

Humanitarian from China visits Our Lady of Hope Clinic for care

While Our Lady of Hope Clinic welcomes uninsured recipients without geographical restriction, Dr. Anne Volk Johnson never expected a patient to come from across the Pacific Ocean for an office visit. But that’s exactly what happened this winter when a woman named Jenny showed up seeking her services.

In 2006, Jenny felt called to move to North Korea to do missionary work. Because of North Korea’s isolationist policies, however, the border town of Tumen, China was the closest she could get. For three and a half years, Jenny has lived there, teaching English in the town’s vocational school.

Tumen is an impoverished community where Koreans (including many North Korean refugees) make up the bulk of



Tumen, China: the adopted hometown of an Our Lady of Hope Clinic recipient named Jenny

the population. Few students can afford to attend high school, and Jenny’s school provides an opportunity for teenagers to learn a vocation that will help them provide for themselves and their families after graduation.

While Jenny loves her work, she said the quality of health care in China is less than desirable. Preventative care is nonexistent, and clinics are marked by a lack of sanitation.

“It’s really scary. The medical care [in China] is horrible. We walked

into a [Chinese] clinic, and there was just blood everywhere.”

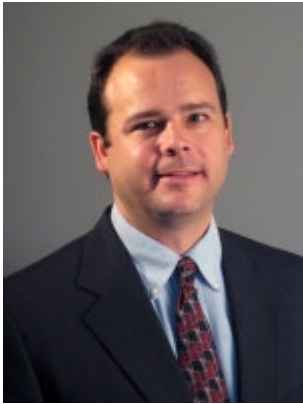
That’s why Jenny was delighted to visit Our Lady of Hope Clinic when she visited home this December—an experience she called “absolutely wonderful.” Lacking access to Western medicine, she was able to get a refill on a prescription for antibiotics (which were unavailable to her in China), have a mole removed and receive a routine physical.

“I would want [Our Lady of Hope Clinic’s benefactors and supporters] to know that the clinic is amazing. For people like me who can’t get access...or can’t afford it...we need a clinic,” Jenny said. “I’m so grateful for this clinic. It’s amazing.”

Tour Our Lady of Hope Clinic and Meet the Doctors!
 From now until May, Our Lady of Hope Clinic will be open for tours at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Come learn more about the area’s newest and most unique primary care clinic.
ALSO, the clinic will provide health-related educational sessions the fourth Thursday of each month. The sessions are free to the public. Visit ourladyofhopeclinic.org for a complete schedule of events!

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A Message from Our Lady of Hope Clinic President Dr. Michael Kloess



As we work to alleviate the health care access crisis in Southern Wisconsin here at Our Lady of Hope Clinic, I take great interest in how the challenges that face our nation compare to difficulties around the world. I had the opportunity to observe firsthand the health care situation in one of our neighboring countries this November when I traveled to Mexico as a medical missionary providing primary care to the residents of a tiny Mayan village.

The trip confirmed what I suspected: The health care crisis that has dominated the airwaves this past year is not unique to America. Lack of access to health care is a crisis all over the world. I've now been to three different countries in Central America. Some people can get health care; some people cannot. Sometimes it's a matter of geography. Other times it's educational disparities. Often the culprit is financial hardship. The reasons might differ, but whatever the cause, there are people in need everywhere you go.

When you travel around the world to provide medical care, you treat a wide variety of conditions. Rashes. Parasites. Everyone asks for worm medicine and vitamins. Many complain of headaches, backaches and neck aches because they carry 50 pound jars on their heads. I'll never forget a trip to Panama where I treated a man who had walked two hours to receive care for an infected machete laceration. Still another woman came to us with an infected wound from an appendectomy she had a full year before. You simply never know what you're going to see on these trips.

And that is, perhaps, the biggest contrast between the health care crisis in the United States and the crises found throughout many parts of the world. In poorer countries, the need is more obvious than it is here. A Dane County resident working two jobs to make rent while struggling with unmanaged diabetes needs to see a doctor just as badly as my friend with the machete wound. The challenge is we need to open our eyes and look closely to see the plight of those with chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension and high cholesterol.

That's why I'm so grateful for our benefactors and donors. They've identified a critical—if sometimes unnoticed—need in our community. And they've stepped up to the plate to make sure that need is met. If you'd like to know how you can help provide the uninsured with access to compassionate care in Southern Wisconsin, call our development director, Steve Karlen, at 608-445-2063.

A Dane County resident working two jobs to make rent while struggling with unmanaged diabetes needs to see a doctor just as badly as my Panamanian friend with the machete wound.

DID YOU KNOW?

The average primary care office visit lasts only five to seven minutes. At Our Lady of Hope Clinic, both our benefactors and uninsured recipients receive full 30 minute consultations!