



## “The Pulse” Newsletter - Fall of 2012

### At HCHC we see people from all walks of life

Michael came to HCHC right out of prison with \$15 in his pocket. Fortunately, Michael came to Christ in prison and has a family that is helping him transition back into society. He has serious heart issues which require continual monitoring and medications. The prison system gave him a 30 day supply of medication and no guidance on how to continue his treatment or find work. We are glad he found HCHC! Michael exclaimed, “HCHC has saved my life! For without these medicines, I’d die!” I really appreciate all you’ve done for me. You are truly God’s provision for me.”

Not only is HCHC helping Michael with his health, our chaplains are working to help find him a job. We have written a resume for him and have given him several job leads. We know that God has more in store for Michael, good things, and we want you to hear his heart and hopes. This is the heart of a man who has hope because he’s been transformed by Christ.



### Michael’s Story

I am almost 46 years old and lived a very wasted life. I spent almost twenty years inside the walls of the Arizona prison system. I am not proud to admit this, but being separated from those who I love and feeling all that loneliness, broke me.

I had done bad things in my life and know I deserved to be in prison. I also understood that this was not the man I wanted to be. Abraham Lincoln said, “I have been driven to my knees many times, with the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.” I reached that point and cried in my cell asking God to help me and to come back into my heart. I was tired of hurting and feeling all alone. I needed a best friend and someone to love me no matter what my past was like. I got back into reading the bible and studying His messages. And after a time I started feeling better about myself.

I now understand that my past sins are forgiven. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” So now I have a new life to devote to do God’s will for my life. Saint Patrick once said, “If I have any worth, It is to live my life for God.”

That is all I want to do now. I believe I know how my Lord wants me to do this. I have lived on the streets. I know what it is like to not eat for a few days. I took scraps out of a garbage can just to get something to eat. I have felt the hopelessness and the loneliness. I know how bad it felt to see how “normal” people, looked at me.

I stole a lot in my life. When I was in prison studying I came across a verse that utterly changed me. *Ephesians 4:28* states, “If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need”. It was as if God was speaking directly to me at that very moment. WOW!!! My loving God just told me what to do with my life. He gave me a reason for living.

I want to spend the rest of my life reaching out to the homeless. Letting them know that they are not alone, or unloved. I want to share the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. As long as they accept Him as their own personal savior they will never be alone and always loved. I want to help them to find work, homes, and self dignity. I feel strongly that this is what God wants me to do.

I want to remind us, as Christians, we need to be Christ-Like. Christ would never look down on someone who is living on the street. Christ would not cross to the other side of the street to avoid them. Christ would let them know that they are loved. We need to do the same.

We need to talk with them. Pray with them. Pray for them. Find out what their needs are and, if able, then help them meet their needs. The bible teaches us in *James 1:22*, “But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” God tell us to help the poor, the orphaned and the widowed and remember those who are in prison. We need to do these things in our lives so that we are truly Christians by emulating Christ. I hope and pray that I am able to succeed in doing this. I know it is what God wants me to do. It is also what I want myself to do.

*Please pray for those who are homeless, hungry, cold, alone, and scared. God Bless .*

### Dr. Sell: a Health Leadership Finalist

Once again Dr. Sell was recognized for the amazing job he does as a physician! He was a finalist for the AZ Health Leadership Award given by the Arizona Business Journal. This award recognizes those who are making a difference in the healthcare industry. Being the medical director of HCHC



is only part of Dr. Sell’s amazing credentials. His heart for the well-being of our uninsured patients is making a tremendous impact in our community. **Congratulations, Dr. Sell!**

# Hope

Community Health Center experienced some transitions in 2011, but also strong growth. In April 2011, Dr. Ann Engel left HCHC and was replaced as Medical Director by Ron Sell, MD. Dr. Sell invigorated the practice by increasing the number of patients examined hourly as well as finding free or discounted ancillary services for our patients. Dr. Sell rescued a woman from an aggressive breast cancer and saved tax payers over \$200,000 for catching it early. He won a humanitarian award from the Arizona Breast Cancer Foundation for his work to save this woman's life! Dr. Sell was also nominated for the Arizona Business Journal's Health Care Leadership Award! Congratulations Dr. Sell!



The need for our services continues to be in high demand. In 2011, Arizona cut a majority of its medical services for the poor. Over 200,000 adults and children were removed from the roles and more cuts were planned for 2012. Our patients report they were given HCHC's phone number by state agencies, hospitals, and urgent cares. Impoverished folks are concerned about ways to maintain their health. Patients are grateful for us and the medical services we provide.

To continue our services in 2012, we need \$225,000 in donations to accommodate the burgeoning needs. In 2011, Sonora Quest Laboratories gave \$9,000 for discounted lab services. Drexler Foundation gave over \$45,000; \$12,000 was a matching grant gift. Dignity Health awarded with a two year \$50,000 grant. Because of the economic downturn and grants becoming less available for dental services, the Board of Directors decided to wait to begin HCHC's adult dental services. We want to be certain to sustain the dental services upon starting them.

## ***HCHC volunteers gave over 2,500 hours to the clinic!***

Sixteen of our patients gave volunteer hours to help clean the clinic. We are blessed because of our volunteers' efforts to help HCHC. Their service is the equivalent of over \$55,000 of donated labor! We partnered with Sanford Brown College to have bi-lingual Medical Assistant students begin to work at HCHC! It is a great opportunity!

We had over 1,300 total patient visits in 2011. In 2010 HCHC had 694 patient visits; that is an 87% increase in patient visits in 2011! We had over 500 new patient requests, and now have over 1,500 patients! At the end of 2010 we had 1,070 patients. That is 40% more patients than we had at the end of 2010. In the last 3 months in 2011 HCHC ordered 504 labs through Lab Corp.

In 2011, our chaplaincy area was short staffed, due to illnesses and so we did not always have enough volunteers to provide all the services we normally provide our clients. Chaplains had 140 visits. Our chaplains prayed with 70 people, shared the gospel with 34 people, and 13 people came to Christ. Thirty six folks said they had a relationship with Christ. Chaplains conducted job searches for 23 people. Twelve families received referrals



for emergency food boxes. We partnered with Missio Dei Church and Sozo Coffeehouse to provide two of HCHC's families Christmas gifts!

The Christmas outreach is the third year in a row partnering with local churches to provide Christmas for some of our families that would otherwise not have one.

We look forward to what 2012 holds; both the challenges and the victories. We ask you to consider partnering with us to continue this vital legacy of care to the community.

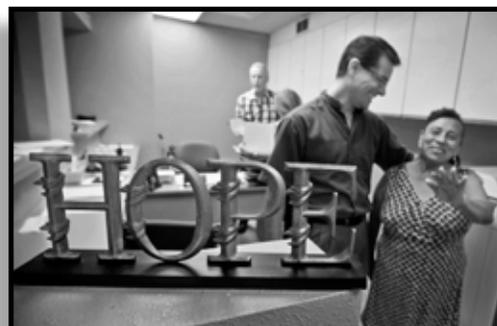
In 2011, HCHC rescued a woman from the most aggressive breast cancer and tax payers over \$200,000 for catching it early. Dr. Ron Sell, our Medical Director, won a humanitarian award for his work to save this woman's life! Dr. Sell increased the free or discounted services our patients can obtain through his networks. We are grateful for the many agencies that help save and stabilize our patients.

## ***These partners are:***

- EVDI*
- Marquis Diagnostic*
- Chandler Diagnostic Imaging*
- Dignity Health*
- AZ State Urology*
- Mesa Gastro-Intestinal Health*
- Sonora Quest*
- Lab Corp*
- East Valley Cardiology*

## **Lab Test Completed:**

- 115 - Lipid Panels
- 108 - Metabolic Panels
- 54 - Blood Sugar Tests
- 49 - Thyroid Tests
- 39 - Complete Blood Counts
- 31 - Paps



# We have seen the need for our services grow each year over the last four and one half years.

This has been more evident in 2011 and 2012. We saw over 500 new patients in 2011 and had over 600 requests to become new patients at HCHC. You may not be aware that Arizona has again cut the low income medical services to the poor.

Literally every adult over the age of 21 cannot renew nor even obtain AHCCS, the state's medical coverage. Arizona Republic reporter Mary Reinhart on Feb. 15, 2012 reported the Arizona Supreme Court ruling that will uphold an enrollment freeze. The outcome will be "an estimated 100,000 childless adults will lose Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System coverage this fiscal year." This also does not include the over 20,000 impoverished children on a waiting list hoping to receive AHCCCS medical coverage.



giving out HCHC's phone number trying to get people a primary care provider they can afford. Unfortunately, because of the huge volume of calls we are referring people to other medical clinics that cost a great deal more, knowing that a majority of those people will not go because they cannot afford it. It is a very critical time and HCHC is on the front line of a very precarious health needs crisis.



The needs are staggering when you consider the ongoing preventative care that those people need to maintain their health. Kathy Byrne, a CEO of a community clinic in Tucson says, "Our facility is treating a growing number of uninsured patients. Many wait longer to seek care, and often their only option is a hospital emergency room -- the most expensive care available. Byrnes continued, "They will come into the emergency department with significant illness. And it's at a point

where it's much harder to get them healthy again." Taxpayers and hospitals end up covering these costs that the uninsured cannot pay. For instance, an uninsured woman's treatment for breast cancer is over \$200,000.\* A two day hospital stay for an uninsured adult asthma treatment is \$80,000.



## The needs are staggering

In 2011, HCHC saved a woman from breast cancer and taxpayers the unpaid costs! It costs, at minimum, \$400 to seek treatment at a hospital emergency room. If HCHC keeps 300 uninsured people who cannot pay for medical care from going to the emergency room, that saves taxpayers at least \$120,000! There is a great fear among the poor that they will get sick and cannot pay for needed care. When the poor delay obtaining health care, the cost and scope of needed health care services increases and these costs are passed on to taxpayers. HCHC provides access to preventative care for the uninsured, and in doing so saves taxpayers' money!

We need your help to continue to provide these necessary preventative medical services for the uninsured. Donating to HCHC your Arizona Tax Credit for the Working Poor



helps low income families while reducing your state income tax. This law provides a credit for contributions made to certain qualified charities that provide help to the working poor, like HCHC. An income tax credit returns the donated amount dollar for dollar to your pocket.

## WE NEED YOUR HELP



So, if you have already paid income taxes this year to Arizona and itemize your state return, you could receive these credits back as a refund. The maximum donation available, per year, for the Working Poor Tax Credit is \$400 for a married couple filing jointly, or \$200 for a single person filing individually.

\*2010 figure for hospital stay, oncology, and radiology breast cancer treatments from Chandler Regional Medical Center's Community Mammography Services. ^Client bill from CRMC in 2011.



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## HCHC saved taxpayers over \$200,00 in 2011!

To donate, go to our web site at [www.azhchc.org](http://www.azhchc.org) and receive your "HCHC AZ Tax Credit" for the working poor so we can save money again in 2012 & 2013.

## Our July 2nd, Fund Raising Event!



Hope Community Health Center held its second family friendly music and comedy fundraising evening on July 2 at **Sozo Coffeehouse** on Alma School and Warner. The event helped us raise money to continue to provide services for the uninsured

in the community. The event was sponsored by **EVDI and Sonora Quest Laboratories**. "We have had a wonderful relationship with EVDI and Sonora Quest Laboratories," said David Engel, President of HCHC, "Both organizations help us by providing our patients free or discounted services. They are exceptional businesses!"

**The Bread Connection Café and Bakery** donated delectable sandwiches and **Paradise Bakery and Café** donated delicious desserts for the event. **Tapestry Photo and Design** provided outstanding professional videography and photography for the event.



The musical talents of rocker and R&B guitarist, **Paul Sultana**, wowed the crowd with his renditions of popular songs. **Story Road**, comprised of an amazing duet of **Craig and Joliene Hayton** performed smooth harmonization. Veteran musician, **Jay Farris**, lead guitarist of the **Exit 40 Band**, entertained people with soulful classic rock and country.

The evening ended with a comedic flare as professional funny men, **Keith Ellis and Isaac the Magician**, of **Clean Comedy** shared their fascination of the world around us in hilarious fashion. Keith got the crowd laughing as he talked about his early life, family mishaps, and recent voyage. Isaac's magic was mixed with humor and lots of audience participation. He ended the night with an amazing "Is this your card?" trick that left the audience guessing.



"HCHC provides astounding medical services for the community's uninsured population," stated President David Engel, "and we desire to continue to serve the community. This event was a great way to raise awareness with sponsors, volunteers, patients, and supporters."