

■ SERVANT HEARTS

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come from Yankton's Calvary Baptist and Emmanuel churches as well as private donations.

"That's our only source of funding," Lofflin says. "We completely rely on benevolent donations. None of the clinic staff or volunteers are paid anything. All funds are used to provide medical supplies and prescriptions. We also use a prescription program WalMart offers so that anyone with a \$4.00 prescription can receive it free through our clinic.

"We can't offer x-rays, but we do offer limited lab work here," Lofflin adds. "If someone needs additional medical treatment, we refer them to a clinic where they can receive that help. Our office is here as well as our supply room for all the materials we use to set up our clinic. We have such great volunteers and everyone works together to make it all go very smoothly."

Lofflin stressed that the clinic often isn't able to assist those with high cost prescription medications for mental health issues and other needs.

"That's just beyond our resources," she says.

Approximately 25 patients visit the clinic every month. In addition to basic medical care, patients have access to pastoral care and mental health evaluation. As needed, patients are referred to social services agencies that offer resources for other needs.

"Many times, people think uninsured or underinsured people are deadbeats or people who don't have a job," Lofflin says. "What we see at the clinic are many single parents. Some of them can only get part time jobs that don't offer any benefits. Often they work at two part time jobs but don't earn enough to pay for health care."

An additional dilemma for many single parents is the fact that being sick means missing work and a shorter paycheck. If they don't see a doctor and are unable to work, they risk losing their job.

"Most of our patients are working adults," Lofflin says. "We do have a few seniors who come to the clinic. Medicare premiums are also on the rise, putting pressure on seniors to manage on a fixed income."

Patients who come to the clinic don't need to prove their need through income verification. They simply need to provide their name and address and proof of identification.

Dr. Mabee notes that Servant Hearts Clinic owes a debt of gratitude to many people, but especially to Clinic with A Heart, which has operated in Lincoln, NE, for the past eight years. Organizers there were quick to share their By-laws, policies and other organizational input to help make Servant Hearts a reality.

"They gave us the wheel and 90 percent of the spokes, then we just had to make it our own," Mabee says. "It was God's timing that brought it all together. It's our hope that the Yankton community will support us with prayer so that we're able to continue serving the medical needs of our community in a way that honors and respects people and honors and serves God. We also hope they'll spread the word to those who need these services."

Those who offer financial support help pay for basic medical office supplies and prescription supplies. The clinic's website at www.servantheartsclinic.org also outlines how individuals can offer volunteer services, professional services, serve as sponsors and make donations.

"There's a national association for free clinics," Mabee says. "We joined that group. They have conferences every year and are a wealth of information. I don't know if the government can cure the health care issues with Obamacare. I'm not sure they can. You see more and more of this type of health service in communities. There's a big need."

Servant Hearts Clinic is open from 5:30-8 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at RTEC, 2100 West 21st St. Additional information about the clinic is available at the website, by calling 605-760-2986 or by sending an e-mail to info@servantheartsclinic.org.

■ By Loretta Sorensen

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