



From *the* Heart

Primary Healthcare for the Working Uninsured

Fall 2010

News from the Clinic

A summary of recent events & community involvement

Faith Family collaborated for the second time with **MusiCares**, providing healthcare to more than 30 qualifying musicians on May 20th.

Approximately 40 clinical practitioners from across the country toured our facility during the **Christian Community Health Fellowship** (CCHF) conference at Belmont University in May. CCHF is a nationwide network of faith based health providers that care for underserved communities.

The Faith Family Medical Clinic **Open House** on March 30th gave 150 friends and supporters a chance to see firsthand our renovated space and new administrative office next door.

During the **Volunteer Luncheon** in June, we recognized our wonderful volunteers, giving special thanks to Katie Regan, a dedicated physical therapist who has volunteered over 1700 hours during the last eight years.

The 2009 **Annual Report** is available online at www.faithmedical.org. This overview of Clinic operations shows how important your support is to us. For example, compare the average patient payment per visit in 2009 (\$21) with the actual clinic cost per visit (\$109).

Meet Our Patients

In early 2001, Mary Dellinger had been sick with what she thought was the flu. Initially, a doctor put her on penicillin and gave her a diagnosis of pneumonia. Frustrated and seeing no improvement, Mary sought treatment at a local emergency room. Another round of antibiotics and a dose of steroids were offered. While the treatment brought quick relief, her symptoms returned with a vengeance.

Mary and her husband John saw a story on television about the opening of Faith Family Medical Clinic. Frustrated and with no direction to turn, they decided to give this new clinic a try.

Dr. Henderson and the staff of Faith Family Medical Clinic offered the Dellingers a chance to become partners in their medical care at a



Mary and John Dellinger with Dr. Tom Henderson

price that they could afford. In November 2001, Mary was one of the first patients seen in the clinic. Dr. Henderson determined that she needed specialist care and referred her to Dr. Robert LaGrone, a rheumatologist who specializes

in auto immune diseases, who agreed to see Mary at a reduced rate. Looking back on the care she has received, John (Mary's husband of 28 years) says: "Without Dr. LaGrone, Dr. Henderson and Faith Family, my wife would be in a wheelchair. We trust them with our lives."

John is also a patient at Faith Family. He was treated for cancer and to date remains cancer-free. After pitching for the Dodgers in the 1980s, John became an ordained minister ten years ago and now runs a Christian baseball ministry. He speaks to church groups across the country to deliver the message that God has created each of us with a special purpose. John also participates in mission work in some of the poorest countries in the world.

The Dellinger's situation is not unusual. Many working uninsured patients find their way to Faith Family. They usually arrive with complex medical conditions that have not been treated for years. Almost nine years since their first introduction to the clinic, John and Mary continue to find compassionate health care at Faith Family. Mary confirms, "I'm not sure I'd still be alive without Dr. Henderson and his staff!"



Dr. Thomas Henderson
Medical Director

Laura Hobson
Executive Director

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for support of Faith Family Medical Clinic. Whether your support is financial in nature, or your gift to Faith Family consists of your time and talents, you make us what we are today – an essential site for people who seek consistent, compassionate, affordable primary care.

In every issue of our newsletter, we introduce you to one or two of our patients. We hope these stories give you a sense of the people we have come to know and care for. In this issue, we profile Mary and John Dellinger. Mary was one of the first patients seen in the clinic – just a month after the doors opened in October, 2001. Thanks to Dr. Henderson and the staff of Faith Family, Mary and her husband enjoy rich, healthy lives. John says it perfectly: “We feel so fortunate to have found Faith Family. We believe that we have been blessed so that we can bless others.”

Recently, Faith Family launched a new Wellness Initiative which will include patient education programs that instruct our patients in leading healthier lives. This initiative will comprise a series of programs designed to tackle chronic health problems we regularly encounter in our patients. Please read more about this on page 3. We are grateful for our new office next door to the clinic, an essential space to develop this group and future education offerings.

We are also pleased to recognize Dr. Buz Martin in this issue of the newsletter. Without the gifts of time and skill from specialists such as Dr. Martin, many of our patients would not be enjoying the health and quality of life they have today.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the mission of Faith Family Medical Clinic. We are a calm harbor in the storm for many people in great need. It is because of your prayers and support that we can continue to offer the compassion and medical expertise that our patients so desperately need and appreciate.

Blessings,

Dr. Tom Henderson
Medical Director

Laura Hobson
Executive Director



Mission Statement

Faith Family Medical Clinic seeks to follow the commitment of people of faith to provide hope and medical care for the working uninsured by meeting their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Faith Family Staff Goes Global

The staff of Faith Family is committed to helping individuals in need of medical care around the corner and around the world. Since January 1st, seven of our dedicated staff members have traveled to the following countries to volunteer: Argentina, Haiti, Jamaica, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Mexico. Carolyn Tigner, R.N. speaks for all who have been on mission trips when she says: “God has blessed me, and it is a joy to use my gifts and professional skills to serve others who might otherwise not have access to healthcare.”



Dr. Lisa Crowe with young Haitian patient

Faith Family Creates Wellness Initiative

A primary objective of our strategic plan has been to create a Wellness Initiative for patients suffering from chronic diseases, such as diabetes, hypertension and high blood pressure. We have been eager to educate our patients and their families thoroughly about preventing and managing these common conditions.

Thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, we recently kicked off this initiative by introducing a free, two-hour patient education class for our diabetic, pre-diabetic, and at-risk-for-diabetes patients and their family members. Our instructors educate patients about this disease by explaining how lifestyle modifications and medications can help control blood sugar levels. While the emphasis is on changing lifestyles, dietary choices are also discussed. The instructors demonstrate correct portion sizes and appropriate food choices. The class is designed to empower patients with the knowledge of how to manage or prevent the illness, while giving them a setting in which to ask questions and receive support.

Additional elements of the new Wellness Initiative at Faith Family include a walking group at a nearby community center and a partnership with the Vanderbilt Eye Institute offering diabetic patients annual retinal exams at a very low cost. Faith Family is also a partner in the Safety Net Consortium's Diabetes Improvement Project. Diabetes education is the first of many programs we will offer through the Wellness Initiative in the months and years ahead.



Traci Warner, FNP conducting Diabetes Training Class at FFMC

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for a special opportunity coming up this fall to promote and support the Faith Family mission.

Second Annual Faith Family Birthday Breakfast

Woodmont Christian Church

November 17th, 2010

7:30am

Let's make the second annual birthday fundraising breakfast as phenomenal as the first! We will gather to honor special individuals who have been vital to the work of the Clinic. The breakfast will again feature an address by **Dr. Scott Morris**, the **founding physician of the Church Health Clinic in Memphis**, who received a standing ovation at this event last year. Please consider taking advantage of this once-a-year opportunity to introduce friends and colleagues to the Clinic. You may register for the breakfast by contacting Kelly O'Connor at 457-2365 or koconnor@faithmedical.org.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Office volunteers – Contact Caroline Tigner at 341-0808 or ctigner@faithmedical.org
Nurse volunteers - Contact Traci Warner at 341-0808 or twarner@faithmedical.org
Physician Specialists – Contact Dr. Tom Henderson at 341-0808 or Joshua Southards at 341-0808 or jsouthards@faithmedical.org
Development and Outreach volunteers – Contact Kelly O'Connor at 457-2255 or koconnor@faithmedical.org

WISH LIST

Bibles – Spanish, Korean, and Arabic
Children's Band-aids – All sizes and shapes
Office supplies – Copy paper, post-its, pens & glue sticks.
Personal items – Toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo and soap.
Paper products – Paper towels, kleenex and toilet paper

Meet Our Specialists: Raymond S. Martin, M.D.



Dr. Tom Henderson; Joshua Southards, Faith Family Operations Manager; and Dr. Buz Martin.

Dr. Raymond (Buz) Martin is a vascular and general surgeon at Saint Thomas Hospital, where he currently serves as Chief of Surgery. Dr. Martin and his colleagues have opened their practice to Faith Family patients since the clinic's beginning.

Dr. Martin traces his commitment to charity care to his father, who practiced medicine in Jackson, Mississippi for many years. A 1976 mission trip to Honduras with his father only served to deepen Dr. Martin's desire to share his medical skills with all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

After graduating from Johns Hopkins Medical School, Dr. Martin completed his residency training and returned to Jackson to practice alongside his father. In 1986 he came to Nashville to accept a Fellowship

in Vascular Surgery at Saint Thomas Hospital. The opportunity at Saint Thomas fulfilled two of Dr. Martin's great passions: practicing as part of a faith based ministry while also teaching medical students and residents.

"It's a great privilege that I don't have to tailor my practice toward a certain socioeconomic level," says Dr. Martin. He credits the Saint Thomas Hospital Daughters of Charity program with making it easy for him to care for patients like those referred from Faith Family. His partners in The Surgical Clinic also share in the treatment of Faith Family patients.

Dr. Martin's work with Faith Family patients has benefits that extend beyond the individual helped. "These patients from Faith Family don't come into my office without meeting students and residents," says Dr. Martin. "We all learn together." Teaching remains one of the most satisfying parts of Dr. Martin's practice, and as Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at Vanderbilt there is often a medical student at his side, learning from every situation. "I appreciate all the patients I have and the variety of situations they present," Dr. Martin adds. "They allow me to pass on medical, surgical and human nature skills to the people who will be serving us as physicians in the decades to come."

Dr. Martin acknowledges that the extra time required to pursue teaching and charity care work is a direct result of the support and understanding of his wife, Wendy Martin, who has faithfully taken on the lion's share of running the rest of their life, including raising their five children. On behalf of our patients, we are grateful to both Dr. and Mrs. Martin for his excellent medical care and generous offering of his time.



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