand up to leave.

As I approach the door, I hear her mutter something to her daughter (this one of the few times I had ever heard her initiate any comment); I turn back and see that she appears distraught. Thinking I had confused or frightened her with any of my wordy explanations or directions, I ask what was wrong. She looks at me, full face eye contact, while her daughter explains:

“She says you forgot to pray for her.”

This is why The Neighborhood Christian Clinic is such a rewarding medical experience, not just for patients but also for those of us who are blessed by seeing what goes on here. This lady is better, and as I now write, it does appear that some of the medical issues have clarified and there may be a response to medication; she has received comprehensive, persistent, and compassionate care from the doctors, the nurses, and the entire staff. But she recognized the true core of healing that has sustained her even through the times when none of us could see how God was very actively orchestrating her return to health: she was prayed for. And she knew it was working. I have learned much from this thin, depressed, wasted lady who could still cling to the hope of a prayer offered on her behalf to Jehovah Rapha: the God Who heals.

This is a great place to work.

