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## **United Way helps Hearts That Care clinic help others**

The United Way has funded the Hearts That Care Medical Clinic for the last 9 years and this year was no exception.

GRACE LEONHART

Sep 1, 2018

"We are a funded partner of the United Way and they do a fantastic job of assisting us," Dan Elliott, executive director of the clinic said recently. "We received \$54,000 for clinic operations this year up from \$46,000 that we received last year."

The United Way is also a sponsor of the Lawton/Fort Sill Leadership class and participants are encouraged to do a community service project.

"The members of the Leadership Class do a project, not a fundraiser," Elliott said. "We appreciate the Leadership Class donating \$3,500 to the clinic recently. It will be put to good use, I assure you."

The clinic began with a vision from Dr. Winnie Bartman, who founded the clinic. In 2014, Dr. Bartman gave the leadership to Dr. Dan Joyce who is now the medical director of all medical operations.

"My wife Kelli handles medications and front officer operations," Elliott said. "She is the patient advocate of the clinic. I saw her dedication to this clinic and in 2015 I came on board as the board secretary. In 2017, I was voted in as president of the board and adjunct director."

Elliott went on to say that Susan West acts as treasurer and Dr. Rosemary Bellino is the board secretary.

"We serve patients from 18 to 64 years of age which are 200 percent rate or below," Elliott said. "They cannot have insurance and we serve people throughout Southwest Oklahoma. The average household income of the patients is approximately \$8,000 annually. We have three major areas of operation including general health, medical funds and pharmacy operations including processing, storage and distribution to patients.

"The United Way has mentored the clinic to develop realistic goals and objectives to assist our clients," Elliott said. "Volunteers and fundraisers also help the clinic stay open."

Some fundraisers and donations include:

n Centenary United Methodist Church - \$4,225

n Valley View Volunteer Fire Department and Comanche County Emergency Management -

\$1,625

n McMahon Foundation - \$25,000

n Oklahoma Medical Association - \$5,000

n Garage Sale - \$2,500

n Individual anonymous donations - \$1600.

"Some of our goals include running the clinic one time per week, a dental clinic and a vision clinic," Elliott said. "We have received generous donations recently including three patient beds and several stools; two hospital beds and an industrial-sized copier and printer from Dr. Agte and patient tables, massage tables, wheel chairs and other medical supplies from BancFirst.

"We have also have inquired as to the purchase of the building and have priced renovations to the building," he said. "We have found that the price for the building is \$330,000 and \$800,000 to \$1.2 million for renovations. Mike Brown came and checked out the property and has committed to construct a statement of work on the cost of our vision of improvements to our facility so we can meet the demand of the clients."

Elliott also said that the Lawton community rallied behind the clinic and helped remodel the facility 10 years ago.

The clinic is conducted the first and third Thursday of each month from 6-9 p.m. Patients need to go to the clinic at 9 a.m. to be processed and then come back to the clinic at 6 p.m. to be seen by a medical professional and receive prescriptions.

"Everyone has a right to quality healthcare and that's where the clinic comes in," Elliott said. "We have had numerous success stories to where patients have gone back to work after treatment."

To contact the clinic, go to: [www.heartsthatcarelawton](http://www.heartsthatcarelawton) or go to Facebook: Hearts That Care Lawton Ok.