

Winter 2008

# From the Heart



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.

*Primary Healthcare For The Working Uninsured*

## *Nashville Business Journal honors "Dr. Tom" as a Health Care Hero*

Thomas W. Henderson, M.D.  
Medical Director

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Dr. Tom Henderson was thinking of retiring after decades of doctoring and raising a family. Instead, he moved to Nashville and became director of a clinic for the working poor – Faith Family Medical Clinic.

Before directing the faith-based clinic at 326 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. in Nashville, Henderson, 60, had practiced medicine in Southeast Missouri and raised four children. It was on a trip to Nashville Henderson and his wife decided to move to Music City to help Faith Family open. They moved to Nashville in 2001 and the clinic opened Oct. 8 of that year.

“We serve uninsured people who are working,” says Henderson. “The fees that are charged cover about 20 percent of our costs. The rest of it has to come from donations.” Fees range from \$10 to \$30 and the clinic can refer patients to surgeons and specialists who offer discounts.

For Henderson, practicing medicine is an intellectual stimulation – a chance to help. “I’m a physician still around who loves medicine,” he says. Faith Family’s care is preferable in many cases to expensive emergency rooms, Henderson says, especially because too many patients are going to emergency rooms for minor ailments and ER bills can range from \$600 to \$1,000.

Janet Walls says her daughter is a nursing student who Henderson instructed. “I think the thing that impressed me the most was his teaching spirit,” says Walls. Henderson says he believes in teaching students well because they could be your doctors in the future.

Walls says Henderson encourages patients to alter lifestyles to improve health and that the clinic is needed, especially as medical resources for the poor are shrinking.

“The clinic is kind of a well-kept secret,” says Walls.

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jstinson@bizjournals.com 615-846-4254



Laura Hobson, Executive Director

Laura Hobson joined Faith Family Medical Clinic in the summer of 2007 and has recently been named the new Executive Director. She holds her undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and a Masters of Social Work from the University of Tennessee, Nashville.

Laura is originally from Memphis, but since her days at Vanderbilt, has considered Nashville her “second home.” After her graduation, she was the recipient of the Vanderbilt Wattles Fellowship at Lloyds of London. She then returned to Memphis and joined her family’s residential real estate business. In 1995, she and her brother purchased the business from her parents. Laura continued to sell, but also handled the day-to-day operations of the firm. In 2001, Laura decided to return to Nashville and pursue a career working in the non-profit sector. She most recently has been working at the Saint Thomas Hospital Foundation as the Corporate Partnership Manager.

We are excited about her wealth of experience and look forward to her many contributions to Faith Family Medical Clinic. If you would like more information or a tour of Faith Family, please give Laura a call at 305-3805 or email her at [lhobson@faithmedical.org](mailto:lhobson@faithmedical.org).

*Employees of Dell volunteer at Faith Family Medical Clinic*



Joshua Barker, Huston Cambron, John Lynch



Mike Rees

Christmas Card from a student who volunteered in the fall of 2007.

Dear great people of FFMC,

Thank you for letting me be a part of this ministry. In the past few months, I have had the privilege of hearing dozens of patients talk about the care they receive here and how valued they feel. They often talk about how long it has been since they have felt such compassion.

I am constantly motivated to continue pursuing a career in healthcare because of what I see each of you do – how you provide a friendly face, a kind word, extra care to get the right medicine or a healing touch. You are truly working as the hands and feet of Christ and I am honored to have been a part.

Thank you for taking me in, teaching me, and allowing me to learn from you.

Merry Christmas,  
Michelle

## PATIENT STORIES



Lindy Gillespie

Lindy Gillespie is employed full-time at a small local company that does not provide health insurance. When she enrolled in Bridges to Care, they recommended that she call Faith Family Medical Clinic for an appointment. The practitioners at Faith Family discovered that her blood pressure was very high and they scheduled an arteriogram for her at an affordable fee. In addition, Lindy suffers from migraine headaches and again, the practitioners at Faith Family were able to arrange an affordable MRI. Based on the results of the tests, the practitioners have been able to give her the necessary and appropriate treatment.

Lindy pays \$10 for each visit to the clinic and has now been a patient for 2 years. She is grateful to Dr. Henderson and the other staff for making it possible for her to have good medical care at a cost she can afford.

*"The staff at the clinic really care about me." Lindy Gillespie*

Chris and Hettie-Marie moved to Nashville in 2006 so that Hettie-Marie could pursue her singing career and her dream of obtaining a recording contract. Chris also decided to launch a company producing healthy breakfast foods. Because they are both self-employed and Chris has ulcerative colitis, they have been unable to obtain health insurance.

The Barrolls met Dr. Lisa Crowe, a physician at Faith Family Medical Clinic, at their church and began coming to Faith Family for medical care. Chris's prescriptions previously cost \$1000 per month, but the Faith Family staff helped him access pharmaceutical company programs that have reduced his cost to \$200 per month. Since coming to Faith Family, Hettie-Marie became pregnant and Dr. Crowe referred her to an OB-GYN specialist who provided care for a reduced fee.



Chris, Hettie-Marie and Noelle

*"We feel incredibly blessed to have found the kind physicians and staff at Faith Family Medical Clinic."  
Chris & Hetti-Marie Barroll*

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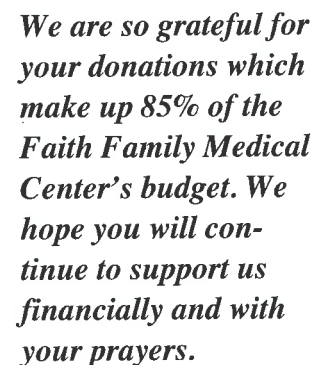
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# From the Heart



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*Dr. Steve Stonehouse is a family physician working in health development in Central Asia. He worked part-time at FFMC from July–November, 2007 and shared the following with us.*

The 42 year old thin gentleman, JL, who greeted me as I walked into the exam room, seemed anxious and frustrated from the start. He told me in detail how he had experienced sudden onset of severe headache, difficulty speaking, and right arm weakness 9 months earlier and how he still couldn't get his arm to work. He had not sought treatment for months after the problem started and was still trying to work, but finding it difficult with one useable arm. His speech difficulty seemed to have almost resolved, but he kept telling me "Doc, I just want my arm back". After reviewing all of his records and examining him, I told him that I was quite sure he had had a stroke, and that there was a good chance his arm would not ever work well, but that he might regain some function with rehabilitation. When he asked "Why did this have to happen to me Doc?" I told him that I thought God had an answer to that question, but that I didn't know if he was ready to hear it. His reply surprised me. He said, "Doc I believe Romans 8:28, but it's hard to accept sometimes". This opened the door for me to encourage him with the truth of God's faithfulness and power and love even in the middle of very difficult trials that don't always make sense. We talked through Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" – and reminded ourselves of several other promises from God's word. After discussing a few tests I thought we should do and making a plan to start rehabilitation, I asked if I could pray for him. He gratefully accepted the offer and we came together before God to ask for His guidance and presence and peace and healing. JL left with continued weakness in his arm, but with more peace and hope in his heart because of the promises of God.

It has been a great privilege for me to work at Faith Family Clinic while my family and I have been preparing to return to Central Asia. I have had the joy of working with the wonderful staff here who also believe the promises of God and who desire to share God's love with all who enter. Jesus cared about whole people and sought their restoration to wholeness in body, mind, and spirit. At Faith Family, I have witnessed a team in action who are in partnership with the Great Physician in his work of restoration and are dependent on Him for guidance and strength. May God continue to bless the ministry of Faith Family so that many more will find healing and wholeness and so that His name will be glorified.