



Hope & Health

NEWS FROM PUGET SOUND CHRISTIAN CLINIC

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT:

What does it mean for our patients?

rent
groceries
gas
~~doctor~~
~~dentist~~

Salma* is just 23 years old, but she has already seen more struggles than most of us see in a lifetime. Salma, her parents, and her younger brother came to the United States seeking political asylum from their Middle Eastern home. When they arrived, they believed the worst was behind them, but **for the first 5 months, the family was unable to work and had no income.**

Salma is now working to help support her family, but her part-time, minimum-wage job doesn't earn much. She's attending community college in hopes of a better job someday, but in the meantime, it's hard to pay rent and keep food on the table, let alone pay for the medical care they need.

For families like Salma's, "in the meantime" is a long time. They must wait for 5 years before they become eligible for assistance.

Salma is just 1 of many patients we see whose needs will not be met by the new law. Sadly, she and her family are far from alone.

We've talked with health care and government leaders, and most agree that even when the new law is fully implemented in 2022, many will still be without access to health care.

Why? There are many reasons, and they may surprise you . . .

(Continued inside)

**Name changed to protect privacy.*



AT RISK: Salma is one of 30 million people who will still be uninsured under the Affordable Care Act.

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THIRTY MILLION PEOPLE WILL STILL BE UNINSURED UNDER THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

—Source: Health Affairs

(Continued from cover . . .)

Over 40% of our patients are immigrants or refugees. Undocumented immigrants are excluded from the legislation. But many documented immigrants won't be helped much by the new law, either — they must live in the United States 5 years before they become eligible for government assistance with health care.

HEALTH CARE STILL OUT OF REACH

There's also concern that when families who are struggling financially buy health insurance, they won't be able to afford to visit a doctor.

Chronically ill patients could pay more than \$200 a month for medications and copays — on top of their insurance premiums!

Projections show the cost of insurance coverage could be \$40-50 per month for our patients. But for chronically ill patients who need ongoing care and medications, their out-of-pocket costs may be \$200 or more, after paying coinsurance and deductibles.

Many of our families are already struggling to put food on the table; they won't be able to afford the cost of copays and medications on top of their insurance premiums.

FINDING A DOCTOR

Will our newly-insured neighbors will be able to find a doctor? Today, many of our low-income neighbors are insured under Medicaid, a government-funded health

insurance plan. Some of them struggle to find a doctor, particularly when they need a specialist. Due to a shortage of doctors accepting Medicaid, patients sometimes wait to be seen, or they travel long distances for care.

Now, under the ACA, enrollment in Medicaid is projected to **increase by 30%**. And though great efforts have been made to expand and prepare for this big new group of patients, experts say they're **uncertain the demand can be adequately met.**



Your generosity provides health care for people who would otherwise go without.

OUR SHARED COMMITMENT

Many questions remain, but one thing is clear: **Puget Sound Christian Clinic is ready to serve** people whose needs remain unmet by the new legislation. Our board and staff are dedicated to working with community partners to find answers and reach out to those who need us.

We remain committed to sharing Christ's love with underserved people by offering them access to quality, compassionate health care. With your help, we will serve patients in need — in 2014 and beyond — to the very best of our ability! ■

How can I
PRAY?

1.

Please pray that people who don't have health care will hear about the Clinic and find help here.

2.

Please pray our mobile sites receive enough financial support to serve neighbors at full capacity.

3.

CELEBRATING A NEW LAUNCH: *The Green Lake Mobile Medical Clinic!*

November 19 marked a very special day for residents of Seattle's Green Lake area. **Our 6th Mobile Medical Clinic opened at The Aurora Commons on Aurora Avenue!**

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers, staff, and our friends at local churches, underserved neighbors in the Green Lake community will have access to medical care at our Mobile Medical Clinic on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month.

We are humbled and grateful to have yet another opportunity to show Christ's love by taking medical care where it is needed most. **Please know: your partnership is making a difference throughout Puget Sound!** ■



AURORA
COMMONS



Want to hear more about how your generosity is changing lives in Puget Sound? Be in the know!

Follow us on Facebook @
<http://facebook.com/pschristianclinic>

Ask God for opportunities to share His love with every person who walks through our doors.

4.

Pray for encouragement and guidance for our board, staff and team of volunteers as they serve.

Walking in God's Way:

A WORD FROM OUR
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and trust shall be your strength.

When you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,

"THIS IS THE WAY; WALK IN IT."

—Isaiah 30:15 & 21

Oh! How I've been blessed by this passage lately. As I'm sure you're aware, the health care landscape is rapidly changing. While our mission remains the same, our goal in this season of uncertainty is to be agile and responsive to the needs we see before us in our community.

I sense that **God is doing a new thing at PSCC** — and I need to consistently seek out time with Him, quiet moments when I can listen carefully for His guidance and direction. Most of all, **I need to sense His love and grace for me** in the inevitable challenges that change always brings.

Maybe you're facing new changes this year. Maybe, like me, you're stretched beyond your comfort zone at times. I hope and pray you'll seek out time with God — the Lord's voice will bring you clarity, comfort and courage in your time of need.

God bless you in 2014!

Diane

Diane Steward
Executive Director



Email Diane:
dianes@pschristianclinic.org

Give health and hope to our neighbors in need . . .

Just \$31.25 provides a full month of patient care!

Many of our supporters already know their gifts to support Puget Sound Christian Clinic change lives — but **many are surprised at how far their gifts go**. On average, it costs \$375 to provide a full year of patient care — just \$31.25 per month.

How do we keep costs so low? With the help of community partners, a hard-working staff, and a team of dedicated volunteers. Together, we're leveraging every dollar we can to bring hope and health to communities throughout Puget Sound. But we still need your help.

From medical exams to diagnosis and basic care, from lab tests and x-rays to specialist referrals — your partnership with PSCC provides badly-needed care for people who would otherwise go without. Many lives have been saved, and countless more have been changed forever, because of caring people just like you.

Please send a generous gift today to provide health care to a man, woman or child in great need. To give even more quickly, please visit www.pschristianclinic.org and click "Give." Thank you! ■



Thank you for reaching out to families in need with the love of Christ. You are making a difference!

Change lives. Be changed.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

Our work is made possible by an amazing team of **volunteers!** From health care professionals, to IT, to admin support — this group of caring individuals is a true blessing to our community.

We have a wide variety of opportunities available for people who would like to give their time and talent, but **here is a list of some of our most urgent needs:**

- Doctors
- Physician's Assistants
- ARNP's
- Nurses
- Dentists
- Trained Dental Assistants
- Receptionists
- Board Members
- Drivers for the Mobile Clinic (*CDL required*)
- Photographers
- IT professionals
- Administrative support

For more information, please email volunteer@pschristianclinic.org or call Sarah Bustad at (206) 363-4105 ext. 217. ■

Puget Sound Christian Clinic's mission is to show Christ's love to people who are underserved by offering access **to quality and compassionate health care.**

For more information, or to give, visit www.pschristianclinic.org.

PUGET SOUND CHRISTIAN CLINIC
Bringing hope & health to communities™

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