

# THANK YOU, DONORS: YOU CHANGED 6,800 LIVES LAST YEAR!

Donors, you're the best. During our last fiscal year, you made sure that 6,800 Free Clinic patients received compassionate care.

We know that you have choices about sharing your gifts. Thank you for choosing to share them with us.



### The tie that bonds

"The Free Clinic keeps people from falling through the cracks while they're in transition, making better lives for themselves."

--Susan Davis, MD

Susan (left above) is the Free Clinic's volunteer medical director and a long-time donor. She shares a special bond with Shannon, one of our patients.

Shannon came to the clinic when she was uninsured and in pain from an accident. "Susan helped me understand what was happening to me," she says. "She is one of the kindest people I know."

Shannon met Susan again when both volunteered at a local food pantry. Now they see each other regularly as they give back to the community. "I enjoy connecting with Shannon," says Susan. "And I enjoy giving my time and funds to the Free Clinic to help patients like her as they get back on their feet."

### Many happy returns (on your investment)

Wondering how your gift to the Free Clinic helps our patients? Read on:

- \$15 will provide a vaccine to keep a young person from getting meningitis.
- \$25 will buy antibiotics to help five people recover from serious infections.
- \$35 will help coordinate care for a patient who needs referrals to our partner specialists or hospitals.



- \$45 will buy glucometers and test strips to help six diabetic patients control their disease.
- \$120 will provide inhalers so three people with asthma can breathe easier.
- \$135 will fund x-rays for three broken ankles.

We appreciate any gift you can make. Thank you!

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### Inspirational Leadership

In the spring of this year, the Free Clinic lost one of our generous volunteer heroes - Mike Strickland. The Free Clinic is volunteer-driven, and Mike



embodied the ideals and values of volunteerism through his acts of leadership, generosity and mutual support of his fellow volunteers.

Mike began volunteering as a pharmacist when the Free Clinic opened 26 years ago. Over that period of time, he consistently worked two shifts a month in the dispensary. As if this were not

enough, Mike also served on the board of directors and on multiple program advisory committees, which helped to shape and expand services for those in need of health care.

From the day the Free Clinic opened until the spring of 2017, Mike gave 1,039 hours of volunteer service. He would inform new volunteers that he did not give of his time for recognition, but because he believed everyone should have

access to health care. When asked, Mike would say that "you can have the worst day ever in your job and then come to the Free Clinic, and the person you are serving always says 'thank you.'"



In this newsletter, several of our patients describe the extraordinary service and generosity that has made a difference in their lives. Mike personified what it truly means to care for those in need.

Barbe West

Barbe West Executive Director Dawn Tobth

Dawn Tolotti President, Board of Directors

### FY 2016-17 GIFTS IN MEMORY OF...

Kenny Andrews Dennis & Mary Frances Duggan

Tim Armstrong Allen & Cheryl Beall

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Mike Strickland Gerald & Lori Bader Betty Bottemiller Victoria Carter John & Bonnie Crawford Eugenia Fontyn G Trucking Byron & Susan Henry Karen Kusmirek Eric & Kenda Lofgren Steve & Jan Oliva Linda Quitslund Warren Rust Mark & Theresa Stuhrman Debra Town Donald & Bebie Zavalney

Tony, Martha, Jerome and Mary Ellen Warren & Janet Rosen

Dr. Paul C. Turner Evelyn M. Turner

George Marlin Zent Norman Creitz

### Did you know? The Free Clinic...

- Is homegrown & has been communitysupported since 1990.
- Does not accept state or federal funding to provide care.
- Has earned a Gold rating from the GuideStar charity rating service.

You can support us today with an online donation. Go to <u>freeclinics.org/your-support</u>. Thank you!

### "WITHOUT THE FREE CLINIC, FAR MORE PEOPLE WOULD SUFFER"

PeaceHealth and Kaiser Permanente helped launch the Free Clinic more than two decades ago and still support us today. We recently spoke with leaders from these original funders to learn why they continue as our champions.



#### **PeaceHealth**

• Sean Gregory, CEO, Columbia Network

# Q.: Why does PeaceHealth support the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington?

A.: The missions of PeaceHealth and the Free Clinic are aligned, and we take care of many of the same people. As long as the Free Clinic is successful, uninsured people won't have to face the burden of going to the emergency room for every illness or injury.

### Q.: An ounce of prevention...

A.: Exactly. In the emergency room, we see what happens when uninsured people don't get the urgent care they need. They have more serious infections or injuries because they've let it go too long. They may suffer from a late-stage disease, like diabetes or cancer, that could have been caught earlier if they'd used the Free Clinic.

### Q.: So you'd like us to stick around?

A.: Absolutely. The Free Clinic has mustered hundreds of volunteers to care for low-income patients and hundreds of community partners who offer free care to those patients. That speaks to the value you bring to Southwest Washington. PeaceHealth is proud to be the Free Clinic's diamond partner.

### **Kaiser Permanente**

- Tracy Dannen-Grace, Director of Community Partnerships & Philanthropy
- Catherine Potter, Manager of Safety Net Partnerships

# Q.: Why is the Free Clinic important to the Southwest Washington community?

A.: Thousands of people in the region have no health insurance, despite all our best efforts. Many of those people rely on the Free Clinic for basic urgent care. You are one of the top community-supported clinics in our region. Without you, far more people would suffer and our community health outcomes would be remarkably different.

# Q.: So the Free Clinic offers a solid alternative to the emergency room?

A.: Yes. And if the Free Clinic closed its doors, uncompensated emergency room care would go up. That kind of increase impacts everyone who uses the health system. First because the ER gets clogged and people with true emergencies have to wait longer. Second, the higher ER costs will have to be spread across the system, and everyone's insurance premiums will increase.



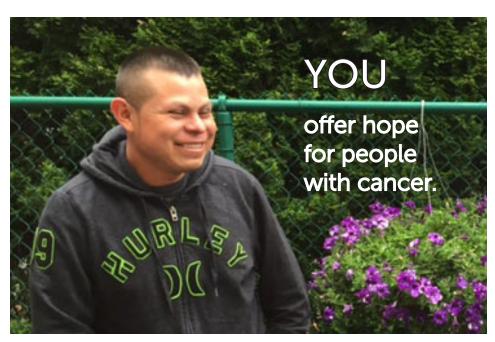
### Q. Why should others join you in supporting us?

A.: The Free Clinic is administratively lean, well-run and highly regarded. You have a good track record with both health outcomes and financial responsibility. You're also a great community partner. When the Free Clinic is at the table, we know that the voice of the uninsured and underserved will be heard.

Our sincere thanks to Sean, Tracy and Catherine!

### How Your Dollars Cha

Our next patient may be your neighbor, t preschool teacher who cares for your k patients should suffer simply because they l their co-pays. You're helping them stay who



### Beating cancer day by day

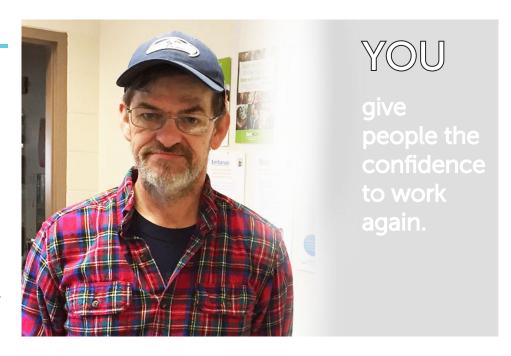
Manuel, specialty care patient

Last year, Manuel was shocked to learn that what he thought was a simple nasal polyp was actually a deadly tumor. Thanks to the Free Clinic's specialty and hospital partners, he's getting the treatment he needs to conquer cancer. "My chart at the Free Clinic is thick," he says, "but the volunteer doctors and specialists in the community keep helping me. I am grateful to your donors for funding this program. I don't know what I'd do without it."

### New start for a Navy vet

Robert, dental patient

Robert, a Navy veteran, plunged into a downward spiral after losing a family member. "It was hard just to get out of bed," he says. "Then I realized I had to make a change." Now he's receiving the major dental work he needs before he launches a new job search. The Free Clinic is helping with screenings, x-rays and extractions. "I want to thank the Free Clinic's donors," he says. "They are helping me reinvent myself from the ground up."



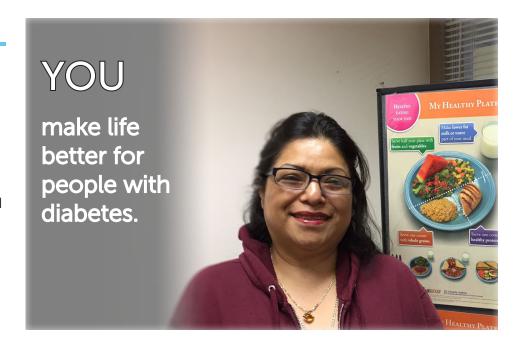
### hange - and Save - Lives

or, the clerk at your favorite shop or the ur kids. Like you, we don't believe these ey lack health insurance or can't afford whole and healthy, so take a bow!

### A whole life change

Luisa, diabetes patient

Luisa came to the Free Clinic two years ago with worsening diabetes. "I was not in control," she says. "In the Free Clinic's diabetes program, I learned to change my life totally." Now she eats healthy meals and has joined the program's walking group. "My mental health is good, my diabetes numbers are good, my life is good," she reports. "I thank all who donate to the clinic, whether they give five dollars or five hundred."





### Care with dignity

Eric, urgent care patient

Ten years ago, Eric was uninsured and searching for a job. When an ear infection laid him low, he turned to the Free Clinic. "The volunteers treated me with dignity and kept me out of the emergency room," he recalls. Now working at a local firm and serving as a commissioner at the Port of Vancouver, Eric thanks the donors who helped him and keep helping others: "Your investment in the Free Clinic reaps huge dividends for the community."

### THANK YOU TO OUR FY 2016-17 (JULY-JUNE) DONORS

Diamond Donor (\$75,000+) PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center

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Donors in italics are active volunteers.

See <u>freeclinics.org</u> for a complete list of our non-anonymous donors for FY2016-17.

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### Five Easy Ways to Love the Free Clinic

Thanks a million for giving what you can to the Free Clinic. If you want to give a little more - or donate in a different way - consider these options.

#### 1. Give with a few clicks

- Donate online now at <u>freeclinics.org</u>.
- Join the Dr. Beall Stewardship Society and make a monthly donation. Details at <u>freeclinics.org</u>.
- Thursday, September 21 is the day to Give More 24! You'll be pleased at how easy it is. Check www.give-more-24.org.



### 2. Party with us!

Join us December 2 for the Friends of the Free Clinic Holiday Ball. And watch for details on our springtime event, the Sam Beall Breakfast.

### 3. Shop at Freddie's and AmazonSmile

- Sign up for the Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program to donate every time you shop. Details at <u>freeclinics.org</u>.
- Join the AmazonSmile program to donate with every purchase you make. Sign up at <u>smile</u>. <u>amazon.com</u>.

#### 4. Make a "forever" gift

Remember the Free Clinic in your will or make a gift of stock. Details on <u>freeclinics.org</u> at the "Leave a <u>Legacy"</u> tab.

#### 5. Double down

Your employer may offer matching gifts. It's usually easy to sign up and double your dollars to the Free Clinic. Ask your supervisor or human resources department if your organization offers a match.

### FREE CLINIC NEWS

#### New experts are on board

We're delighted to welcome three new leaders (and donors!) to our board of directors.



Gary Grimley, RPh spent 24 years as a pharmacist with PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center. He's been a volunteer with the Free Clinic since 2002.



Ann Wheelock recently retired as chief financial officer with The Vancouver Clinic. She was a member of the Free Clinic's board from 2003 to 2012.



Sally Williams, MD has worked in the infectious disease practice at The Vancouver Clinic for 20 years. A former Free Clinic board member, she's volunteered in our urgent care clinic since 2002.

### Emily Singleton joins our team

Emily Singleton has joined the Free Clinic's staff as manager of our medical and project access



programs. She brings more than 30 years of health care experience to her new role. She served as a clinical nurse specialist at a safety-net clinic and an administrative supervisor at Cleveland Clinic Hospital. Emily has a B.S. in health administration from the College of St. Francis and an MBA from

Friends University. Please join us in welcoming her.

#### Volunteer recruitment made easier

Do you have a colleague who might want to join our team of 500 volunteers? Tools developed by students from Leadership Clark County can help. A six-



minute video and a set of handouts explain the joys of volunteering at the Free Clinic. Please share the video from our home page at <u>freeclinics.org</u>. For handouts, email <u>beth@freeclinics.org</u>. Thank you!



Donate online now at <u>freeclinics.org!</u>



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- Barbe West, Executive Director
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- Jorge Cortes, Clinic Coordinator
- Anna B. Cruz, Community Health Worker
- Angela Gonzalez, Care Coordinator
- Dominique Horn, *Community Health Advocate*
- Delicia Marquez, Clinic Assistant
- Carolyn Noack, *Program Manager*
- Susana Pineda, Care Coordinator
- Beth Quartarolo, Communications, Development and Outreach Manager
- Emily Singleton, *Program Manager*
- Vicky Van De Grift, *Dental/* Volunteer Coordinator
- Brandi Williams, *Community Health Advocate*

#### Our mission:

Provide and facilitate access to free, compassionate, quality health care for children and adults who are otherwise unable to obtain such services.

Keep up with us on social media!







The Friends of the Free Clinic ask you to save the evening of **Saturday, December 2** for our annual Holiday Ball



Tickets on sale beginning Oct. 2 at <u>freeclinics.org</u>