

# The Pulse

of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic

RESTORING HEALTH & RESTORING LIVES | MAY 2023

## Remembering Andrew A Faithful Man of God

by Dr. Paul Lorentsen

I hope each of you has an Andrew in your life. What do I mean, you ask? Allow me to explain.

I grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, home of a historic Christian college. One of my brothers attended Wheaton College, and among the people he befriended there, one young man became an especially close friend of his. My brother and Andrew became roommates, and for a year, Andrew lived in our home. During that time, our home was especially full of life, with laughter and meals together. Andrew soon married and moved to California to become the CEO of his new wife's family business, and I lost touch with him. In Arizona, I poured my time into my medical training, starting our new clinic and volunteering for Young Life together with my wife.

Our clinic was beginning to grow and had received some startup funding, but after two years, our major donor needed to pull back. By God's grace, a Young Life friend of ours attended an event for major donors, where he met Andrew and recommended that he visit this upstart clinic in Arizona. Andrew quickly remembered my family name and followed God's lead by travelling to Phoenix to tour the clinic. After a brief tour of our dusty, ill-equipped initial facility, Andrew committed to stepping in at the level of giving we had received from our previous donor! He went on to say that it was not just a one-time gift, but that he intended to review our financial needs and assist us on an ongoing basis.

Andrew was true to his word. My phone would ring, Andrew would enthusiastically greet me, ask for a clinic update, and a check would follow in the mail. As patient care responsibilities placed increasing demands on my personal schedule, Andrew challenged our board of directors to relieve me of fundraising responsibilities. Instead, he believed that I should focus on patient care, and gave a substantially larger check to make that happen. In 2010, when the impact of the recession forced us to make the decision to cut back on our dental program, Andrew called during a board meeting to

commit to additional support, allowing us to reopen the dental program and also rehire a nurse practitioner.

With ongoing evidence that God was moving to provide for the clinic so clearly and powerfully, the leadership of the clinic had confidence to move forward with plans for growth. With growth came additional financial needs. Over the years, it would seem that when our need was most apparent, my phone would ring. Andrew would pledge support, and a check would soon arrive without any fanfare in a hand-addressed envelope.

Last fall, my brother shared that Andrew would be undergoing surgery, but that he was expected to do well. Just after Christmas, after a series of unsuccessful operations, Andrew died of cancer. My friend, and champion of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic, was gone.

At his funeral in Florida, I shared the impact Andrew had on our Clinic. Amazingly, even close friends were not aware of the generous support he had provided over so many years. Andrew had simply been faithful to the Lord. He had honored God by not seeking any honor or special recognition. Instead by "not allowing his left hand to know what his right hand was doing", as we are instructed in Matthew 6:3, he served an audience of one, our God, who sees what is done in secret. Rather than to receive acclaim, his motivation was at least partly displayed by a sticky note that he had attached to one of the checks: *Proverbs 19:17 Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.*

Maybe by now, you have correctly guessed that I've changed his name to protect his anonymity. He wouldn't want the recognition. But I believe that right now, my friend is receiving his reward, in the presence of his Father in heaven.



## Volunteer Corner: Cynthia Ledyard

Meet Cynthia Ledyard!!  
*Seek his will in all you do  
and He will direct your paths.*  
Proverbs 3:6

My "path" to becoming a volunteer started in June 2019. My husband Dave and I attended a "Missions Weekend" service at our church – Desert Springs Community Church. After the message, the congregation was encouraged to visit the 30+ booths that were set up on the patio representing many ministries that our church supported.

I had been giving serious thought about volunteering somewhere, doing something, but nothing was working out.

During closing prayers, I felt a "nudge" from God, and prayed, "OK Lord, but where do you want me to serve?" A still, small voice prompted me to go outside and approach the first table I saw that had no one standing in front of it. Sure enough, there it was, off to my left; there was Cheryl, the Administrator of The Neighborhood Christian Clinic. I remember thinking; I have a nursing background and this is a Clinic - indeed a match made in heaven! I marched right over and said "Hi! I'm Cynthia, and God sent me!"

I have now had the privilege of serving as a volunteer in the medication room for 3½ years; what a joy it has been! I love assisting the medical and dental providers by assembling and labeling medications they prescribe for their patients. I am part of a team that serves the underserved. It is exciting to serve alongside such an array of knowledgeable, dedicated, talented and caring healthcare workers who love the Lord. It's a place of love, care and prayer!

My husband David has been very supportive of my "time away" from home and has gladly joined me in giving of our financial resources as well as time to advance God's work through the Clinic.

You have probably heard the saying "You can't out give God"; I whole heartily agree! It seems that as I try to be a blessing to others, I am blessed right back - and then some!

I am a native Phoenician and David is a native of Tucson. I graduated with one of the last classes of the Good Samaritan School of Nursing. We enjoy hiking, our little cabin in Show Low, and trips to see children and grandchildren. I have been so blessed as a volunteer of the Clinic! May God bless you as well!!



## Overcoming Inflation

by Gary Plooster

It is amazing to think back on all the transitions we have been through in the past decade; it is a challenge to reflect on what has

happened even since 2020, and now looking back on just the past twelve months, it seems the pace of change is even faster.

We are seeing changes all around us. There have been major shifts in power around the world and in our own political spheres to be sure.

The effects of inflation are echoing like a painful clang throughout the world. We are constantly making adjustments economically as we deal with a dramatic jump in what things cost.

One thing has not changed. God remains Sovereign. He is still in control which is a source of great comfort.

Things have also changed for the Clinic. We are the same Clinic in the sense that we still glorify God through caring for the underserved, and we still faithfully share the Gospel and Truth of Christ, but as our patient counts have increased, so have our expenses. Healthcare salaries have gone up dramatically making it more difficult to recruit and retain employees. Medical and dental costs have jumped considerably for things such as supplies, labs, medications, utilities, etc.



God has blessed the Clinic in so many ways since we first opened for patient care in 1999. Thanks to you and partners like you, the Clinic is not struggling financially, but we would like to ask our donors to assist us financially in the wake of all these new inflation challenges.

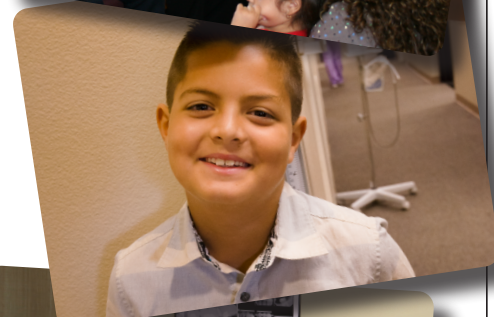
If God has blessed you, perhaps you might consider increasing your financial commitment to the Clinic by 50% or 40%. Even 10% would have a powerful effect.

I have been with the Clinic for fifteen years and have witnessed firsthand how God's Spirit has prompted donors to make a difference. As I read Dr. Lorentsen's article on page one of this PULSE, it brought back memories of how Andrew made an incredible difference in the Clinic's ministry at critical junctures. Andrew's giving stemmed from a heart that desired to glorify God and from a heart that was faithful to the Lord. Not all are able to give at Andrew's level; however, we can all strive to give with the same heart. Frankly, Andrew's faithful support was personally inspirational, encouraging and challenging on many levels.

In turn, I am asking each of us to consider the resources God has given to us to reflect on what it looks like to be generous givers with a grateful heart. This should not be considered a pressure to give but simply a request for each one of us to allow the Holy Spirit to prompt our giving. God has been gracious to each of us; let us be gracious in response.

May the Lord bless you.

## Lives and Souls



## Have a Used Car?

Want to donate it to the Clinic? Give us a call at 602 254-0445 or email [gplooster@tnc-clinic.org](mailto:gplooster@tnc-clinic.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.



## Thinking About Your Legacy?

Join others who have already decided to help secure the Clinic's future of *Restoring Health & Restoring Lives* for the uninsured and underserved through their estate plan. Interested? Please contact the Clinic or the Arizona Community Foundation at 602-381-1400 or 800-222-8221.

## Amazon Donates 0.5% of the Price of Eligible AmazonSmile Purchases to the Clinic!

Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), click "Choose your favorite charity," and select TNCC to support us when you shop. There's no cost to you. Register today at <http://smile.amazon.com>

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## Current Clinic Stats

	Patient Visits	Volunteers	Hours
January 2023	804	83	758.0
February 2023	801	79	828.8
March 2023	848	83	861.5



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