

Transformed Lives, Transforming Lives





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I first came to Siloam as a medical student in the late 1990s. Siloam has transformed tremendously since then, but one thing that has never changed is the transforming power of Christ's love.

Early in medical school, I felt called to serve God by caring for those on the fringes of society. My desire to use medicine in a Christ-centered way led me to volunteer at Siloam, and later serve as a resident. During my time as a student, I was struck by Siloam's clear focus on living out the love of Christ in practical ways. Of course, this included excellent health care, but it also included actively engaging with patient stories, praying for them, and going the extra mile to advocate on their behalf.

I stayed connected to Siloam after my residency and was excited when I had the opportunity to return in 2014 to work here full-time. Now, as Lead Staff Physician, I feel blessed to provide patients from all over the world with the whole-person care they deserve—

while also sharing that knowledge and experience with a new generation of medical students.

As a student, my life was transformed by the deep care and compassion I witnessed at Siloam. It's this love that first drew me here as a student, that brought me back as a staff member, and that I now try to share with everyone who walks through our doors. The love that flows through Siloam has a way of coming back again and again. Today I am blessed to be among those at Siloam whom God uses to transform others, but only because I was transformed first.



Brent Snader as a student in 2003.

These ripples of transformation are revealed in the stories of Kambez and Hiba in this newsletter, as well as countless others—not just patients, but volunteers, staff, donors, and even students like I once was. Transformed lives transforming lives: God's works are truly amazing. ■

Brent Snader MD
Dr. Brent Snader

Just Like Siloam Helped Me: Kambez's Story

When Kambez came to Nashville as a refugee, life seemed uncertain. Today, he is helping others just like him find hope and a future through Siloam Health.

In 2017, Kambez, his wife, and their four children were forced to leave their home in Afghanistan due to threats by those who knew he worked alongside the U.S. military. "We left everything to come here," Kambez says. "It was really strange to come to a new country with a new culture and people. It was really hard."

Kambez and his family first visited Siloam for their refugee medical screening, and shortly after they enrolled in our Nashville Neighbors program. For six months they met with their Nashville Neighbors team from Ethos Church, learning best practices related to first aid, nutrition, and how to navigate health emergencies.

"Siloam did all our medical tests from A to Z, and the Nashville Neighbors program helped us make new friends and understand a new culture," says Kambez.

It was this experience that led Kambez to look for ways he could give back and help other refugees adjust to their new life in the United States. **"I could see that every staff member at Siloam really loved helping people from all over the world,"** Kambez explains. "I wanted to be able to help other refugees and share my experiences about Siloam and the Nashville Neighbors program."

Since he already spoke English through his work in Afghanistan, Kambez decided to attend Siloam's medical interpretation training so he could interpret



for other newly arrived refugee families like his own. He has already become a vital part of patient visits at the Siloam Health Primary Care Clinic, and Kambez hopes to become an interpreter for the Nashville Neighbors program as well.

"Siloam is always trying to make people happy through their services, and now I get to be a part of that," he says. **"I feel happy and blessed to be able to help others just like Siloam helped me."** ■



I Was In Your Spot: Hiba's Story

For over two years, Hiba Taha has served patients at the Siloam Health Primary Care Clinic as a medical assistant. She is known by staff and patients alike for her kind smile and generous heart. But what most people don't know is that 10 years ago she received care at Siloam, too.

For most of her life, Hiba called Baghdad, Iraq home. But as the war in Iraq intensified, her husband's work as an interpreter for the U.S. military put their family in increasing danger. "Anyone who worked for the U.S. was targeted to be killed," she says. "Our first daughter was just turning one, and it wasn't the life we wanted for her."

So, in 2009 through a Special Immigrant Visa (like Kambez), Hiba, her husband, and their daughter left their home and were resettled as refugees in Nashville. Two weeks after arriving, they came to Siloam for their refugee medical screening.

"I remember someone drawing my blood and praying for us—it was the first time someone prayed for me in a Christian setting," Hiba says of her first experience at Siloam. "The care and the love I experienced at Siloam

was amazing—especially from people I didn't even know. In my country, this kind of care doesn't exist. Here, they didn't know me at all, but they cared about my health and my family's health. It really touched my heart."

In the years following her arrival, Hiba went back to school to earn her medical assistant certification and in 2017, she became a full-time staff member at Siloam. Her role on our team has been vital, even beyond her skills as a medical assistant.

"I think that refugees feel more comfortable here at Siloam when they find out that I was a refugee too," Hiba says. "I hope they can see me and have hope for what's possible. I love being able to tell them ***'I was in your spot. I didn't know how to speak English or build a new life, but you will get there just like I did.'***"

When Hiba thinks about her journey going from receiving care and providing it, she gives all the credit to God. ***"It's all God's work. I feel so blessed because, in a way, I get to pay back Siloam for all that they did for me 10 years ago."*** ■