

Hope on the move: Clinic opens in new location

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Hope Clinic will hold an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at its new location, 131 S. Sixth St., the former Davis Drive-in Laundry and Cleaners. / KATHIE DICKERSON/TRIBUNE



Written by [Kathie Dickerson](#)

COSHOCTON -- The yellow burst of sun in the logo of Hope Clinic truly has come to represent something bright in the community.

"Hope Clinic signifies the good that is still left in the world," said Maureen Karl, president of the Hope Clinic Board. "The volunteers who work in the clinic and who've worked to make this renovation possible truly show the compassion and caring of small-town community spirit."

A ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house at the clinic's new location will take place Saturday.

Hope Clinic first opened in September 2009 offering free basic medical care to residents who have no insurance. The Coshocton County Career Center has been its host site.

About a year ago, someone stepped forward with the generous donation of a building, and since then renovations have been under way at 131 S. Sixth St., the former Davis Drive-in Laundry and Dry Cleaning.

"A building that needed love received a miracle," said Jeanne Davis Callahan, who donated the building in memory of her daughter, Shawn Callahan. Shawn died Jan. 19, 1996.

Once a granary and later an auto repair garage, Davis Drive-in Laundry opened in 1947 and was in [business](#) until 2001.

Davis Callahan said she'd received an offer for the building, but she thought there was another need for it, when her son-in-law Rick Merrell asked if she was interested in [selling](#) it to Hope Clinic.

Merrell is vice president of the Hope Clinic Board.

"I said, 'This is it,'" she said. "Hope Clinic was the fit, and I wasn't interested in selling it."

The interior of the structure was removed and professionals in the construction field volunteered their time to convert the former dry cleaners' into a medical clinic, Merrell said.

In all, the clinic has eight exam rooms that include space for a [chiropractor](#) and physical therapy.

Hope Clinic was formed after Karl and Dr. Kevin Doherty served together on a foreign mission trip and discussed the idea of doing the same thing in Coshocton County. Doherty already had helped start a similar clinic in Delaware.

Within three months, Hope Clinic was up and running, thanks to the volunteers, churches and [businesses](#) who contributed then, and continue to contribute, to making it work.

Since the faith-based clinic opened in 2009, more than 1,400 patients have been served by 232 volunteers. That's an average of 67 patients per month.

Karl said the clinic was open in its new location last week, and 22 patients were treated, 10 of them new.

The clinic seeks to not only help with physical ailments. Karl said people who've found themselves without insurance often need spiritual support, as well.

Of those patients, 459 went on to visit the prayer room, and 925 have submitted prayer requests, Karl said.

Volunteers don't necessarily need to have a background in the medical field to help at the clinic. Registration, child care, hospitality and prayer also are areas where a need can be filled. The next volunteer orientation will be in the fall.

Expanding actual treatment hours probably isn't possible at this time, as the doctors volunteer time away from their practice.

Karl said the clinic does plan to offer other health-related classes, such as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation classes for the volunteers and health improvement sessions for diabetics.

The clinic will be open for patients during regular hours today at its new location.