Canyon Clinic to expand its hours

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CALDWELL — Just over a year ago Canyon County Community Clinic organizers wondered if they would be open from month to month.

Now shortly after the free health care facility's third anniversary March 31, clinic administrator Lori Rose is close to opening the service for area poor and low-income patients another day of the week.

The difference has been a number of grants, along with private donations, and continued hard work by volunteers.

The Community Clinic, at Terry Reilly Medical & Mental Health in Caldwell, serves mostly those who might try to get treatment at Terry Reilly but can't afford the modest contributions there, Rose said.

"The majority of them are Caldwell residents, but we take anyone from Canyon County at 200 percent or under of the federal poverty level," Rose said. "There is no cost to the patient at all."

The federal annual income poverty guideline for a family of four is \$47,100.

The Community Clinic has recently added a psychologist and a social worker intern to its volunteer staff.

"People are coming to us and they need help physically with their medical issues," Rose said, "but there are so many other issues they need help with."

That includes assistance finding jobs, pursuing disability payments and mental health treatment.

About 15 to 20 people volunteer at the clinic, usually once a month. They include doctors, physicians assistants, nurse practitioners and nurses.

The clinic provides consultations, medications and lab work. It takes appointments for eight to 14 patients each week and turns away about the same number.

The clinic opened an administrative office in Trolley Square in downtown Caldwell in December.

Rose, the only paid worker in the organization, wants to increase awareness of the clinic so more people can support it.

"It's just odd to me how many people have not heard of us," Rose said.