



Donate to health clinic if you can

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If you're looking to donate to a worthy cause, look no further than the Marin Community Clinic's efforts to move out of its current location near the Margaret Todd Senior Center into bigger, better offices on Redwood Boulevard.

As was reported in last week's Advance, Marin Community Clinic, which has facilities in Novato, Greenbrae and San Rafael, hopes to have a new facility at 6100 Redwood Blvd. open in December.

The opening date is key, because if the clinic is up and running by Jan. 1, 2009, it will be eligible for a very large allocation of federal funds.

The new clinic would have a number of advantages over the current facility. It would have 18 examination rooms, up from 10. Because the clinic has outgrown its current space, patients must now wait three to four weeks for an appointment; the clinic's doctors rarely can see patients with urgent medical problems.

The new clinic would offer women's health services and mental health services. It also would be accessible by public transportation and have ample parking.

But in order to open in time for the Jan. 1 deadline, the Marin Community Clinic needs to raise \$2.8 million.

To that end, it's launched a fund-raising campaign that's helmed by a committee consisting of a "who's who" of respectable, community-minded Novatans of all political persuasions.

This is the type of project that bridges boundaries. It's the kind of campaign that everyone can agree on.

And why not? A new clinic would benefit us all. For one thing, the clinic would help steer sick folks away from using emergency rooms for their primary care. And it's to everyone's benefit to have communicable diseases treated.

If you're interested in donating, send checks to Marin Community Clinic, the Novato Campaign, 300 Professional Center Drive, Suite 311, Novato, CA 94947.