

FROM THE HEART

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We seek to reclaim the Biblical and historical commitment of the people of faith to care for the poor who are sick. The Clinic provides quality, affordable healthcare and health education to the growing number of low income, uninsured working people of Nashville who do not have access to primary medical care.

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Primary Healthcare For Those In Need

As I write this, sunshine is streaming through my window - a rather unusual sight around here the last three weeks. As my wife so aptly put it while we were trudging along under overcast skies three days ago, "If I wanted to live in Seattle, I would have moved to Seattle." If I know anything at all then I know that we serve a God of compassion. HE directed the Israelites to leave part of their harvest in the field each year so that those less fortunate among them could benefit (the great grandmother of David, the most beloved King of Israel, was the recipient of this mercy). When our Lord visited this earth he came to minister to the poor, the downtrodden, the sick, the hungry - those in need of a physician. As the Great Physician, He extends His mercy and grace to us all "not wanting anyone to perish". And if I know anything at all, then I know that God has made Faith Family Medical Clinic happen. HE has brought together people of compassion who are concerned about those around them in Middle Tennessee who are medically underserved - folks whose basic primary healthcare needs are not being met because they have no insurance. This can be a scary predicament - I can speak to it personally. Just over two years ago, I was knocked from my comfort zone when my wife, Linda, required emergency heart surgery. The bill for that four-day hospitalization stay was \$60,000. I had just changed our medical insurance coverage and was thus fearful initially that they might deny payment. And then again, I had to have emergency back surgery nine months ago - performed on an outpatient basis, but still with a \$7,000 price tag. My point is as discomfiting as these medical "bumps" were,



they could have been devastating without adequate insurance. We are blessed that we have in the United States the greatest medical system in the world, but only if you can afford it. There are in Middle Tennessee probably 100,000 people who can't afford it for one reason or another. Not long ago, we saw a 46-year-old lady who had recently changed jobs and thus her medical coverage was not yet in effect. She had been having intermittent rectal bleeding for several months, which initially we attributed to a benign cause, but because of its recurrence we pursued obtaining a colon study for her. Dr. Harrison Shull, one of our volunteer gastroenterologists, was kind enough to perform that procedure and unfortunately found a cancer. Dr. Ray Hargraves, one of our surgery consultants, has agreed to perform her surgery and we are "negotiating a deal" for her with one of the local hospitals. One half of all personal bankruptcy claims are secondary to overwhelming medical debt, but she'll have her surgery performed (and we pray that it will be healing) and exit the hospital with a bill that will be manageable.

One of the greatest perks of our involvement with Faith Family Medical Clinic is that we've been privileged to meet some of the greatest people in the world - you folks who are generous and loving and care about your fellow man. May the Lord continue to bless you as you help us minister to the needs of those around you.

In Him,

Dr. Tom

Informational Gatherings at the clinic during the months of February and March familiarized community leaders with the clinic and its services. Attendees learned more about the services provided and the important health care needs that the clinic is addressing.



Ambassador Joe M. Rodgers, Advisory Board Chair and Joe Hutts, Board of Directors Chair



Dr. Mike Stephanides and Dan Brodbeck

M.D. Specialists support clinic

Faith Family Medical Clinic refers patients with special needs to medical specialists who provide care at low cost. Dr. John Lamb, a member of the Board of Directors, frequently provides orthopedic care for patients at the Clinic.

Dr. Lamb states, “For a number of years, I have admired the work of Dr. Scott Morris and the Church Health Center in Memphis. They have attempted to meet the needs of working people without insurance. There are many people in Nashville who cannot afford to pay the full price of healthcare. Faith Family Medical Clinic has been established to meet the needs of these people by offering them quality family care in the name of Christ. For more than three years, we have been meeting with Nashville’s leaders to enlist their support of this clinic that opened eighteen months ago.

The support of the community has been very gratifying and includes Baptist, St. Thomas, and Centennial hospitals, Memorial, Martin, Turner, Frist, Ezell, Potter and HCA foundations and many people who are concerned about their neighbors.

The opening of the clinic and the opportunity to help people and tell them we are doing it because of our service to God has been especially gratifying, and I am glad to be able to have been a part of starting and continuing to support this effort.”

Other specialists who provide services for patients at Faith Family Medical Clinic include Dr. Steven Abram, Dr. Jeanne Ballinger, Dr. Stephen Dudley, Dr. Roy Ezell, Dr. Walter Frey, Dr. C. K. Hiranya Gowda, Dr. Curtis Hagenau, Dr. David Haynes, Dr. Bob Lagrove, Dr. John Madden, Jr., Dr. Raymond Martin, Dr. Mark Reiber, Dr. Howard Salyer, Dr. Harrison Shull, Dr. Catherine Thornburg, Dr. Craig Weirum, Dr. Jeff Whitfield and Dr. Carl Zimmerman.

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FROM THE HEART



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Patient Profile

Eddie Chisholm is one of over 3500 patients who have been seen at the clinic during the first year and a half of operation. Eddie was the Industrial Relations/Human Resources Director at Aladdin Industries when the plant was sold in 2001. He had worked at Aladdin for twenty-three years - since he was in college. His last day there was August 2, 2002.

In May 2000, while still employed at Aladdin, Eddie had open heart surgery. In October of the same year his father was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and Eddie assumed responsibility for his mother and father. His financial situation changed dramatically when his father's illness necessitated his moving to a facility that provided the special care he needed, for a cost of \$3,000. (His father's retirement income is \$1,700 per month.) Since Eddie's mother couldn't live alone, she moved in his one bedroom apartment with him.

After Eddie lost his job his responsibilities and monthly financial obligations became overwhelming. He stopped taking his medication and discontinued regular doctor's visits that were important because of his prior medical conditions.

Eddie heard about Faith Family Medical Clinic and came here in September 2002. At that time, he had high blood pressure, a hiatal hernia, and was suffering from depression and not taking the prescribed medication for his heart. Eddie is now coming to the clinic for monthly check-ups for a cost of \$15.00 per visit. He is taking his medications, which are provided at low cost, and is also seeing an AGAPE therapist who is at the clinic each week.

Eddie says, "I knew they cared about me on my first visit to the clinic". "Because of the caring staff, I am in the process of putting my life back together