The Register-Guard

New Planned Parenthood office opens today

By Christian Wihtol

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GLENWOOD -- Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon opens its new \$8.5 million Glenwood center to the public this morning.

The sleek, highly energy-efficient building is the first major new construction on Franklin Boulevard in years.

The building accommodates Planned Parenthood clinic services and administration, enabling the regional agency to close its leased downtown Eugene clinic, its leased downtown Eugene administrative offices and its leased Springfield clinic.

The agency will retain clinics in west Eugene, Cottage Grove, Florence, Medford, Ashland and Grants Pass.

The Glenwood office "will be our headquarters for the whole region," agency spokeswoman Sarah Moseley said.

The recession proved a good time to construct the new building, she said.

"There is so much less demand on the building industry that we were able to get excellent value," she said. "Almost all of the subcontractors came in under bid. We are really pleased with our board's decision to build last year."

Planned Parenthood bought the 1.4 acre parcel in December 2010 for \$595,000, according to a deed filed with Lane County. Construction will cost about \$8.5 million, the agency said.

The agency is paying for the project from a variety of sources.

It sold its longtime clinic property on High Street to a student-housing developer in 2010 for \$1 million, then temporarily leased the property back until the Glenwood facility was built.

1 of 2 2/18/2020, 11:29 AM

Also, Planned Parenthood took out a \$4 million line of credit from Siuslaw Bank, according to records filed with Lane County. And the agency has been seeking funding from donors.

Among Planned Parenthood's local supporters is the Eugene-based Rosaria P. Haugland Foundation, established by Eugene scientific entrepreneur and real estate investor Rosaria Haugland.

"Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon is one of the few places that I can invest in that helps a huge number of people in this community where I live," said Alex Haugland, a principal at the Haugland Foundation. "They are specialists in the field and are the best place anyone can go for sexual and reproductive health care."

Planned Parenthood said the Glenwood project has received grants from a number of major foundations, including the Collins Family Foundation, the Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Oregon Community Foundation. But fundraising is not yet complete, said Cynthia Pappas, chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon.

Eugene real estate developer Dan Neal is helping with the fundraising.

"Any donor would be proud to be part of increasing access to health care and should join me in supporting this beautiful new asset in our community," he said. "We still have funds to raise."

Neal also heads the development group that purchased Planned Parenthood's High Street property. He has built student housing near the University of Oregon.

2 of 2 2/18/2020, 11:29 AM