

News Release

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Health Center dental clinic benefits from foundation donation

A visit to the dentist can be intimidating, but everything is a bit better when the dental chair is comfortable and the equipment works properly. That's now the situation at the Knox County Community Health Center where a new dental chair has been installed thanks to funding from the Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County.

The Foundation's donation of \$5,000 helped purchase the chair which cost nearly \$9,000. The dental clinic now has two fully-functioning exam chairs plus a chair for dental cleanings.

"With the start of the Health Center at the Knox County Health Department we were already making up for lost time, when shortly after opening, we suddenly lost the use of our

20-plus year-old chair causing further back-up and delay," said Lane Belangia, CEO for the Health Center. "The gracious funding from the Communitiy Foundation allows us to quickly help those who cannot easily get into dental providers due to lack of insurance or the ability to pay.

We are very grateful to the Community Foundation for this important piece of equipment now being used in our dental center."

The dental clinic is staffed by Dr. Brandon Washington, DDS, Dental Assistant Anesha Brown and Hygienist Laura Nance. Shelly Hurlow, Shelby Bixler and Dar Butts comprise the administrative staff. The clinic is open five days a week, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and until 6 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. Services include cleanings, fillings, sealants, extractions, x-rays, fluoride treatments, oral health exams and oral cancer screenings.

Knox County had been a dental shortage area for more than 12 years and dental care is a high priority for the Health Center. The dental clinic treats more than 3,300 patients a year.

The Knox County Community Health Center is located inside the health department at 11660 Upper Gilchrist Rd., Mount Vernon. For more information, call 740-399-8008.



Pictured with the new dental chair at the Knox County Community Health Center are, from left, Lane Belangia, CEO; Anesha Brown, dental assistant; Dr. Brandon Washington, dentist; and Laura Nance, dental hygienist.