

A Miracle from God

What began as a dream in the heart of a local physician more than 10 years ago has now become a welcome reality to uninsured and underinsured people in Yankton and the surrounding area.

Free health care is available through Servant Hearts Clinic to those who don't have the resources to pay for the medical services and basic prescriptions they need.

Dr. Mark Mabee says the idea began taking shape for him when he and fellow local providers recognized the gap in health care coverage.

"Through our medical practice, Jim Frerk PA-C, Dr. Jeff Johnson and I often saw people who didn't seek medical care they needed because they couldn't afford it," Mabee says. "Quite a while ago the desire to provide medical services to those people really took root in my heart. I knew my pastor had a strong desire for mission work in the local community. That strengthened my desire to find a way to tangibly be the hands and feet of Jesus to people in Yankton and the surrounding area."

For several years, Mabee and his fellow doctors talked about how they might make their dream of a free clinic a reality. In spite of their passion for the idea, they seemed unable to work past their thoughts and discussion.

"People often have great ideas, but you have to invest the time and sweat to make things happen," Mabee says. "From my perspective, it was God who finally brought this together about three years ago. Dr. Johnson came back from a mission trip to Ethiopia, asking his pastor if they couldn't do something similar here. That led him to talk to Jim Frerk and then to myself, and suddenly we had about 10 people who were really excited about this idea."

After about 12 months of detailed planning and preparation and



Retired Nurse Marilyn Lofflin

recruitment of additional volunteers, the team launched the clinic, which is open the first and third Monday of each month.

One key player in the final formation of their plans was retired nurse Marilyn Lofflin. "I was part of a discussion about plans for the clinic and it was mentioned that they needed someone to pull all the elements of the clinic together," Lofflin says. "I talked to Jim and told him that, if they had a place for me, I would like to help."

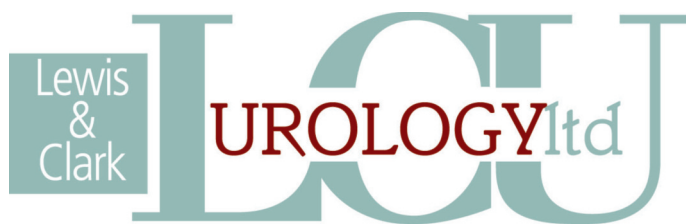
Lofflin's offer led her to coordinate the clinic setup, volunteers and all things administrative at the clinic. She says the dedicated team of volunteers involved in the work make it possible every month.

A major step in implementing the clinic was finding a suitable location. Yankton's Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) now houses their office and temporary exam rooms. Funding has

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