



FALL NEWSLETTER | 2017

SILOAM

HEALTH

Now More Than Ever,
Nashville Needs Siloam



Nashville at a Glance

36,337
people

were added to the
Nashville region in 2016

From **2013-2016**,
Nashville has grown
by an average of

100 people
per day



111,230
Nashvillians

live below the
federal poverty line

17%

of Nashvillians
live in **poverty**



1 in 8
Nashvillians

was born **outside** of
the United States

There are
133,915

foreign-born residents
of Nashville



19%

of
Nashvillians
don't have health insurance

56,218

foreign-born
residents of Nashville
don't have health insurance



The average family
cared for at **Siloam** makes

\$23,000
per year

75%
of **Siloam's**
patients fall below the
federal poverty line



Now More Than Ever, Nashville Needs Siloam

Dr. Morgan Wills, **President & CEO**



It's been a busy year in "It City." With record rates of employment growth, cranes aplenty, and 100 new residents arriving daily, Nashville continues to be an energetic, vital place to live...for most of us.

As Senator Bill Frist and others are pointing out, however, Nashville's overall population health is quite poor relative to its peer cities. Poverty rates in Davidson County are also increasing, even as the cost of living goes up. In short, those building the buzz behind the scenes—the banquet staffers, landscapers, construction workers, and pedicurists—are getting left behind.

Meanwhile, affordable health insurance has become an endangered species. Nashville is supposed to be the "Mecca" of the healthcare industry, but our rates of uninsured (19%) far exceed the national average (13%). Those who are both marginalized and uninsured have few places to turn.

The stakes are even higher for the foreign-born. In addition to language and cultural barriers, many former immigrants and refugees, including the legally documented, feel scared to leave their

homes let alone go to the doctor. Where do they turn? When their world is uncertain, these New Nashvillians know they can count on Siloam.

What leads them to us? A different kind of "buzz." Our Patient Relations team has heard it all: Siloam is there "for those with nowhere else to go." It's "like Vanderbilt for the rest of us." Or, my personal favorite: Siloam is "where people go to get healed!" Not just treated, but *healed*.

That's the thing. Siloam isn't just another health clinic. It's so much more—clinical excellence, interdisciplinary teams, efficiently stewarded resources, cross-cultural skill, and cutting-edge community health initiatives—all rooted in the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.

The communities we serve are particularly vulnerable, but not for long. They already work incredibly hard. And with whole-person care at Siloam, they are poised to prosper—and help our whole city flourish. Thank you for your partnership in this amazing ministry. Your support makes all the difference.

Now more than ever, Nashville needs Siloam! ■



Now More Than Ever, Refugees and Immigrants Need Siloam

“Refugees and immigrants find Siloam to be their refuge, their place of shelter, their place of hope in Nashville.”

Kap Sum should know. A naturalized U.S. citizen originally from Burma (now Myanmar), he truly understands what it means to seek refuge—and what it means to provide others with healing and hope. Every day you can find his contagious smile behind the patient relations desk at Siloam’s clinic, a visual sign of hospitality for patients in need.

Kap Sum can relate to their stories. Before coming to Nashville, he and his family lived peacefully in a small Burmese village, but civil war and an oppressive military government soon forced Kap Sum’s father to immigrate to the U.S. *“Being minorities as well as Christians, we faced hardship and discrimination about school and jobs. That’s why my dad really wanted to bring our family here: so we would have more opportunity for higher education, so that we could pursue our dreams.”*

Five years later, Kap Sum’s father was finally able to bring his family to Nashville. But before Kap Sum or his siblings could attend school, they needed immunizations and physical exams. Fortunately, their father had heard from friends about a clinic that helped refugees and immigrants. Though brief, Kap Sum’s initial visit at Siloam was a critical first step for his new life in the U.S.—and also a sign of things to come.

While Kap Sum and his family established themselves in Nashville, his relatives in Burma faced heightened unrest and persecution. Many fled the country as refugees and eventually resettled among Nashville’s Burmese community. Kap Sum, then a college student at Belmont University, began driving his cousins to Siloam for new refugee medical screenings. During one visit, a specialist noted that he spoke an ethnic dialect called Zomi and asked if he was

interested in volunteering as a much-needed interpreter. He readily agreed.

“Siloam staff and volunteers are very intentional about understanding and communicating with different cultures—not just the language, but also the behavior, the tone, the culture itself,” Kap Sum explains. As a volunteer, he developed an appreciation for Siloam’s catalytic role in connecting refugees and immigrants with other people, organizations, and resources, helping both them and the greater Nashville

community to truly flourish. Whereas most medical institutions focused solely on physical healing, Siloam’s efforts, rooted in the love of Jesus, reached much deeper.

That’s precisely what brought Kap Sum back to Siloam as an employee. After studying theology and global affairs, he was intrigued to learn about an opening in Siloam’s Patient Relations department. Kap Sum soon realized that he could pursue both passions in an unexpected way. *“I really love it here, the mission and the populations that we serve. When I came to Siloam, I got to see how much global affairs are happening right here in our backyard.”*

Not only is Kap Sum thrilled to serve such a diverse group of clients, but he is impressed by the excellence he sees at Siloam. *“For a lot of immigrants and refugees, this is a place where they feel heard and understood. Not many places have that spirit and expertise.”* Kap Sum, now Siloam’s Patient Relations Supervisor, manages a team of six—all of whom come from other countries.

At a time when fear and misunderstanding about the foreign-born are commonplace, it’s essential for Nashville to have a safe haven, a shelter, a place of hope for people from all walks of life. For local refugees and immigrants, that place is Siloam. ■



Now More Than Ever, The Church Needs Siloam

Vicki Powell and Susan Morton have experienced firsthand how Siloam inspires both faith and service in their community at Brentwood Baptist Church. Here's what they had to say about their service:

How does Brentwood Baptist Church partner with Siloam?

Vicki: Siloam is currently one of our Hope for the World Partners, and we help promote the ministry and provide volunteers.

Susan: I was initially interested in volunteering at Siloam because of my background as a pharmacist. However, after visiting, I immediately felt a difference in this place and a desire to connect patients with Jesus through prayer.

How does your work with Siloam live out God's plan for the church?

Vicki: Our work with Siloam lives out the Gospel by coming beside people from around the world to meet very tangible needs. There are many wonderful organizations that do good work, but putting Christ at the center is a game changer, and Siloam is a beautiful example of this. To bring peace and light in the midst of stressful times is a gift.

What is the most impactful part of your volunteer service?

Susan: The most impactful part of my service has been interacting with refugees and hearing their stories. I have spoken with many individuals who were separated from their families due to persecution and war, living in camps for years, and



finally coming to the U.S. where they have hope for a better life. Then they come to the clinic, and we have the privilege to share the hope we have in Jesus in very natural, respectful ways. It changes you.

Why is it important for Siloam to partner with churches to care for refugees and immigrants?

Vicki: The church has got to be involved in loving people from around the world that live here in our own backyard. The church is a living, breathing body that can make an impact and display the love of Christ in many ways. By working together with partners like Siloam, light truly does show up.

Susan: The church has a responsibility to help the poor and underserved. We have the opportunity to share our resources with refugees and immigrants as they integrate into our culture and community. As Matthew 25:35 says, "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in." ■



"Siloam was a blessing I cannot fully communicate. Although I had expectations of my time there, I could not have fully anticipated the way I saw faith in Christ fuel the delivery of health care like no worldly design or desire could match."

—Lesly Dossett, MD, 2000 trainee
Assistant Professor of Surgery, University of Michigan



Now More Than Ever, The Medical Community Needs Siloam: Voices from the Institute

"Good doctors might treat problems effectively, but great physicians treat patients. At Siloam, I got to witness whole-person care in action. Siloam is uniquely qualified to offer services for the physical pain, emotional hurt, and existential questions of Nashville's most vulnerable patients."

—Katie Lee, 2017 trainee
Fourth Year Medical Student,
East Tennessee State University



"We need health care providers who see each and every patient, regardless of their struggles, as a human created in the image of God. We need them everywhere—not just in clinics for the underserved. Siloam plays an integral part in training this generation of providers."

—Carmen Tuchman, MD,
2016 trainee
Assistant Professor of Internal
Medicine, Vanderbilt University



"Siloam provided me with insight not only to medically relevant issues, but also to the importance of providing holistic care. The notion of "personalized medicine" is touted in the modern era, but at Siloam, it is actually materialized. Staff pay attention to the individual details of their patients' lives."

—Jasia Mahdi, MD, 2013 trainee
Resident Physician, Washington
University School of Medicine



"It's important for medical education to have a place where whole-person care is embraced and spirituality is discussed openly. Learners of all types benefit from the philosophy and practice of Siloam, and that is an essential contribution to the future of medical care."

—Morgan McDonald, MD,
2000 trainee
Assistant Commissioner,
Tennessee Department of Health



4 Ways

You Can Get Involved This Season



1. Pray

Pray that, now more than ever, the Lord will equip Siloam to share the love of Christ by serving our patients with comprehensive and compassionate health care.



2. Become a Glocal Partner

Impact Nashville's increasingly global community through local action by giving monthly to the work of Siloam. Become a Glocal Partner by visiting siloamhealth.org/glocal.



3. Join Us on November 17

Join Siloam Health on November 17 for our annual fundraiser! Invite others from your community and come learn about the work of Siloam and how, now more than ever, Nashville needs Siloam and Siloam needs Nashville. Please RSVP by November 10 by visiting 2017-siloam-event.org. For questions, contact Amanda McFall at amanda.mcfall@siloamhealth.org or 615.921.6143.



4. Donate Your Birthday

This birthday, give health. Instead of asking for presents, ask your friends and family to give the gift of health care to your fellow Nashvillians in need. Learn more by visiting give.classy.org/Siloam-Health-Birthdays.



Siloam Health's mission is to share the love of Christ by serving those in need through health care.

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