

The Raphael Visitor

Volume 16, Number 2

December 2013

A “PRICEY” AND DIFFICULT PILL TO SWALLOW!

The hum of activity in the Raphael Community Free Clinic drug room is steady as staff and volunteers fill an average of 725 prescriptions per week for patient pickup. Pharmaceutical companies help in this effort through their Patient Assistance Programs (PAP), which allow qualified patients to receive their medications at no cost. Raphael Clinic is currently able to obtain approximately 50% of its medications directly from the original pharmaceutical manufacturers through these PAP programs.

Changes in the drug marketplace are having unforeseen consequences on the Clinic’s ability to obtain these medicines. A wave of patent expirations is accelerating toward what some are calling the “patent cliff.” When a patent reaches its expiration date, pharmaceutical companies remove these drugs from their Patient Assistant Program, making them inaccessible except for purchase by Raphael Clinic.



This widespread release of drugs for purchase and production by generic manufacturers is seen as a positive change for consumers, as they benefit from lower prices on generic but equivalent drug formulas. However, the manufacturers of generic drugs are using this “window of opportunity” to raise prices since the competition has narrowed and there are no price restrictions or controls from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

These unprecedented price increases have affected free clinics nationwide and some are closing because they can no longer afford to purchase very common medications. The chart below shows a sample of these price changes – with increases of 400% or more! Raphael Clinic is dedicated to providing the same quality of patient care, including medications, to its patients; however, budget restrictions limit quantities of medication able to be purchased at these increased prices.

Won’t you consider making a donation today to help the Raphael Community Free Clinic offset prices of generic medications no longer available cost-free?

Sample Price Comparisons

MEDICATION TYPE	GENERIC NAME	QTY.	JAN 2013	OCT 2013	INCREASE
Antibiotic	Doxycycline	500	\$23.95	\$1,195.00	4,990%
Blood pressure	Captopril 25 mg.	1000	\$15.75	\$369.35	2,345%
Irregular heartbeat	Digoxin .125 mg	1000	\$86.95	\$838.48	964%
Antibiotic	Metronidazole 500 mg.	500	\$23.90	\$205.35	859%
Cholesterol	Pravastatin 40 mg.	500	\$44.98	\$261.55	581%
Thyroid	Levothyroxine .125 mg	1000	\$112.78	\$317.58	282%

Prices from Quest Pharmaceuticals, as of 10/23/2013

MEDICATION TYPE	GENERIC NAME	QTY.	JAN 2013	OCT 2013	INCREASE
Cortisone Cream	Desonide 60 gm.	ea.	\$23.00	\$278.00	1,209%
Antibiotic Ointment	Bacitracin Ophth.	ea.	\$15.00	\$68.00	453%
Asthma Inhaler	Albuterol	ea.	\$16.00	\$52.00	325%
Inflammation Cream (rashes, etc.)	Methylprednisolone 4 mg Dose Pack	21 tabs	\$15.00	\$30.00	200%

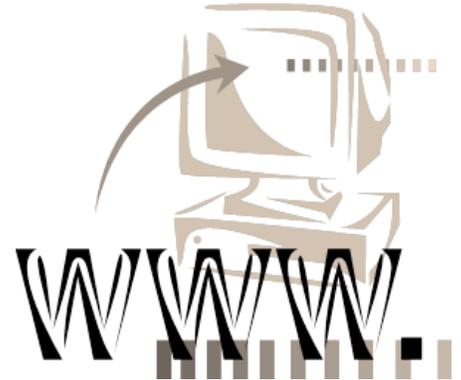
Prices from Medicine Stop, as of 10/21/2013

RAPHAEL COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC MOVES INTO DIGITAL AGE

Collaborative effort brings online visibility

Thanks to the persistence and technical expertise of a special volunteer, Internet users can now log on to www.raphaelclinic.org to see the clinic's operations "in action." A vendor representative on regular deliveries to the Raphael Clinic frequently questioned Sister Marge about creating a web page for the clinic, offering his services to help the clinic create an online presence.

Once a decision was made to proceed with the project, clinic staff worked together to search the clinic archives, and then compile, update and edit pertinent information to be included. Local photographer John Aceti contributed his talents to capture some "action shots." Drafts of designed pages were then turned over to Raptor Web Solutions to provide a professional look.



Raphael Clinic supporters will find information about different ways to contribute, including a link for online donations of any amount. Prospective clients can learn about the eligibility requirements to become a patient at the Raphael Clinic. Volunteer opportunities are listed, and potential volunteers can begin the process on the website by downloading the volunteer application and following up via phone or email with volunteer coordinator Joyce Horat.

The "News Desk" page allows supporters to stay updated on Clinic events with links to the organization's publications. And a new way to visit is offered via a link to a "virtual tour" on YouTube.



*Please consider this a personal invitation to come "visit" us at our new Internet location!
And a virtual "gift" will let us know you were there!*



*Volunteers Loraine Levis and Jean Tritenbach
at the front desk counter in the Raphael Clinic lobby.*



*Volunteer Coordinator Joyce Horat
at the Nurse's Station.*

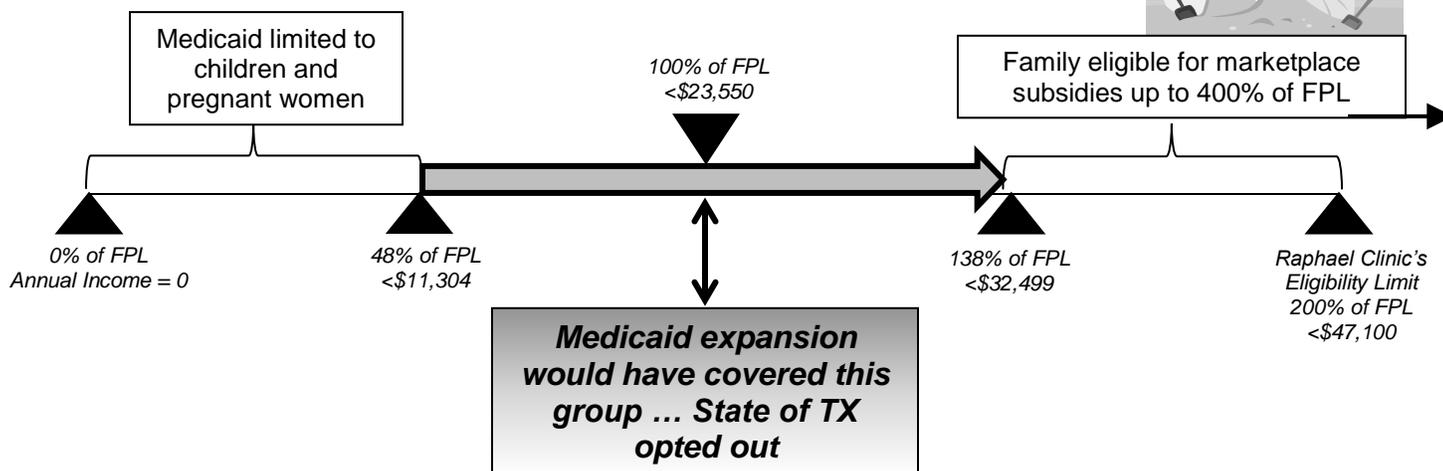
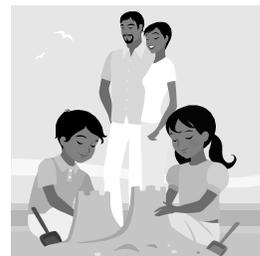


Building a Healthy America One Patient at a Time
Support Free and Charitable Clinics
Where Medical Care for the Underserved
Isn't a Dream, It's Reality.



AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (ACA) COVERAGE

Based on 2013 Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
and a family of four In the State of Texas



Staff and volunteers at the Raphael Community Free Clinic have been faced with questions from patients and the public about whether it will be “going out of business” with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. The above illustration shows those who are financially eligible for free medical services from the Raphael Clinic. With the State of Texas’ refusal to accept \$79 billion to expand its Medicaid program, it will instead be “business as usual” at the Raphael Clinic, with no dramatic decrease in the number of patients expected.

Texas leads all states with 25% of its residents living without health insurance, and the decision not to expand Medicaid will leave an estimated 2.5 million Texans with limited access to affordable health care services. Based on financial records clients provide to determine eligibility, approximately 10% of Raphael Clinic’s current patients may be eligible for a subsidy in the marketplace exchanges. Clinic health care providers are giving information to these individuals and encouraging them to investigate their options for health insurance coverage.

For our other hard-working neighbors who struggle to make ends meet and cannot afford health insurance, it is clear that Raphael Community Free Clinic will remain an important part of the community’s “safety net,” even after full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

Regardless of political views about this law, Raphael Clinic will continue to carry out its mission:

“To minister in a caring and Christian environment to the medically underserved of Kerrville and the surrounding area.”

Thank you for helping us treat these clients with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

Wish List

Could you be an **Angel** and help the Clinic with any of these items?
Please call [895-4201](tel:895-4201) or visit us at 1807 Water Street to assist:

Volunteer Opportunities:

- ♥ Archivist
- ♥ Window Washer
- ♥ Translator (Spanish/English)

Office Supplies:

- ♥ Copy Paper
- ♥ Pens/Sticky Notes
- ♥ Paper towels, facial tissue

Special “Spirit” Items:

- ♥ Utility bill assistance
- ♥ Children’s educational toys
- ♥ Kitchen chairs (4)
- ♥ Vacuum cleaner



Raphael Community Free Clinic
1807 Water Street
Kerrville, TX 78028
830-895-4201

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RAPHAEL COMMUNITY FREE CLINIC
*serves the uninsured populations of a
six-county area in the TX Hill Country,
offering non-emergency medical care
in a clinical setting.*

*Patients must meet financial eligibility
and residency requirements.*

*Raphael Clinic accepts no funding from
Federal, state or city governments
relying on the generosity of donations
from charitable organizations
and private donors like YOU!*

*If you have been blessed
with medical care or medical insurance
for yourself or your family,
please consider "sharing the wealth"
with your neighbors.*



Community Free Clinic
Raphael

Today, the Raphael Community Free Clinic's Endowment is an important partner in the Clinic's medical and health care efforts. The permanent endowment fund generates annual revenue for Raphael Clinic's many health and medical care programs. Your tax deductible estate gift to the endowment is never really spent. Rather, it is permanently invested to grow and generate revenue in support of Raphael Clinic's important programs . . . forever.

I encourage you to include the Raphael Free Clinic Endowment Fund, Inc. in your will. As good stewards, it is our responsibility to assist those in need not only today but also in generations to come.

Remember a gift in your will does not impose any financial hardship to you and will aid in supporting the clinic forever.

Should you decide to make a gift of \$10,000 or more to the endowment, I will prepare a will for you or a Codicil to your existing will at no cost. Please call 830-257-1252 today to make an appointment to include the Raphael Community Free Clinic Endowment in your will. Thank you.

Kenneth J. Zysko

**I Invite You To Leave The Legacy Of Health and
Medical Care For Those In Need...
In Your Will.**