Mabee said he and Jim Frerk, a physician assistant who specializes in orthopedics and also serves on the SHC board, have talked about creating a free clinic for years.

However, the plans began to solidify about two years ago when Mabee and Frerk had breakfast with Dr. Jeff Johnson, a family practice physician who is on the SHC board.

In time, the Rev. Dan Freng of Yankton's Emmanuel Church and Terry Port, a retired associate pastor of Yankton's Calvary Bap tist Church, also became involved in the discussions and now serve as board members.

The spouses of the five men were also instrumental in bringing the project together, they said.

"It was a nice, natural group for us to start off with," Mabee said. "The 10 of us met for a while and prayed about what God wanted us to do."

Marilyn Lofflin, a registered nurse, is not a board member but is very involved with SHC, too. She will serve as the clinic operations team leader.

To get started, the group visited the faith-inspired Clinic with a Heart in Lincoln, Neb. It is also a free clinic that serves the uninsured and underinsured.

Mabee said the organization has been a mentor to SHC.

"They have been extremely generous and gave us the wheel and almost all the spokes we needed to make this happen," he stated. "We shaped it for Yankton, but we didn't have to invent

everything."

The SHC volunteers pointed out that their organization is separate from the effort under way to get a federally-qualified health center in Yankton. However, they said they were ecstatic when it was announced such a facility was being pursued.

"The federally-qualified health clinic and our clinic will not be in competition," Lofflin said. "We have a really good relationship

Factories Help Job Recovery Endure In March

the economy appears to be enduring.

Factories in the Northeast kept iring in early March. And the number of people applying for unemployment aid fell back to a fouryear low. The economy is adding jobs at a time when inflation remains relatively mild outside of higher gas prices.

The upbeat government reports Thursday reinforced the message sent by last week's encouraging job figures for February.

The data also helped put the Dow Jones industrial average on pace to extend its winning streak to seven days. The Dow was rose 42 points in late-day trading. Broader indexes also gained.

"More solid U.S. economic data pointing to a gradually improving labor market, a bounce-back in manufacturing and no material ... inflation pressure," Robert Kavcic, an economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Applications for unemployment aid dropped to a seasonally adjusted 351,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That matched a four-year low reached last month. The four-week average, which smooths fluctuations, was unchanged at 355,750, also a four-

year low. Applications have declined 14 percent since October. When applications drop consistently below 375,000, it usually signals that hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

The steady decline has coincided with the best three months of hiring in two years. From December through February, employers added an average of 245,000 jobs a month. The unemployment rate has fallen to 8.3 percent, the

lowest in three years. The figures "indicate that the labor market is steadily, if slowly, improving," said Steven Wood, an economist at Insight Economics. "Another month of 200,000-plus payroll employment in March is

U.S. factories in the Northeast are likely to contribute to those March payroll gains, based on two surveys conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Federal Reserve Bank of New

The Fed banks said manufacturing in both regions is growing at a healthy pace in March. The Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index posted its highest reading since April 2011; the New York Fed index hit a 21-month high.

with the leadership of that group, too. We see each other as complementary. There will be people who don't qualify to go to that clinic who will need our clinic, and there will be people at our clinic who qualify for more extensive service that they can get at that clinic. We see it as a collaborative effort."

Similarly, Port said SHC is hoping to work with other churches in the area to recruit volunteers for the clinic.

We talked (with other pastors) about encouraging people within their congregations to be volunteers," he said.

To begin with, a team of volunteers from the Calvary and Emmanuel congregations will be present on clinic nights.

"They will do everything from greeting patients at the door to guiding them through the clinic so they don't get lost," Lofflin said. "They will help patients fill out forms, provide hospitality, pray with patients and bring them to the pastors if there is an

obvious need for pastoral care." The group said it is also in the process of sending out letters to physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and others in the medical field who may be in-



NATHAN JOHNSON/P&D

From left: Marilyn Lofflin, Terry Port, Mark Mabee, Dan Freng, Jim Frerk and Jeff Johnson are the core group of medical and religious volunteers who will help launch Servant Hearts Clinic in April. The free clinic will operate on the first and third Mondays of each month from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Technical Education Center. Its mission is to serve the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of all patients.

terested in helping.

"Anyone who can practice medicine is going to be invited to participate," Mabee said.

Depending on the response from both medical and non-medical volunteers, the hours and services provided by the clinic

may be expanded in the future.
"I think it will be as big as we can envision it to be," Johnson said. "There are pharmacists, di-

etitians, dentists, physical therapists — all these aspects that, down the line, could become a part of this."

For those wondering what it means to be a Christ-centered free medical clinic, Freng said it is delivering the message of Christianity with both the volunteers' lips and lives.

"Jesus came full of grace, truth and love," he stated. "Of-

tentimes, as Christians, both inside the walls of the church and outside, we go to one of two extremes. Either we just share that message of love with our lips but don't authenticate it with our lives, or we're very eager to help and serve but don't complement that with the truth of who Jesus

"When people come in, if they're not interested in hearing that message, we're going to share that message with our lives," Freng continued. "We're going to love them, serve them and let them know we care about them because we love Jesus and He has cared for us. We're called to share that love with other people regardless of whether they are interested in hearing it. We're just going to love the heck out of them and be thankful for the opportunity to do that.'

Rather than hurting other healthcare facilities in the area, the SHC board believes it will help them and hopes to develop partnerships with those organizations.

Johnson said Clinic with a Heart in Lincoln claims to benefit hospitals there by taking care of health needs much more cheaply than if uninsured or underin-

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sured patients start using the emergency room as a last-ditch

source of primary care. No appointments will be accepted at SHC. Instead, patients will be given a number when they arrive and called into the

physicians' offices in that order. "It isn't going to be a case where you can zip in and see a provider and then zip out again," Lofflin said. "There is going to be a process that has to be followed.'

Prescriptions will be written, but no medication will be available at the clinic.

The SHC board freely admits that all the details of the operation are not worked out yet, but its members feel they are ready to get the effort off the ground and serve the community.
"We want this to be some-

thing that honors Jesus and blesses people," Freng said.
"We're not in this for some kind of selfish gain. We're not in this to pad our resumes. We're in this to make Jesus look really good as we share Him with our lips and lives.

For more information about the clinic, email servantheartsclinic@gmail.com.

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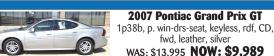
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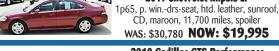
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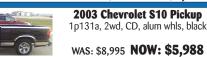
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