

## South Salem free medical clinic treats 28 people

By Justin Much

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Some were from the surrounding South Salem neighborhood, some from out of town, and some were homeless.

By noon, a total of 28 people had been treated by the free medical clinic at Trinity Covenant Church on Liberty Street and Boone Road on Saturday.

"Our dream and our prayers were that it would be the church neighborhood and beyond that (getting treatment)," said clinic coordinator Keeta Lauderdale. "That has happened."

Lauderdale said the four physicians on hand saw people from Dallas, Stayton, Silverton and Aumsville, along with a number of residents from the neighborhood. Most were adults, though they also saw three children.

The aim of the clinic, which is offered the second Saturday of each month, is to fill a gap for those who are either uninsured or underinsured for medical care.

"There is no code to get in here," said Dr. Andy Harris, one of the attending physicians. "If we feel that a person has access to medical care, then we will encourage them to seek that first. But we haven't run into that situation."

Harris said several patients Saturday were referred to specialists for ongoing care, which is also paid for through the program.

"We don't ask the patients their financial situation," Harris said, noting that the most important goal is make sure people get the medical attention they need.

Harris said that diabetes, high blood pressure, depression and skin rashes are some of the more frequent ailments that clinic doctors see.

Saturday marked the third month the clinic has been offered.

Harris said there is also a dispensary available through the clinic, and they work with

### Clinics

Salem Free Medical Clinic

Address: 3850 Portland Road, NE

Hours: Morning and afternoon, first and third Saturdays of each month

Phone: (503) 990-8772

Salem Free Medical Clinic at Trinity

Address: 5020 Liberty Road S.

Hours: 8 a.m. to noon, second Saturday of each month

Phone: (503) 581-5675 or (503) 551-3363

MedAssist to ensure that patients get affordable necessary medicine.

The clinic is operated through volunteers, including the physicians, from Trinity Covenant, Our Savior's Lutheran and Westminster Presbyterian church.es

"The three churches occasionally have choirs singing together, so it's fun to do this together as well," Lauderdale said.

The idea began with West Salem's Foursquare Church, which operates a free medical clinic on the first and third Saturdays of each month on Portland Road in northeast Salem.

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