

MEDICAL FACILITY

Health clinic in Le Grand open for care

For the past three years, small town has been without a doctor

By Carol Reiter
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LE GRAND — For several weeks, while the building was being refurbished, people in this tiny town stopped in at the new Golden Valley Health Center to check things out.

They wanted to know when the clinic would be open for business, because it was bringing something Le Grand hasn't had for a while: health care.

For the past three years, Le Grand has been without a doctor, a dentist or a clinic where patients could be treated.

But a federal grant to Golden Valley helped the nonprofit, community-owned group open the Golden Valley Health Center-Le Grand.

The first day of the clinic was a huge success, said Hope Perez. The clinic's nursing supervisor, Perez said 15 patients got medical attention Monday morning, although only four had appointments.

"We had a lot of walk-ins. People were so happy that we were open," Perez said.

Many people in Le Grand had been using Golden Valley's Planada clinic for their health care, but Perez said the distance was a problem for some.

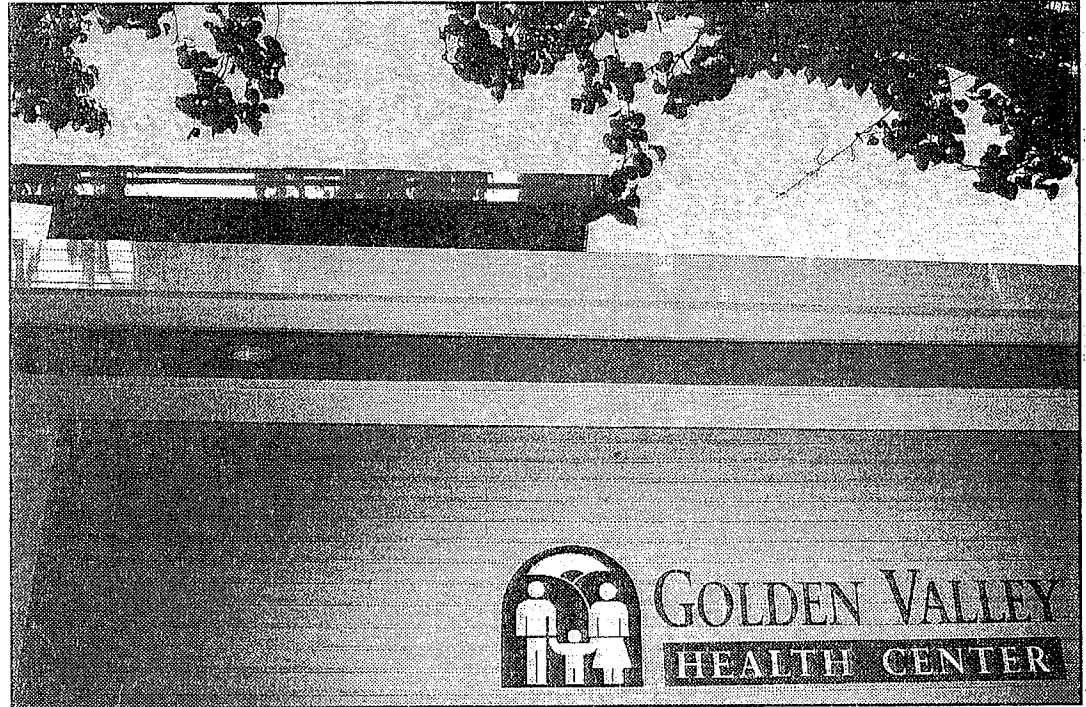
Because many of the patients don't have cars, they had been dependent on bus service to Planada, Perez said. But buses don't always run when people have appointments.

"Those six miles to Planada may as well be 60 miles to the people who didn't have a car," she said. Because Le Grand is small, many people can walk to the new clinic, Perez said.

The building that houses the clinic went through six months of major renovations,

Health center

Golden Valley Health Center-Le Grand at 13161 Jefferson St., is open from 8:30 a.m. to noon Mondays and from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. For information, call 389-1900.



SUN-STAR PHOTO BY JACK BLAND

Golden Valley Health Center opened a new clinic in Le Grand on Monday, making it the first time the small Central Valley town has had health care in a number of years.

CLINIC

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even though it had been a medical office years before.

Mike Sullivan, chief executive officer of the Golden Valley clinic group, said the federal grant enables the Le Grand clinic to see all patients — including those without insurance or money, offering a sliding scale for fees based on income.

The clinic offers all types of medical care, from family

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MIKE SULLIVAN, CEO of Golden Valley Health Clinic

practice to pediatrics and obstetrics. But the future will bring even more options, Sullivan said.

By early to mid-summer,

there will be a full-time dentist at the facility, and a counselor for mental health and substance abuse is in the works. Le Grand has had no dentist for many years, Sullivan said.

Along with health providers, there will also be a patient educator on site to help patients understand their diseases and medications.

"We are so happy with our first day, there is a great need for health care in this community," Sullivan said.

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