

CHRIST HEALTH CENTER



AUTHENTIC HEALTH CARE FOR BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT

Thank you for taking a few minutes to catch up on all that is happening at Christ Health Center. We hope you enjoy this brief glimpse into the work we are doing to advance God's Kingdom in Woodlawn and Bessemer.

David's Amazing Story

David is a senior at Woodlawn High School and comes from one of the poorest families in the neighborhood which is unfortunately saying a lot. We met him in August when 15 of the football players needed last second physicals before the first game. The wheezing in his lungs kept us from clearing him, so he returned the next day for treatment with the mother of his child in tow. During the visit, I met a young man who really captured my heart and asked him to stop by the clinic to see me from time to time.

He started coming by and really got plugged into all the activities of the Dream Center. One night I took him home and noticed how much the other boys teased him and kind of wondered why. Dropping him at his house could have made me cry. With very little exaggeration, it is on par with my kids' playhouse. In the winter the whole family sleeps in the front 2 rooms because the back walls have holes and they survive on 2 space heaters. Several friends took notice of David and his situation and came around his family to give them a

great Christmas and help some with their living situation. Another friend who owns a business in Woodlawn heard his story and hired him as an intern. Dr. Osborn took a special interest in him and replaced his missing front tooth at no cost to him in our dental clinic. More than material goods, these faithful people have really donated themselves. They've entered into his suffering to see him made whole.

Beyond the reality of his poverty, we have gotten to know David. He is a kid with a ton of potential who suffers mightily because he's never had a father. In fact, his entire family suffers. It's hard to fathom that in the year 2010, David will be the first male child in his family's history to graduate from high school. The cycle of poverty has to break eventually, why not now? With just a little bit of interest being invested in him, David was flourishing. He even went on a fasting and prayer retreat.

Things were going well, until...

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OUR STATE - OF - THE - ART DENTAL SUITE



Expanding Pediatric Care

We are excited to announce that Dr. Mary Jones will be joining the team in April.

She is a board certified pediatrician and will be in the Woodlawn facility two days per week to ensure full pediatric coverage throughout the week.

She attended medical school at LSU with Dr. Record and has relocated to Birmingham with her family after spending the last several years serving the children and families of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Increasing Pharmacy Access

Turn on the TV. Listen to the radio. Pick up your favorite magazine. Read the paper. Everywhere you go you are inundated with ads telling you to ask your doctor for the latest, greatest wonder drug that will be the all-in-one, magical cure for whatever ails you.

It is hard enough for health care professionals to make sense of all the information, much less a patient with little education and even less access to resources we take for granted every day.

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David's Amazing Story (con't)

Well, we recently found out David's new girlfriend is pregnant. She's a senior in high school and was diagnosed in our clinic. One of eight girls from the school that we've diagnosed in the last 8 weeks, Beth is now in a class and developing mentoring program that we run in the high school. We are also working on plans to reduce the neighborhood's teen pregnancy rate in the coming months. Through our crisis pregnancy ministry we learned that our special young man wasn't quite stepping up to the plate which was causing her to think about abortion. A week later, David, who is being recruited to play college football texted me (yes, he's one of the few teenagers in the world who has his doctor's cell number) to let me know he made a 14 on his ACT. Whew! Not sure I needed more bad news.

But God is faithful. I asked David to come in with his girlfriend that we might figure out what was going on. They came in yesterday, and Jason Cooke and I sat down with them for 45 minutes and made some real progress. The heart of the entire visit was to get them in right relationship with Jesus after which we could get to the stuff between them. It took breaking down some very justifiable walls with her, but we made real progress. David is repentant and his eyes are open to what he has to do. If his ACT improves greatly, he'll go to college locally this year - can't go away because he has to care for his children. If his scores don't improve, he will work (we'll help him find the job) and he'll study hard with one of our tutors to pull up his academic deficiencies that he might have a shot at his athletic dreams too. Regardless, he now knows that God's plan for his life is more important than his plan for his life. He knows this and has a shot at his dream, and his kids have a shot at a real dad because a few average people chose to answer God's call to care for someone else. We're sticking with him and are hopeful that brighter days are ahead. Pray for David and us, and stay tuned for a story that somebody would turn into a movie.

~ Dr. Robert Rex Record

Increasing Pharmacy Access (con't)

Thankfully, Samford University's McWhorter School of Pharmacy (MSOP) has stepped in to help us bridge this gap.

MSOP has built, equipped and staffed a complete dispensing pharmacy in our Woodlawn facility. More than simply counting pills and labeling bottles, they are actively engaged in hands-on patient care, consulting with our medical and dental staff to create the best possible medication therapy program for each individual patient, and then meeting and following up with patients to ensure that they are getting and using the medications that are prescribed. Equally important, they are training the next generation of pharmacists, teaching them to look beyond the traditional career opportunities and to discover new avenues to serve the community.

Already this year, MSOP's involvement has had a tangible impact on the lives of our patients, the students and volunteers serving with us, and the daily operations of the health center. Since January, Anna Meador, a MSOP Pharmacy Practice resident assigned to Christ Health Center, has overseen and coordinated 271 hours of pharmacy student education, 113 hours of volunteer service, and the enrollment of 26 patients in drug manufacturers' patient assistance programs for a total of 51 different medications that patients could not otherwise afford. The result? Patients have saved \$13,202.58 in the cost of their medications and in many cases obtained medications that they would have had to forego altogether.

We look forward to the continued development of pharmacist-run diabetes, anti-coagulation and hypertension clinics that will help our patients manage their diseases and that will free up appointment times for other members of the health care team to treat even more patients.

NEW OFFERING

Pictures of Your Baby-to-Be

We want to send a big thank you to SonoSite for the ultrasound machine they recently donated.

Our crisis pregnancy ministry is busier than ever, and this tool is truly invaluable. In our first week with it, we used it twice.

Both ladies were 17, both had children when they were 15, both had miscarriages this past Fall, both are recently pregnant again, both were moved emotionally to walk out with pictures of their babies, and both are plugged into our class for mothers and mothers-to-be at the high school.

With time, we'll also use our ultrasound machine for diagnostic dilemmas in our uninsured patients. So excited!



Prayer Needs

Continued growth, leadership and vision for our Board of Directors • God's favor in the review, processing and reimbursement of our Medicare provider application • Wisdom in the ongoing staffing of our operation • Growth in our volunteer base to support greater patient volume



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You can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter!