

Offers same services

Free Health Clinic finds new site

by Jeff Gallant

The Free Health Clinic has moved.

Once located in the Disciple House on the corner of Spring St. and Wick Ave., the clinic will now be in the basement of the First Christian Church on the opposite corner of Spring and Wick.

The reason for the clinic's move is that the University bought the Disciple House to temporarily hold some of the offices from Jones Hall while Jones Hall is being remodeled. After much discussion, the First Christian Church was decided on as the new site. The space was donated by the church.

Even though the clinic has moved, the policy will remain the same, "to help those who need help," says the Rev. Diane Kenney, liaison between the Cooperative Christian ministry and the clinic.

The clinic was started by the Cooperative Campus Ministry seven years ago because the University does not offer health care facilities. The people running the clinic are all volunteers. The clinic operates on a very limited budget.

The clinic is open to anyone, not just YSU students. The hours are from 7-10 p.m. on Wednesdays. On average, anywhere from 35 to 55 persons a night visit the clinic for help, according to Kenny. If the personnel at the clinic cannot help with a problem, they will refer the person to someone or some agency that can help.

Of the persons coming to the clinic, about 80% are students from YSU, Kenny said. Most of the students are there for physicals for their physical education classes. One in five persons who visit the clinic come for informa-

tion regarding birth control. Many people also come for respiratory problems. Kenny says that all the visitations are confidential, except those that deal with VD. Those must be reported to the Youngstown Health Department by law.

Kenny likes working at the clinic and enjoys being able to help others. Alice Hill, the medical director, and the rest of the staff do an excellent job, says Kenny, even though the clinic could use some more equipment. The clinic uses local area doctors, nurses and lab technicians, who volunteer their time and services to the clinic.

The money to fund the clinic comes from donations and grants. Among those donating to the clinic are Circle K, the Youth Group from Central Christian Church, Interfaith Home Maintenance and some private donations.

Some of the student nurses from YSU help out at the clinic, Kenny said. Many of the medical supplies are donated by private physicians who receive free samples from medical suppliers.

Even though the clinic is open for all, Kenny's own personal opinion is that people who have and can afford a family doctor should go to that doctor if possible and let the clinic use that extra time to help some needy person.

Kenny also believes that YSU should have its own health clinic, based on her observations of other Universities. Kenny has been at YSU for two months, before that, she worked on the west coast.

Currently, there are plans to establish a Clinic Board to govern the clinic. The members of the board will include two clinic

volunteers, two Cooperative Campus Ministry representatives, the Protestant Chaplain, and three
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Health clinic

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representatives of the First Christian Church. In addition, the clinic will hire a person to be responsible for security and maintenance.

Not only does the clinic provide physical care, but it also provides counseling by both the medical and ministerial staff. If the clinic is unable to provide the right advice, referrals are made other places, such as the Help Hotline, said Kenny.

The clinic staff consists of two nurses, obtained from a pool of 12, five lab technicians from a pool of 10, two doctors from a pool of 12 as well as two record keepers/receptionists from 15 available.

Despite the help and contributions from various groups and agencies, the free health clinic still needs money to finish renovating the basement of the First Christian Church. Currently the clinic needs \$1,100 to finish and pay for the project. Since the sale of the Disciple House was not completed until May, 1977, adequate budgeting was not developed for the renovation, reports the clinic.