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New home provides more opportunities

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ISSUE: Community Health Clinic to relocate

OUR VIEW: Agreement with HMH addresses need

The Community Health Clinic and its volunteer staff of professionals provide a vital service for uninsured, low-income residents of this region.

Since its establishment in April 2002, the clinic steadily has pinched pennies and expanded its mission and services.

One of the most significant expansions was extending care beyond Hardin and LaRue counties in 2014 to match the United Way of Central Kentucky's footprint by also accepting patients from Meade, Breckinridge and Grayson counties.

Now thanks to a \$1 annual lease made possible by Hardin Memorial Health, the clinic is relocating to significantly larger space at 1113 Woodland Drive, not far from the hospital.

The former home of E'town Ortho, the building has been unoccupied since HMH relocated its orthopedic services to the Ring Road Medical Plaza to create a synergy with its rehabilitation services there.

The facility provides the clinic with capacity for 10 exam rooms — an increase from three from the clinic's converted house on East Memorial Drive. Tripling its space to 5,100-square-feet, the clinic also gains more work stations, an on-site X-ray machine, a conference room plus more storage space for files. Going forward, the executive director's office won't have to double as a pharmacy.

The rental savings of \$900 per month should help the clinic absorb higher utilities in its new home, Executive Director Rebecca Farris Allen said.

With this new resource will come new opportunities.

With help from Dr. William Handley and Dr. Syed Quadri, who serve the clinic's medical directors, and other volunteers, the staff of five accomplishes a great deal of good.

But improving services also creates a need for additional volunteer physicians, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, dentists and dental hygienists. Even if you don't have specialized medical training, the clinic welcomes helpers with clerical skills and needs some strong arms and stout backs to assist with the relocation, which has a target completion date of March 26.

If you have admired the clinic's work and want to help, now is the time. Call 270-763-9589 for information on the clinic's current volunteer needs.

The Community Health Clinic's services are free. It assists uninsured households up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level, including the under insured working poor.

It's mission statement describes increasing access to health care for hundreds by providing basic health and dental care, prescription assistance, advocacy and education.

Few organizations can claim a more noble calling.

This editorial represents a consensus of The News-Enterprise editorial board.