



SILOAM

FAMILY HEALTH CENTER



Healing Waters



Happy Birthday Siloam

How do we begin to reflect on 25 years of health care ministry at Siloam? With profound gratitude. Although the two of us have served here for well over half of Siloam's lifespan, the founding vision and DNA predates us both. We are sincerely thankful for the pioneering members of Belmont Church who dared to envision a health center that was both professionally excellent and deeply rooted in Jesus Christ. We are also grateful for the thousands of volunteers, professionals and "medical laypeople" alike, and the tireless hours they sacrifice in service to our mission. We truly stand on the shoulders of giants.

Where would we be without "Dr. Two Dollar" himself - David Gregory - or his Saturday morning counterpart, Dr. Brevard Haynes? Or the long line of volunteer medical interpreters who help us navigate our daily Tower of Babel? Or the devoted team of ladies who cheerfully serve in our new refugee screening clinic every Monday morning? Or the army of faithful supporters - from churches to former patients - who choose to invest their resources back into the ministry of Siloam each year? We are indebted to them all.

If our reflection begins in gratitude, it naturally progresses to wonder. As one of my (Morgan's)

physician mentors was fond of saying, "Medicine offers a front row seat for LIFE!" What better vantage point than Siloam to take in the human condition and progression of our city over the past 25 years?

From the crack-addicted neighbor who used to steal our toilet paper, to the lonely spinster who would linger after her appointments to empty the trash; from the first wave of Vietnamese refugee patients, to the Kurds, Copts, and Central Americans (and so many others!) who have made Nashville their home; from the patient who sewed up a large flesh wound with his own needle and thread, to the Sudanese Lost Boy who asked us to estimate his true age so he could qualify for school.

These are just a few of the people and stories from our past, but the message is clear. We are truly blessed to have a hand in the lives of so many. Siloam is the gift that keeps on giving to this city, and we are fellow partakers in the grace. ■

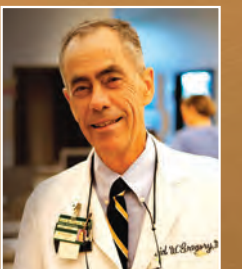
Dr. Morgan Wills, President & CEO
Nancy West, Former President & CEO

Passing Notes

Do you think it desirable and feasible
for Belmont to initiate and maintain
a medical clinic in and near the Edgemoor
area?
would you be interested discussing these questions
with Pearl Sims, me and others sometime
in January?

B Gnaat
b. Andrews
John Van Hoyden
Don Conner
Laura Conner
Aaron Esberushate
D. Gregory
D Burks
M Antrostos
E Rogers
Barney Graham
Cynthia Graham
Robbie Quinn
Bob Johnson

Have you ever gotten in trouble for passing a note...in church? Well, if not for one rebellious note-passer in 1989, Siloam Family Health Center might not exist! Dr. David Gregory, a Vanderbilt physician who worked at Metro General Hospital, was a member at Belmont Church. Inspired by Don Finto's message about the Kingdom of God but bothered by the cycle of uninsured patients he saw at work, he passed a note to a friend down the pew one Sunday, "Do you think it feasible for Belmont to initiate and maintain a medical clinic in the Edgemoor area?"



Dr. David Gregory

And with that, Siloam was born. Soon, several Belmont members, including fellow health professionals Donna Finto-Burks and Mick Antanaitis, began praying and rolling up their sleeves. They stepped into the health care gap in one neighborhood, and over the years God has grown a vibrant ministry beyond their wildest dreams. Today, Siloam provides whole-person health care to over 5,000 Middle Tennesseans annually, coming from more than 80 homelands and speaking over 70 languages. Perhaps we need more, not less, laypeople passing notes on Sundays! ■



“Even when the needs feel overwhelming, we are committed to showing up – and trusting that God will, too.”



Refugee Medical Screening

Volunteer Roots: The Power of “Showing Up”



Volunteers have long been the lifeblood of Siloam. The ministry was launched in 1991 by a small group of passionate volunteers, and for the better part of a decade, a growing number of dedicated volunteers showed up weekly to put hands and feet to the mission.

By faithfully showing up – over and over again – Siloam volunteers did a powerful thing: they bore witness to the steady, persistent love of God. Siloam has always been primarily a ministry of deeds, and sometimes of words. But perhaps Siloam's greatest gift over the years has been its ministry of *presence*. Despite Siloam never marketing itself to patients, word of mouth has spread to the city's most vulnerable: Siloam will be there when you have nowhere else to go.

Today, Siloam is staff-driven and volunteer-supported, but that spirit of faithful presence embodied by our founding volunteers is still tangible. Even when the needs feel overwhelming, we are committed to showing up at the point of need – and trusting that God will meet us there. ■



A look at our
Volunteers through
the years.

There's a lot of buzz these days about social enterprises. Well, Siloam has been doing social enterprise since before it was cool!

How so? In 2002, the state of Tennessee had a problem. Public health departments were struggling to perform required medical screenings for newly arrived refugees in a timely and effective manner. Because of Siloam's reputation for expertise in cross-cultural medicine, the state asked if we would consider taking over the program.

After much prayer and preparation, Siloam's leadership formed an LLC to do just that. For the past

13 years, Siloam's Refugee Medical Screening Program (RMSP) has sub-contracted with clinics in Memphis, Chattanooga, and Knoxville to handle out-of-town arrivals, while seeing roughly 70% of the refugees at our own facility in Nashville.



As a result, a typical Monday morning at Siloam is like a trip to “New Ellis Island!” Families from countries like the Congo, Syria, Iraq, Burma, and Cuba are welcomed by a team of staff and volunteers with patience, clinical excellence, and the hospitality of Christ.

The RMSP's purpose is to ensure the healthiest transition possible for the new refugees, as well as the Nashville community. Although most of these new arrivals will go on to receive primary care elsewhere for eight months through temporary health insurance, many will return to Siloam if and when they cannot sustain their health insurance benefits.

Now nationally recognized for its excellence, this program has been a wonderful complement to our primary care clinic for the uninsured. Whether serving as a hospitable first point of contact for displaced peoples, or serving as their long-term medical “foster home,” Siloam is proud to contribute towards the flourishing of a whole, new Nashville. ■



The Institute: Whole-Person Care – Multiplied

Siloam is not the largest health care nonprofit in our city, but it very well may be one of the most influential. One of the primary ways Siloam leverages its impact is through the Siloam Institute of Faith, Health, and Culture. Founded in 2012, the Institute builds on Siloam's long track record of mentorship to inspire, equip, and send out the next generation of health care providers for the vulnerable and marginalized. As Dr. Morgan Wills puts it, "It's whole-person care – multiplied!"

This "loaves and fishes" approach is spreading the DNA of Siloam throughout the city and beyond. The Institute has sponsored a number of initiatives, including research, public lectures, and summer community immersion programs for college students. But its flagship initiative is the Primary Care Preceptorship Program, led by award-winning Vanderbilt clinical faculty member Dr. Kristin Martel.

In this program, students are mentored by Siloam clinicians and walk through a unique curriculum that equips them with the skills to practice culturally-competent care, while also effectively

integrating faith and medicine. As one Vanderbilt fourth-year medical student stated, "This rotation is the best thing I've experienced in med school!"

Since its inception, the Institute has impacted over 275 trainees – that's more than any other comparably sized health center in the nation! Of the trainees, 93% report an increased competency in practicing poverty medicine, 79% report improved skill in practicing cross-cultural health care, and 78% report increased ability to incorporate behavioral and spiritual care into clinical practice.



Above all, their vision for health care is being baptized. From future subspecialists and researchers to promising young primary care professionals,

these young leaders are leavening our broken system, and they have been "ruined" for health-care-as-usual. ■

Reaching Out

Siloam is known for whole-person care that addresses the social, emotional, and spiritual determinants of health. Jesus himself modeled this approach; he was just as likely to heal a person or restore a relationship as he was to preach. Through his disciples, he sought to extend and multiply that approach even further.

Siloam's Community Health Outreach Program works in a similar fashion. It extends whole-person care beyond our walls by selecting and training Community Health Workers (CHWs) from four local immigrant and refugee congregations: Bhutanese, Burmese, Egyptian, and Hispanic. Mentored by Siloam staff nurses, these CHWs provide culturally relevant, peer-to-peer health education and help others effectively access local health care resources, whether at Siloam or elsewhere.

What makes the Community Health Outreach Program truly transformative is that this work is

an extension of Jesus's own ministry. As one Siloam CHW put it, "Love. Love is everything. We can change everything from love. If we do not have love, nothing else matters." These community health "evangelists" are breaking down barriers to wholeness and healing among some of Nashville's most vulnerable new Americans. This CHW added, "People who have already accepted Jesus think we do not have to be healthy..We are supposed to trust God, but we also have to care for ourselves and our physical health. In fact, Jesus makes us healthy."

Though the program is young, the congregants are starting to get it. As one recently said, "Some people don't care [about their health], but we really care! We are changing our diet by doing the things you have taught us, and it is helping our family." ■





SILOAM

FAMILY HEALTH CENTER

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