

# Caring CONNECTIONS

September 2007

NEWSLETTER OF LAGUNA BEACH COMMUNITY CLINIC

**What is a Safety Net?** It could be a net used during an athletic event, a net used at a construction site or the net a trapeze artist uses in the circus. This is not the safety net that is most important to many. Laguna Beach Community Clinic is their safety net.

LAGUNA BEACH  
COMMUNITY CLINIC

*A Safety Net  
for our Community*

In Orange County, 60,000 to 90,000 children are uninsured. With this growing population of uninsured, coupled with government cutbacks, there is great pressure on community clinics, such as Laguna Beach Community Clinic, to provide care. The number of uninsured will continue to rise due to the loss of jobs and the increase in health insurance costs.

Many patients, both insured and uninsured, seek care at LBCC. The majority of the uninsured come from working families who are self-employed or work at jobs that don't provide health insurance.

These people have incomes too low to buy their own insurance coverage. The consequences of not having insurance leads to delays in receiving care, or the person foregoes care altogether. Often, lack of preventive care for the uninsured leads to larger healthcare expenses if the person becomes ill.

*In Orange County, estimates of the uninsured range from 300,000 to 500,000, with 60,000 to 90,000 children.*

*LBCC is a safety net, providing healthcare for low-income families, the uninsured and other vulnerable populations, such as children, the elderly and those with HIV.*

*Our safety net survives because of our donors, who are committed to helping their community care for those in need.*

Of the patients seen at Laguna Beach Community Clinic in 2006, 98% lack private medical insurance. The Clinic staff helps coordinate resources, by accessing governmental programs that will pay for the care that people need to get healthy and stay healthy.

The Clinic safety net provides early diagnosis and treatment as well as education to prevent illness. This helps people avoid emergencies and urgent conditions which can result in a costly visit to an emergency room. Often people use their local ER for treatment of minor illnesses. The Clinic fills that need at a much lower cost, and we offer same-day appointments to those in the greatest need.

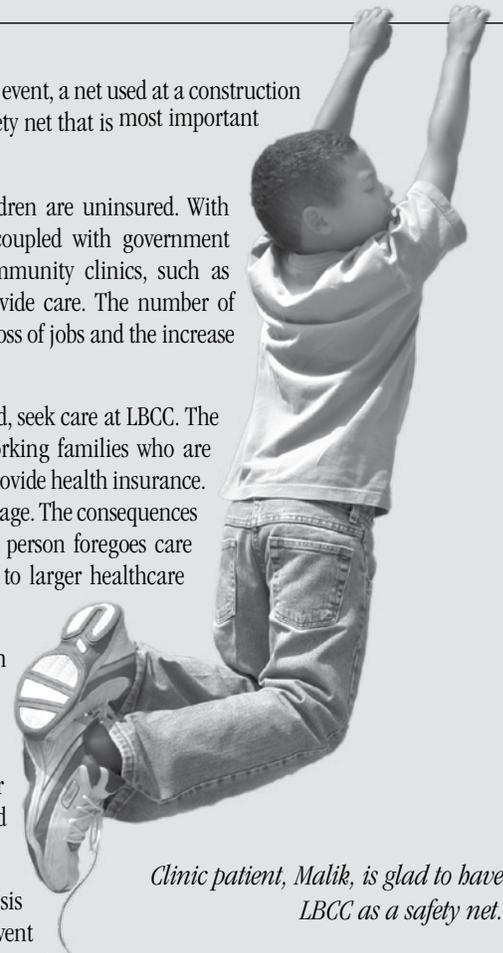
The Clinic focuses on increasing awareness through education and prevention as well as the treatment of diabetes, hypertension and respiratory problems. The Clinic sees adults and children for illnesses such as colds, coughs and sore throats, which affect the person's ability to go to work or school.

Through the years, Laguna Beach Community Clinic has developed longstanding relationships with community health care providers as well as with a dedicated group of volunteers in specialties such as cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, urology, neurology, podiatry, endocrinology, and dermatology.

This safety net survives because of the devotion and caring of our staff and volunteers. It also survives because of people like you, who are committed to helping their community take care of those in need.

We thank you for your continued support.

—Mary Anderson, RN



*Clinic patient, Malik, is glad to have LBCC as a safety net.*

# Help us keep Laguna Beach Com

## **LBCC Board of Directors**

**Co-President:** Debbie Mulligan, RN, MSN

**Co-President:** Wayne Ybarra, Esq.

**Vice President:** Bill DeLand

**Vice President:** Rich Kain

**Vice President:** Vera Martinez, PhD

**Treasurer:** John J. Link, Jr.

**Secretary:** Madeleine Peterson

Rev. Father Jim Everman

Larry Gorum, PhD

Rick Jenkins

Pamela Ann Lawrence, MD

Elaine Lawson

Joyce Linn

Susan Mas

Ann McDonald

Jakki Tonkovich

## **Holes in our Safety Net?**

**We've all read the headlines. California has not been paying their bills and Clinics like ours suffer.**

Our doors WILL stay open, but to pay our staff, we've had to draw on a line of credit. We will eventually get our money from the state, but we'll never be reimbursed for our interest costs. This short-term crisis is affecting our ability to provide care. The money we're paying in interest could be better used for patient care to keep our community healthy.

We need your help. Your gift will be put to work immediately to help us provide critical medical services that can improve—or may even save—a life!

### **To make a donation to Laguna Beach Community Clinic:**

Mail to: Laguna Beach Community Clinic

362 Third Street, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Secure online donations can be made at [www.LBclinic.org](http://www.LBclinic.org)

To make a gift with your credit card via phone, speak to us about a special gift or inquire about volunteer opportunities, please call Shirley at 949.494.0761 x 134.

**Thank you. Your support is deeply appreciated!**

*Eighteen-month-old "Gretchen" finally started to walk, but she limped. Her concerned dad, who could barely stretch his painter's salary to feed his family, was relieved to find cost-free help at LBCC. Using the Child Health and Disability Program as a resource, Gretchen was diagnosed with a displaced hip, a probable birth defect. The Clinic arranged for orthopedic referral and treatment. Gretchen's legs are getting stronger every day!*

## **Cheerful Cinco de Mayo Celebration Supports Clinic**

Cocktails were quaffed, hors d'oeuvres were devoured and a party atmosphere prevailed at the Laguna Beach hillside home of Kirk and Mary Kate Saunders on May 5. This "Sunset Fiesta" raised more than \$10,000 for Laguna Beach Community Clinic. Over 75 guests feasted on bountiful hors d'oeuvres, and sipped Jose Cuervo Gold margaritas, donated by Peter and Jackie McDougall. All were awed by the "green" features in the house designed by architect Kirk and Mary Kate.

The Clinic's own Dr. Corey Jorgensen donned an auctioneer's hat and garnered over \$500 for a bottle of Jose Cuervo Reserva de la Familia Tequila. The successful bidders then opened the bottle and offered shots of the liquor for a donation to the Clinic!

Event Chair, Jakki Tonkovich, said, "Everyone loved watching the sunset from the Saunders' deck and had a great time supporting the Clinic."

*"Curt" suspected he had AIDS. Tests at the Clinic confirmed AIDS with the added complication of pneumonia. With treatment, his pneumonia soon cleared, and anti-viral medication improved his immune system. Curt gained weight, now works locally and expects a long life.*

## **New Major gifts to LBCC!**

Laguna Beach Community Clinic has recently received major support from Irvine Health Foundation, the City of Laguna Beach, Blue Shield of California Foundation, Laguna Board of Realtors, and the Sisters of St. Joseph Foundation. The Clinic staff, board of directors and patients thank them for their support!

# munity Clinic's safety net secure!

*"Georgia" was drinking gallons of water and urinating all night. LBCC's diabetes specialist, Dr. Chau Ngo, found her blood sugar was 3 times normal. She was immediately given insulin, then enrolled in our comprehensive diabetic program. Her diabetes, maintained by medication and diet, is now controlled.*

## Do You Have Any Old IBM Stock?

### LBCC will turn it into Healthy Neighbors

Laguna Beach resident, Sylvia J., managed a double-barrel coup when she discovered the Amgen stock she purchased years ago for \$25, was now worth \$5800. To preclude capital gains taxes, she transferred the stock to LBCC's MorganStanley donation account, receiving a sizeable tax deduction. MorganStanley then sold the stock, which provided funding for checkups to keep 52 lower-income OC residents healthy.

Many donors choose to make gifts to non-profit organizations using long-term appreciated stocks and mutual funds due to the attractive tax advantages associated with such gifts.

Benefits that may be available to you when contributing stock or mutual funds to LBCC include:

- Avoiding federal and state tax on the capital gain.
- Receiving an income tax deduction for the full market value of your gift if you itemize deductions on your tax return and have held the assets one year or longer.
- Making a larger gift at a lower original cost to you.

Before making a gift of appreciated securities, consult your tax advisor to determine how these potential tax advantages apply to your situation. For more information, visit [www.LBCLinic.org](http://www.LBCLinic.org) or call Shirley at 949.494.0761 ext. 134.

*"Suzy" had a cough that wouldn't stop. An infection was making her asthma worse. At the Clinic, she received an antibiotic and we enrolled her in governmental programs to pay for her medical care and her asthma inhalers, plus providing her the Pap smear that she'd been putting off.*

## "Stylistic Intervention" A Clinic Booster

The Clinic's annual Women's Health Fair got a huge boost from the "Stylistic Intervention" boutique in Laguna Beach. In late April, owner Sondra Piorek hosted a benefit for the Clinic, raising over \$4000. The funds were utilized to offer free screenings to women for osteoporosis, high blood pressure, diabetes and anemia. Over 200 participants were screened at the Fair, held May 19 on Main Beach in Laguna.

Thank you, Sondra and Stylistic Intervention!

## Toni Richter RN, Safety Net for Patients As Clinic triage nurse, she's patients' first contact

"Wanted: R.N. for Laguna Beach Community Clinic. Flexible schedule in a feel-good environment." This small ad in the newspaper seven years ago brought big rewards for the Community Clinic. Fortunately, it was seen by a very special nurse who was beginning to feel the need for a job that would involve more patient contact and would also be nearer to her home in Mission Viejo. Toni Richter, R.N. joined the caring Clinic staff and quickly found her niche.

Toni began by dispensing medicine from the Clinic pharmacy. However, her true value was soon found to be as a problem-solver and case manager who also related well to patients. As the Clinic triage nurse, Toni determines the patient's medical needs and assigns their care to the appropriate Nurse Practitioner or Doctor. She also coordinates financial resources according to the patient's needs.

Toni recently helped a seven-month-old baby girl with a bad rash. The mother was concerned but had no idea how to help her baby. Toni was able to get the baby enrolled in Medi-Cal, find an allergist who diagnosed and treated her excema, and advise a better diet for the child, who soon showed improvement.

Toni's concern for each patient has been known to go beyond the call of duty, such as the time she delivered a needed medication to a patient without transportation to the Clinic.

Toni's Clinic days are busy as she multi-tasks to get everything done. Even though there are many phone calls and records to keep, she finds her work very rewarding. Toni is especially grateful to be working with such a capable staff who have become like a family, working together to provide the best care the Clinic can offer to all who come seeking help.

*Triage nurse, Toni Richter,  
multi-tasks*



## Shop 'til you Drop & Support the Clinic!

For the fourth year, the Clinic has been selected as one of the Orange County non-profit organizations benefiting from Macy's Passport In-Store shopping celebration. Macy's produces Passport In-Store to help local organizations raise funds for their HIV/AIDS programs.

On Saturday, September 29, Macy's South Coast Plaza will host an event dedicated to SHOPPING including fashion events, special discounts, and the chance to win a \$1000 Macy's shopping spree!

The tickets are only \$10, and 100% of the ticket price goes to the Clinic to fund our HIV/AIDS programs. Last year, our total was over \$2500!

Ticket holders will receive discounts of 10-20% off throughout Macy's on almost all regular, sale and clearance items in the main store as well as the Men's Store and the Home & Furniture Store.

Your ticket can be used to enjoy the party atmosphere on September 29, or for an effortless shopping experience, use your ticket starting September 20 to pre-select your purchases. Macy's will hold your items for pick-up September 29 through October 5.

This is a great opportunity to do your holiday shopping early or just treat yourself! So, buy a ticket, go shopping at Macy's, get discounts, have fun AND support the Clinic.

*Tickets are available by calling 949.494.0761 x 134 or purchase online at [www.LBClinic.org](http://www.LBClinic.org).*

## Laguna Beach Community Clinic

362 Third Street Laguna Beach California 92651

*Once told she might never have children, "Tina's" irregular periods became a concern when she was 6 weeks late and nauseated. Though overjoyed at her positive pregnancy test from the Clinic, she and her husband feared high medical costs. LBCC enrolled them in MediCal so Tina obtained comprehensive prenatal care at the Clinic and delivered a healthy baby boy. Proving that for each \$1 spent on prenatal care, \$4 is saved by avoiding complications for both mother and child.*

### Clinic Hours

**Monday-Friday: 8-12 & 1-5**

**Saturday: 8-12**

LBCC OFFERS MEDICAL CARE TO ANYONE IN NEED.  
SERVICES ARE ON A SLIDING-FEE SCALE BASED ON INCOME.

NON-PROFIT ORG

**US POSTAGE  
PAID**

LAGUNA BEACH, CA  
PERMIT NO. 148

