

Raising Walls and a Toast to the New Year!

By Sue Knapp

Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation Board

As the walls of the new Deschutes Rim Health Clinic rise, we are very mindful of the community support that has gotten us to this point. While 2021 had its many challenges (and the years before that!), the Board and clinic staff persevered and kept the vision of a new clinic alive primarily because of the support and kind words of our patients and community members, and the dogged belief that keeping our commitment would bring better health care services for years to come. That, after all, is our mission.

Construction is close to being on schedule, despite the weather setbacks. R&H Construction and Pinnacle Architecture are doing excellent work and are exceptional to work with. They make it easy for us to provide guidance and make the necessary decisions. Both the contractor and sub-contractors have commented about the friendliness of the town and how they have been welcomed.

Their presence has been good for the town economically with in-town purchases and use of local lodging. R&H Construction even reached out to local subcontractors for work bids; unfortunately, few were interested. The Foundation website (deschutesrimclinicfoundation.org) lists the subcontractors involved in this project.

Barring problems with severe weather, the foundation should be completely poured by late December. By early to mid-January, the walls will rise and the building will start to take shape. When the walls are in and roof installed in early spring, we will have a public touring of the building.

As we work toward the opening of the new clinic in July 2022, there will be opportunities for those who would like to be more involved or support the cause. Planning has begun for several fundraising events at the site in spring and early summer as part of our continued capital campaign to reach a goal of \$200,000 from community support. We hope you will join us at these events and feel the spirit of anticipation and celebration. We are so grateful to our community of local donors. Collectively, you have helped us achieve 66% of our community fundraising goal. Thank you!

We are also very appreciative of the recent grants received from several foundations; the Reser Foundation awarded us \$50,000 and we received a \$10,000 grant from the Swigert Foundation. Back in August, the Autzen Foundation awarded us \$13,333. Westby Associates and Foundation members recently submitted substantial grant requests to the Collins Foundation and The Ford Family Foundation; we are keeping our fingers crossed for their much-needed financial support. The grants awarded indicate that these foundations acknowledge the value of

a new clinic for delivering needed, quality health care in our rural area; especially so during a pandemic.

Grants are also being sought to cover the cost of furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new building. Our pro bono part-time dentist worked with Burkhard Dental to develop a comprehensive list of equipment for the two dental operatories, the sterilization lab, and dental office. This state-of-art equipment package will facilitate recruitment of a quality dentist and dental hygienist. The same approach is being used for the medical side – state-of-art equipment to facilitate diagnostics, evaluation and treatment.

After occupancy of the new clinic, the existing clinic will serve as a location for ancillary health care services, which could include additional meeting space for providers and patients, space for classes, a community exercise room and more. Additional grants will be sought to remodel and repurpose this building.

The Deschutes Rim Health Clinic brought on Shelby (Woodside) Dumire to serve as our clinic manager. Shelby brings a strong medical background and compassionate team-based clinic manager experience and has been a tremendous asset. She will be instrumental in guiding and managing enhanced operations in the new building which will include full-time dentistry and a part-time clinical social worker.

We remain committed to providing top quality, comprehensive, accessible healthcare to the residents of South Wasco County. We thank you for joining us in this important work, but there is still much to be done. If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please send to:

Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation
PO Box 219
Maupin, OR 97037

For further information regarding the new clinic and the foundation, please see the Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation website at: deschutesrimclinicfoundation.org, or contact us via email at: info.drcfoundation@gmail.com. Information on existing Deschutes Rim Health Clinic services and staff, patient forms, and information on the White River Health District can be found at the clinic's website at Deschutesrimhealthclinic.org.

Wishing you a healthy and happy new year in 2022!