

## Laying the Foundation for Health Care's Future

By Sue Knapp, Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation Board

As the new Deschutes Rim Health Clinic takes shape, we are excited about its formation and the positive changes it will bring. Wholistic quality health care for the long term in this rural area is fundamental to ensuring well-rounded wellness and a better quality of life. This is an important and strategic time for the health care industry as it moves through and recovers from a pandemic.

The new clinic will be the catalyst for various improvements in local health care delivery:

- Recruiting medical and dental providers who want to live, work and make a difference in this rural area
- Incentivizing partnerships for more specialized and innovative models for rural and community health care
- Be the cornerstone of a 'community health care center' with additional ancillary services housed in the 'old' clinic
- Provide a place and space to feel comfortable and well cared for, with new technology and equipment for improved diagnostics and evaluation.

The clinic's current practice and future possibilities are dependent on the support of those who live in South Wasco County, the support of existing patients and influx of new, the support of granting foundations who believe in the cause and our ability to carry it out, the support of potential partnerships and the support of our elected officials at the local, county, state and federal levels.

This has been said many times before, but the Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation (a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation) which has been spearheading, campaigning for, and overseeing this new clinic construction, has at its core committed citizens who are volunteering their time and skill sets to make the plans and possibilities a reality. The Foundation is comprised of 9 individuals, 3 of whom are past board members to the White River Health District and 4 of whom are current board members. This team, as well as clinic staff, are dedicated toward making a positive difference for this frontier part of South Wasco County.

After multiple winter weather setbacks, the foundation to the new clinic has been poured. Soon a building will begin to form. In February exterior walls will rise and by May it will be 'roughed in' with interior walls and a roof. Please go to [www.deschutesrimclincifoundation.org](http://www.deschutesrimclincifoundation.org) for more information on the project, photos, and the people involved. Or email [info.drcfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:info.drcfoundation@gmail.com) with your questions.

In early May the Foundation will invite the public to a 'hard hat' tour of the building. At the same event the public will be given an opportunity to contribute toward specific equipment needs in various parts of the building, contribute to match a major donor or grant, or contribute to naming and memorial opportunities.

If you desire to support this new clinic's construction or to make a memorial donation, please make check payable to Deschutes Rim Clinic Foundation, and mail to DRCF, PO Box 219, Maupin OR. You will receive a personalized thank you note from a board member. All contributions are tax deductible.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our May event! More information will be provided on the website as the time approaches, and all residents of South Wasco County will receive an invitation.