

Marin Community Clinic office relocating to Larkspur from Greenbrae

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After 25 years of operating inside trailers in Greenbrae, the Marin Community Clinics' most southern medical office is moving to a building in Larkspur.

The clinic will move from its location on the Marin General Hospital campus in Greenbrae to a nearby medical complex at 5 Bon Air Road in Larkspur. Employees will be busy making the move this weekend and the clinic will be closed Monday to complete the transition. A generous donor who wished to remain anonymous donated more than \$500,000 to make the move happen.

Linda Tavaszi, CEO of Marin Community Clinics, said the trailers fulfilled a need when the organization made its move out of the basements of churches and officially became a nonprofit. But the group has outgrown its Greenbrae space and Marin General Hospital has plans to expand.

"The new clinic is on flat ground, rather than a hill, and near two bus lines," Tavaszi said.

"It's a much nicer space."

She said Marin Community Clinics serve more than 33,000 people a year at its four medical clinics, including one in Novato and two in San Rafael that were built after raising funds in 2008. Low-income patients receive adult and pediatric primary care, dental care, eye care, specialty care and pharmacy services.

"The growth in patients with needs who are uninsured, under-insured and undocumented has grown amazingly," Tavaszi said, adding that the clinics helped 14,000 people in 2008.

As part of its move, the new clinic will have more modern patient exam rooms, new equipment and a large reception area. The new site isn't larger than the trailers, but it offers a more accessible design and an upstairs office where a new centralized call center will be located.

Instead of having to call a specific clinic to make an appointment, patients will be able to call one number to make appointments at all clinic locations. They will also be able to speak with a registered nurse who will determine the urgency of their health situation.

Nurse practitioner Briana Axline, who will serve as medical director for the Larkspur clinic, said she can't wait to move into the new building.

"I'm excited that it's going to be new, kind of revamped. It's going to be more modern than the trailer," Axline said. "The layout I think is going to be conducive to our team-based approach for patient care."

Clinic operators have been searching for a new location for three years in partnership with Marin General Hospital, as the hospital's \$500 million reconstruction plan places a parking lot right where the trailers sit.

Jaime Maites, spokeswoman for Marin General Hospital, said it's beneficial to keep the clinic close to the hospital because doctors frequent both health care facilities.

"It's easier for them to see the patients in both locations. There's definitely crossover with the physicians," Maites said.

During the past six years, the hospital has donated \$1.36 million to the Marin Community Clinics. Tavaszi said patients who are discharged from the hospital and don't have a primary care physician often end up at the clinic as do ill patients who don't rise to the level of needing emergency care.

"People come immediately to the clinic and we get them set up with a doctor," Tavaszi said. "Our goal is to continue that relationship with the hospital."

Appointments can be made by calling the clinic at 448-1500. For more information, visit www.marinclinic.org.

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