

## How You Have Changed Someone's Life in 2010



*As the year draws to a close we thought you'd like to see some of the faces of real patients whose lives you have helped change. The story below is just one example.*

### **"The Difference Is How I Was Treated"**

When Sharon K. lost her job her life started to unravel. Her home fell into foreclosure and she was facing major losses in her life due to economics. "My outlook on life went from normal to despair. I looked out at the streets and thought that I might be there soon. I considered turning to alcohol to numb my pain and began to look for help in the wrong places. I was afraid I might lose myself forever."

Sharon needed emergency dental care, women's health care, and counseling services. Her body was also covered in spider bites, but she had no money to see a physician. "I called everyplace I could think of for help, with no results. I needed someone to help me, but I didn't know where to look. I felt more and more depressed and I looked like I felt. I was about to give up, but decided to try the Marian Clinic."

At the Clinic, Sharon's application was processed by **Sandy S.** who conducted a new-patient orientation and set up her first appointment with Marian Clinic staff physician **Dr. April Harris.** That evaluation resulted in counseling sessions with volunteer physician **Dr. Douglas Jones,** a women's health visit with staff nurse practitioner **Mary Stewart,** and special counseling from **Sister Mary Rosaleen Driscoll,** Patient Advocate and **Charlotte Rinsley,** the Marian Clinic Social Worker. "They helped me to connect with Vocational Rehabilitation, a service in the community that helps people find meaningful employment. They helped me through the entire process by caring for my spiritual needs too. Just knowing that I had someone on my side helped. I am grateful for all the help I've been given through these difficult times."

*Continued on page 2*

## “In The Spirit....”

As the **Good Samaritan** helped the stranger along the road, Marian Clinic’s staff, volunteers, and network of others in the community provide helpful assistance to our brothers and sisters in need in Shawnee County. That same Good Samaritan said to the innkeeper, after providing a down payment for the housing and care of the man, “Look after him and if there are any further expenses I will repay you on my way back.” We at Marian Clinic provide those first steps of hope and help through the prudent use of the gifts you give us. We hope our reaching out to medically and dentally assist strangers in need along our path honors the sacrifice you make when donating to us.

Every week we continue to experience 25 to 30 *new* patient applicants at the medical clinic and 30 emergency dental patients at our dental facility. We also continue to treat our non-emergency, follow-up medical and dental patients every day. Unfortunately, this year our nation’s economic difficulties are reflected in a one-third reduction in our donations.

In His Spirit, we put a down payment on hope and healing for those strangers in need who come to us. Now we need “to pay any further expenses on the way back.” We ask you to do what you can to aid your fellow brothers and sisters, remembering that we are your hands and His Hands, touching individuals with His healing love.

Blessings at Christmas to you and yours. We are grateful for your prayers and on-going assistance.

Bob Trepinski  
Executive Director

### *Sharon’s story (cont.)*

Sharon is also receiving dental care at Marian Clinic Dental, repairing her front teeth and restoring her smile and self-esteem.

“My life has gone from despair back to hope. My plan is to help others by helping them find the wonderful blessing called Marian Clinic. After I met with everyone there, things became possible that seemed impossible before. **The difference is how I was treated.** Everyone helped me during a difficult time and helped me turn my life around. Thank you, Marian Clinic.”

### **Sponsors Appreciated**

Thank you to our Gold and Silver sponsors:

**Gold Level: Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System; B.A. Designs, LLC.; and Capitol Federal Foundation.**

**Silver Level: FHL Bank of Topeka; The Legends At Capital Ridge; Capital City Bank; and ; and Core First Bank & Trust.**

Additional businesses and individuals have given at and above this level, but wish to remain anonymous. If you would like to become a sponsor please contact Diane McDermed at 233-9780, ext. 330. Thank you *all*.



*Our Shared Mission:*

*We will, in the spirit of the Sisters of Charity, reveal God’s healing love by improving the health of the individuals and communities we serve, especially those who are poor or vulnerable.*

*Marian Clinic is an affiliate of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System and a 501-C-3 organization. We hold a letter of good standing from the Kansas Secretary of State. All contributions remain in Topeka and are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.*

*Comments are welcome and may go to Ruth Maus, tel. 785-233-9780, ext. 327, or [Rmaus@marianclinic.org](mailto:Rmaus@marianclinic.org).*

## Marian Miracles

Miracles have a way of happening when we least expect them.

When volunteers from Topeka's **USDA Risk Management** came to help the Clinic with landscaping as part of a United Way "Live United" Day, we knew it would require a lot of hard labor. What no one could have anticipated was that after the crew spent a half-day trimming all our trees, shrubs, and brush and accumulating a *huge* debris pile, **Darrel Hansford at Topeka Tree Service** would be working on an unrelated contract job right across the street. What are the odds of that? Mr. Hansford moved his commercial wood chipper to the Clinic just when it was needed and proceeded to dispose of the entire debris pile at no charge! That's a miracle.



Some of the hard-working landscaping crew

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Miracles come from many different sources. When the Clinic sent out an email request for donations of personal hygiene supplies for patients, we never realized that the message was picked up and relayed all over the nation. One of our benefactors, the **American Medical Women's Association** in Philadelphia, sent the request to *their* national distribution list. Soon we were receiving boxes of toiletries from Atlanta, Boston, and Chicago! A federal **Health and Human Services** agency in Kansas City even held a two-week drive so their employees could collect supplies for us. We also received 150 individual bags of personal toiletries from **St. Francis Professional Development Council**, and many supplies donated by caring individuals around town. Patients' faces light up when each is given his or her personal "blessing bag" as part of their treatment here. Little do they know how many sources have had a hand in improving their lives.

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We were astounded when we opened the mail recently and learned that a former patient of some years ago had died and listed the Marian Clinic as the sole beneficiary of his bank account. These funds, over \$52,000, came at a time when the economy is seriously impacting our ability to keep up with the increasing number of patients, so were a special miracle.

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*Thank you to everyone who has supported the work of the Clinic this year with your gifts of cash, operational supplies, volunteer work, and prayer. Every one of you is a miracle! Year-end gifts of securities and stocks, etc. are also appreciated. May your generosity and compassion be returned to you many fold.*

### Campaign Update

Our "**Gifts That Change Lives**" campaign for 2010 is still seeking to raise \$220,000 to help support the services we offer to those with no insurance who live below the poverty level.

As of October 31 we have received **\$89,557.45 from 309 gifts.**

If you have already donated to this special effort, thank you! If you'd like to help, all gifts are greatly appreciated.

Marian Clinic  
1001 SW Garfield  
Topeka, KS 66604-1359

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If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact Ruth at 785/233-9780, ext 327 or [rmaus@marianclinic.org](mailto:rmaus@marianclinic.org).

**Mark Your Calendars Now**

April 3, 2011 "Just What The Doctor Ordered" concert



*May your Christmas  
be wrapped in Joy  
and filled with Love  
Best Wishes for  
Peace, Health  
and Happiness  
throughout the  
coming year.*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
from the staff, volunteers,  
and patients  
of the Marian Clinic.