

RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CLINIC NEWSLETTER



1714 State Highway 22, Dardanelle, AR 72834 (479) 229-2566 Fax 479-229-1021 Toll Free 1-877-229-3450

This issue highlights the clinic's dental services. Look for future issues to highlight medical, optical, and other valuable services provided by the clinic.

He healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds. Psalm 147:3

RVCC Dental clinic provides many blessings



Tammy Deal has a beautiful new smile.

Tammy Deal, 44, is just one of many who have benefited profoundly by the River Valley Christian Clinic dental clinic.

Thanks to the RVCC and the cadre of volunteer dentists and dental staff, Tammy has a whole new outlook and smiles a lot. She recently told her story.

Tammy is disabled and struggles to get by on her monthly income of less than \$700. She has no dental benefits. Tammy says, "There was just no option for me to get dental work done. I have a hole in my tricuspid valve (in her heart) and so an infection in my mouth can go directly to my heart and kill me.

"I used to have beautiful teeth and I don't know what happened but in the last five years, they really went downhill! I was so embarrassed because my teeth got so bad. I would go to my doctor whenever I had a toothache and he would give me antibiotics.

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My doctor told me about the RVCC and so I called them and filled out all the paperwork to get qualified and they made me three appointments because I needed so many teeth pulled. I had one that was broken in half and there were missing teeth in the front and others that were rotten.

"I went there and saw all the people in the waiting room and thought, 'My, there sure are a lot of people who need help.'"

Tammy continued, "I waited maybe a half hour and went back to the dental clinic and Dr. Dalton was the one that pulled them for me. He said, 'Let's just go ahead and pull them all at once!'"

"I was the last one out—they went ahead and did it all that night. I had 18 teeth pulled but I was so grateful—I kept saying, 'Thank you, thank you!' I told the dentist I didn't know what I could ever do to pay back the good they had done for me. He looked at me and said, 'Pass it on'"

"I got out of there about 11:45 p.m. They stayed that late for me. The doctor scrapped my gums and put stitches in across the top and bottom. For three days afterwards, I was like, *awahhhhh*.....! But they gave me some pills to help with the pain. It was kinda rough at first, but I am so grateful!"

It's been about six weeks since all of Tammy's teeth were pulled. With her stimulus check and a loan from

Dental Clinic (Continued)

her dad she was able to get affordable dentures a few weeks ago.

She said, “I think I still talk a little funny, but I’m getting used to them now.

“I am so grateful that I had this opportunity because I did not know where else to turn. It’s not like you can go to the emergency room where they have to help you. If you have a toothache and you don’t have any money, you can’t get a dentist to see you. If you don’t got the money—they don’t got the time.”

“I can smile now and I feel confident. And I don’t have to worry about my health now because of my heart defect.”



Marion Burton says the RVCC is a real God send.

Marion Burton, 46, is another person the RVCC dental clinic has helped.

Marion says, “Well, right now I’m on disability and basically homeless. I didn’t have no income or anything and a friend told me about the clinic when they opened and I started going there for help.

“They have been wonderful to me and have helped me with everything. I am diabetic and I’ve been seen there lots of times. I had back surgery in 2001 and they helped me with medicine for my back and I had prostate trouble and they helped me with that, too.”

When asked about what the RVCC Dental Clinic has done for him, Marion said, “I hadn’t seen a dentist for at least 5 years and I needed to get all my teeth pulled. They pulled 11 the first time and 9 the second. It was wonderful to get rid of all that pain.

“They take good care of their patients and they are a real God send to me! If not for the RVCC, I don’t know what I would have done because I didn’t have no insurance. I weighed over 300 when I first went there and I’m down to about 215 now.”

Marion got some dentures through Affordable Dentures but he says, “I have no trouble eating without my dentures. I guess I just haven’t gotten used to them yet so I don’t wear them all the time.”

Among low-income uninsured folks, the need for dental care is a primary concern. Most folks simply do nothing when they have a toothache because of the expense of a trip to the dentist. Routine examinations and cleaning are out of the question. So dental problems are allowed to compound and dental health deteriorates until the pain is unbearable. Abscess and chronic gum disease become common among low-income individuals without dental insurance.

Dental Clinic History

The RVCC dental clinic was established in January of 2007 and since beginning to see dental patients, has attended to 990 patients and extracted 2,326 teeth .

Anticipating the tremendous need for dental services, the RVCC clinic was set up to do examination and extraction only. A volunteer cadre of 2-3 dentists, 3-4 dental assistants and 3-4 helpers work diligently each clinic night with patients. The dental workers are often the last to leave on clinic nights the first and third Thursday of each month.

Because of the number of patients requiring dental services, patients are seen by appointment only. The dental clinic is routinely booked one month ahead.



Clinics are held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, beginning at 6:00PM.
The doors open at 4:00pm and patients are seen on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who can qualify for Clinic services?

- Individuals can qualify if the household income is at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level. This equates to approximately \$1,083/month for a single person and about \$2,200/month for a family of 4.
- RVCC patients must have been turned down for Medicaid and have no other medical insurance.
- All applicants must provide proof of all household income and any/all welfare assistance received by all family members.
- Applicants must provide a photo ID.
- Neither Medicaid nor Medicare covers routine vision and dental visits. Therefore, many individuals may qualify for dental and vision services even when they have Medicaid or Medicare.

The mission of the River Valley Christian Clinic is to provide health care and spiritual guidance to anyone in the River Valley who cannot afford to access traditional health care. All patients will be treated with dignity and respect. Services will be provided without regard to race, sex, age or religion.

Check out the RVCC web site

Please check out the RVCC web site www.rvchristianclinic.org. You will be able to download a volunteer application, a patient application and the volunteer schedules.

Patients can get instructions for ordering their refills. Anyone can learn patient services guidelines concerning eligibility and view poverty guidelines.

Readers can also read RVCC newsletters, learn more about the history of the clinic and see who is on the Board of Directors. Site visitors can also view the clinic calendar and hours of service.

We need your support and financial assistance to assure this great community service continues to serve the medical needs of the Arkansas River Valley.

Spiritual Ministry

Since April of 2008, 163 patients were prayed with privately, 7 patients gave their hearts to Christ, and 4 patients rededicated their lives to Christ.

TOTAL SERVICES PROVIDED BY RIVER VALLEY CHRISTIAN CLINIC THROUGH JUNE '09

Service	2007	Valued at	2008	Valued at	2009	Valued at	TOTAL	TOTAL VALUE
Medical Ofc Visits	1,353	\$99,604	1,589	\$153,305	938	\$102,506	3,880	\$355,415
Dental ofc Visits	342	\$95,514	353	\$97,823	295	\$67,956	990	\$261,293
Optical Ofc Visits	225	\$19,133	253	\$21,796	152	\$12,540	630	\$53,469
Med Pick-up Only			278		290		568	
Educ Class Visits			55	\$5,335	71	\$6,459	126	\$11,794
TOTAL VISITS	1,920	\$214,251	2,528	\$278,259	1,746	\$189,461	6,194	\$681,971
Prescriptions	3,968	\$375,409	5,037	\$695,680	3,138	\$429,539	12,143	\$1,500,628
Lab Work	993	\$40,274	548	\$35,402	613	\$39,894	2,154	\$115,570
X-rays	132	\$10,075	79	\$6,184	48	\$3,889	259	\$20,148
Glasses Provided	95		128		89		312	
Dental Extractions	846		846		634		2,326	
Vol Hrs Value		\$591,114		\$647,126		\$202,741		\$1,440,981
TOTAL VALUE		\$1,231,123		\$1,662,651		\$865,524		\$3,759,298

We need *Your* Help

Please make checks payable to: **The River Valley Christian Clinic**

Mail to: The River Valley Christian Clinic
1714 State Highway 22
Dardanelle, AR 72834
479-229-2566 Toll Free 877-299-3450

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES	
Individual Sponsor	\$200 - \$499
Family Sponsor	\$500 - \$999
Neighbor Sponsor	\$1,000 - \$9,999
Community Sponsor	\$10,000 - \$24,999
Foundation Sponsor	\$25,000 and more

Amount of Gift \$ _____

From:
Name: _____
Address: _____

City State Zip

If applicable, circle one: **Honorarium** **Memorial**

Name of person to be honored or memorialized:

Please send notice of our gift to:
Name: _____
Address: _____

City State Zip

Please acknowledge Anonymous please

“Or when did we see you sick or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to Me.’” Matt 25:39-40

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