

Hope to spring eternal: clinic marks one year treating patients

BY LEONARD HAYHURST • Staff Writer •

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COSHOCTON -- Hope Clinic board treasurer Dave Lanning shared a letter he received at the clinic's one year anniversary celebration Tuesday.

It was from a woman whose son was treated at the clinic, and she wrote in the letter if it weren't for the medical help and emotional support he received from the clinic, he most certainly would be dead.

"That young man was in here a few weeks ago, and I had the opportunity to talk to him again. He's a changed person. He hasn't touched the bottle. He's back in school finishing up his master's. He is just living life, and he's gotten a second chance," Lanning said.

That man is a prime example of the clinic's mission to offer free medical care and spiritual support in steering one to a better quality life. The volunteers who make that possible were recognized at an informal dinner with about 70 in attendance at the Coshocton County Career Center.

"We don't see people sometimes, so having all the volunteers together is nice. It's nice to chat and not have to work," nurse Deb Johnson said.

Not wanting to miss any individuals, groups were recognized for what they do for the clinic. From the physicians and nurses to those who offer child care a nd hospitality to those who do preregistration and registration and those who work in the prayer room, all of them and more make the clinic possible and had a chance to stand up to be recognized at the celebration.

"It makes you feel good, and it's good to know you can pray for somebody when they need help," Doris Granger of New Life Ministries said. "Most are so thankful of the Hope Clinic, because they don't have insurance or any way to go to a doctor."

Since the clinic opened in September 2009, 833 patients have been treated by 199 volunteers giving more than 4,900 service hours and about \$107,000 in free medical care.

"We wanted to show where we were in the beginning and where we're going now," board president Maureen Karl said of the event.

Lanning announced the first wall for the clinic's new building at 131 S. Sixth St. was put up Tuesday. No timetable for moving into the new building has been set, but he said they are looking for painters, framers, cleaners and others for construction help.

The clinic also always is looking for monetary donations, and a benefit will take place from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Oct. 9 at Shawnee Springs Winery. The event will feature a hog roast, live entertainment, contests and more.

For more information, go online to www. hopecliniccoshocton.org. The clinic treats walk-ins without insurance starting at 5 p.m. Thursdays at the career center.

Ilhayhur@nncogannett.com; (740) 295-3417







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