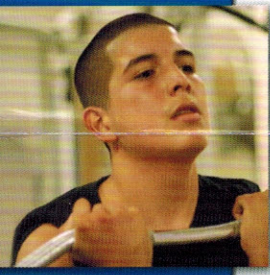
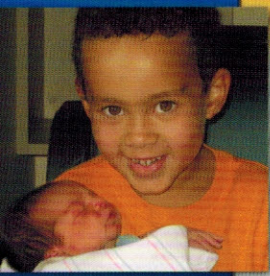


# Faith Works Wonders.

PROVIDING HELP. CREATING HOPE. SERVING ALL. + VOLUME 9, ISSUE 2, OCTOBER 2014



## St. Elizabeth's Becomes an Independent Non-Profit Organization



With the well wishes of Catholic Community Services of Southern Arizona, St. Elizabeth's Health Center has recently become an independent non-profit organization. As of October 1, the health center is no longer an agency of Catholic Community Services. However, St. Elizabeth's will retain its volunteer care model and continue in its mission to serve the uninsured and underserved as a Catholic health-care provider.

"This new structure is in the best interest of both organizations and the people we serve," said Jane Bakos, who has served as the center's executive director and is now its CEO.

Since 2010, St. Elizabeth's has experienced significant financial challenges, stemming primarily from the sudden loss of state funding in 2010. During this time, despite numerous efforts to reduce costs and increase revenue at the health center, losses at St. Elizabeth's exceeded \$1.5 million. Continuing to operate with this size of deficit became unsustainable for St. Elizabeth's and for Catholic Community Services.

Under a new structure, as an independent organization, St. Elizabeth's will be positioned to

apply for federal funding through a collaborative partnership with El Rio Community Health Center, a federally qualified health center. This was not possible as an agency of CCS. With additional funding, St. Elizabeth's will not only be able to continue its work but will be better able to meet new health care regulations brought about by the Affordable Care Act.

St. Elizabeth's new status will also benefit patients, who will have access to additional benefits through the partnership with El Rio. With increased funding and resources, St. E's also hopes that the center can grow to care for more patients.

"Although it's sad to part ways after a wonderful partnership of more than 50 years, it's the right thing to do," said Peg Harmon, CEO of Catholic Community Services. "We are tremendously grateful to El Rio Community Health Center for working with us to find a way to help St. Elizabeth's continue its important mission."



St. Elizabeth's will be governed by its newly-formed board of directors, a wonderful group of people, led by Jose Santiago, MD, who care about the mission of St. E's and want to move it forward, said Harmon. And while the structural relationship between Catholic Community Services and St. Elizabeth's has changed, the collaborative relationship has not.

"We'll continue working together to help vulnerable people in our community meet their needs," said Harmon.