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Muslims plan free health clinic

Group plans to open facility in Bettendorf

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Citing their faith and commitment to the area, the Muslim Community of the Quad-Cities, or MCQC, plans to open a free health clinic next month in Bettendorf.

The MCQC Free Clinic of Iowa will be located at 2115 E. Kimberly Road.

"We want to help the uninsured and the under-insured," Dr. Farah Khan said. Khan, who came up with the idea of the free clinic, is one of two managers of the program.

"There still are many people left without preventative care. We want to be part of the solution," she added.

Nine physicians and a dentist will volunteer their services at the clinic, and there will be volunteer nurses and administrative staff, Khan said.

The initiative is a partnership with the Free Clinic of Iowa organization, which operates free clinics at 30 sites around the state. While an opening date has not yet been announced, the clinic will operate from 10 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturdays of each month.

Patients need not have insurance or pay any costs. In other Free Clinics of Iowa sites, patients receive such care as what is needed for school physicals, plus immunizations and treatment of colds, stomachaches, high blood pressure and diabetes. The clinic is not an emergency room facility.

In some cases, free clinic physicians have found health problems that have resulted in a referral to a specialist for serious illnesses such as cancer.

The clinic will be established in the white house that sits immediately west of the new MCQC Mosque and north of the Hobby Lobby store. Organizers will use clinic equipment that is donated to them, including an exam bed from Trinity Regional Health System, Khan said.

"Our religion teaches us to help humanity in every way we can.

Dr. Anis Ansari, a nephrologist from Clinton, is on the free clinic board. "Muslim doctors have been in this area for more than 30 years," he said. "It is time for us to step up and help those who need free health care.

This is an opportunity to show our faith and to help others," he added. This clinic will be in addition to some existing



Ansari

services in the Quad-Cities. The Good Samaritan Free Clinic in Moline was set up for employed people who do not have health insurance. Also, Community Health Care Inc. operates federally funded clinics in the Quad-Cities for those with and without insurance. Its patients who are without insurance are billed on a sliding-free scale.