

September 1, 2010



Dear Friend;

First impressions are always the strongest. As a resident, I knew the Arthur Nagel Community Clinic was important to the Bandera community, but just *how* important I learned in my first three weeks as the new executive director. In three weeks the Clinic saved three lives. Not just helped, but saved! One patient had life-threatening hypertension. The second patient walked in to the Clinic and announced he was suicidal. And the third patient was dangerously malnourished. In all three situations, we were able to assist with appropriate medical treatment.

I could overwhelm you with the large numbers of Bandera County residents we have helped this year, but I'll keep it simple. **Three weeks, three lives.** Our need for quality medical care in Bandera County is paramount. Some consider Bandera to be isolated. No major interstate highways, no railroad, and limited medical resources. There are members of our little community who are walking around with broken bones... literally. I know of three such cases. Our patients cannot afford to pay for proper care, have no medical insurance, and limited means of transportation. Consequently, the Arthur Nagel Community Clinic is often the place of last resort for these individuals. If we cannot help with their illness or injury, then we refer them to a medical establishment who can, usually at a discounted rate or with financial assistance from us.

So who are these hurting individuals? Don't be surprised to learn that they are the server at your favorite restaurant, a local small business owner, your colleague at church who was recently laid off. They are not strangers, transients, and people with no ties to Bandera. Instead, they are your friends, neighbors, community acquaintances. They reside in Bandera County; their children attend school here, play sports, compete in rodeos ... and when these individuals need the Arthur Nagel Community Clinic's help, we must be able to provide it.

Monetary support from donors is crucial to providing proper medical care. Unfortunately, during this time of year, our donations drop drastically. The majority of our funds come from foundations that typically do not release grants until early winter (fiscal year-end). As a result, we must stretch our budget during the summer and fall, which means some medical services may be limited, including the number of days the Clinic is open. Currently, our patients have a two-week waiting period for medical appointments. If funds get tight, we will have to reduce the

days the Clinic is open from three days to two. Reduced days could mean the wait will be three weeks or more.

Three weeks, three lives. Without your help that phrase could have an entirely different meaning. A three-week waiting period to see patients could adversely affect three lives in our small community. That should not happen! We have the facility, the equipment, the programs, and the staff in place to treat everyone who walks through our doors. If you can help us continue our mission of providing free and low-cost healthcare services to qualifying needy families and residents of Bandera County, please fill out the attached donation slip below and mail it with your tax-deductible donation to the Arthur Nagel Community Clinic. Any amount you can contribute will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for opening your heart to help!

Sincerely,

K. Irene Stone
Executive Director

P.S. The recently passed Health Care bill, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590) will not affect most Arthur Nagel Community Clinic patients, and those it will affect will not receive any assistance for years to come. The Arthur Nagel Community Clinic has received no funds from passage of the H.R. 3590 and currently relies solely on donations and grants.