



Dear Friend of the Lake Area Free Clinic,

I am proud to live in a community that takes care of its neighbors when they need it the most – a community that has stepped up to offer what is nothing short of a miracle for so many with little hope left and nowhere else to go. I am asking for your continued support this year.

Entirely supported by private contributions and grants from the community, the Clinic receives no money from governmental entities. What's more, hundreds of dedicated volunteers, including medical practitioners and support staff, will donate nearly 13,000 hours of their time this year to provide high quality acute and chronic care support services for people who are uninsured without the means to pay.

Some may question the Clinic's role in the community with the advent of health care reform. However, it has been projected that 29 million people will remain uninsured nationwide. We know the need for free clinics will still exist even after full implementation of the ACA. We will continue to address the needs of the uninsured with respect to affordability and accessibility to primary care.

Help give hope. Won't you please consider sending a donation to the Lake Area Free Clinic in the enclosed envelope (or donate online at www.lakeareafreeclinic.org) as part of your giving plans this year and help us to provide hope for the people in our community who need it the most? People like Marcia (please read Marcia's story inside) and so many others.

With gratitude for your kind and caring support of our mission,



The Lake Area Free Clinic

Marcia's story...

Dear LAFC,

After 20 years with my employer, I never saw it coming. I became unemployed through reorganization and downsizing.

Did you know?

- **60-70% of Clinic patients work full-time for wages of less than \$11 per hour**
- **The Clinic's patient visits over the past several years have increased by 15-18% per year**

The journey has been horrendous for me. I've had to apply for bankruptcy, unemployment, food stamps and help with utilities. I lost my health insurance. Anxiety and depression followed. I couldn't afford my blood pressure medication. I had chronic health issues which I had been ignoring, including asthma. I was afraid to look at the diabetic part of my life.

That all changed when I came here. The doctors looked at me like a whole person. They gave me hope. They actually cared!

I began to recover physically. I'm getting the medications I need. I am now healthier and more confident in what I am doing because I feel better. My mental health also improved after working with a psychologist through the Clinic. I learned to gain perspective on my situation.

Had these services not been here, I don't know what I would have done. I have a trusting place to come. The Clinic has given me hope and continues to give me a sense of hope that I will always treasure. Thank You!

- Marcia

People giving hope.

Pete makes an annual donation to the Clinic (along with so many of you who have shown your kindness and caring through generous giving) in honor of his seriously ill brother who lost his job and received life-saving care at the Clinic until he was able to find a new job that offered him health coverage.

Judy is one of the volunteers who works with others at the Clinic to secure free medication for patients. In 2012, through participation in Patient Assistance Programs, we were able to supply our patients with prescription drugs valued at over \$600,000... at no charge!

John works as a greeter. He is one of 200+ volunteers working at the Clinic who offers a reassuring smile – and respect, understanding and support to the patients who walk through our open doors, many of whom never expected to need our services.

Sandy is a financial screener. She worked with many of the 460 new eligible patients who received Clinic services last year – up 16 % from the previous year. Patients can be seen if they don't have medical insurance and make less than 200% of the federal poverty guidelines.

"Our patients struggle to make ends meet; many have worked their whole lives and now have lost everything they had - they are the people living in the homes that are going through foreclosure. They really are you and me if we lost our jobs tomorrow."

Just think of how long you or I could survive without a job or health care if all that stopped tomorrow."

*- Donna Voigt,
LAFC Board Chairperson and
Nurse Practitioner*