

Commissioners

From: alombard3@q.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 9:21 PM
To: Commissioners
Subject: Fwd: Reminder of this Thursday's Big Event
Attachments: Outreach fundraising letter.docx

To Suzy Foss, Ron Stoltz, and Jeff Burroughs,

My federal tax money should already be paying for this service, if you all hadn't refused the money. I hope that each of you will personally contribute generously to this clinic, since you are the ones who made it necessary.

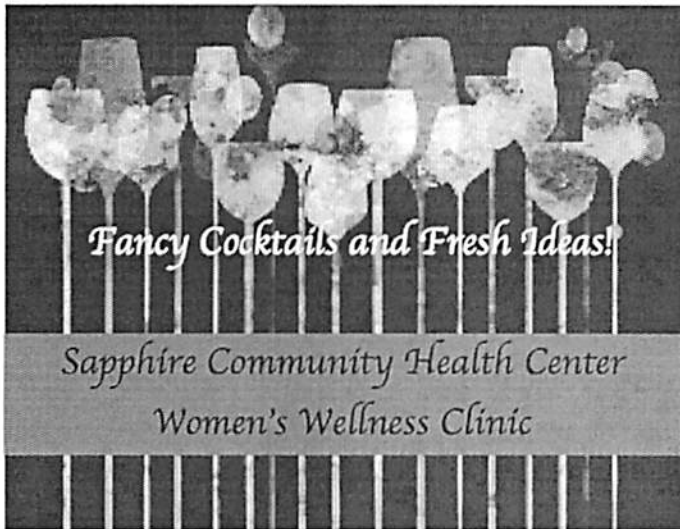
Patti Eldredge
Victor

Remember: this Thursday the valley's new women's clinic is introducing itself to the community. It'll also be an opportunity for all of us to chip in some money. No one in need of family planning services will be turned away due to lack of funds but funds are needed to make that happen. Event details below. Please let Heather know if you're planning to come! Hope to see you there. Pat Tucker

Event details:

We are excited to present Sapphire Women's Wellness Clinic. Attached is a letter with more information about who we are. Take a look!

You are invited!



**Celebrate with us as we launch a new
Women's Wellness Clinic in Hamilton!**

When? February 6th, 5-7 pm

Where? 303 North Third St • Hamilton

- Located on Third Street, the volunteer-based clinic will offer essential health services to low-income women in Ravalli County.
- Meet the people who are making it happen, and find out how you can get involved.
- Enjoy fresh juice cocktails and delicious hors d'oeuvres, while raising funds to support locally-run services.

RSVP to Heather Liebe • ravallhealth@gmail.com • 505-918-6462

If you are unable to attend, please consider supporting us by making a donation to Sapphire Community Health, Inc. 303 North Third, St. Hamilton, MT 59840.

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Heather Liebe
[505.918.6462](tel:505.918.6462)

Meditation means to be fully aware of our actions, thoughts, feelings and emotions

In this country, we have long recognized that access to women's health services is essential for healthy families and healthy communities. **Yet, as healthcare options have expanded for millions of Americans around the country, options for low-income women in Ravalli County have only diminished.**

Montana is one of twenty-three states that did not accept federal funds to expand Medicaid; and women below the poverty level do not qualify for health care subsidies under the Affordable Care Act. The Sapphire Community Health Center – the only state-funded community health center in the county – closed its doors in 2011 due to budget cuts. And, most recently, our county health department lost federal family planning funds, and ceased to function as a safety net for low-income women.

The loss of these essential services has predictable results. When women do not get annual exams, the rate of cervical cancer rises. When sexually transmitted infections go undiagnosed and untreated, women lose the ability to have children.

In an effort to fill the health care gap in Ravalli County, Sapphire Community Health recently developed an outreach program to provide health services to underserved women in our community. This outreach effort is staffed entirely by volunteers. Doctors, nurses, and other health care professionals in our valley are donating their time to make sure no woman in Ravalli County goes without necessary care. Sapphire Community Health has offered clinic space to these volunteer health care professionals.

These volunteer services are critical, but we cannot succeed without your support. Our goal is to raise \$86,000 over the coming months to provide services for over 400 women in the next year. One-hundred percent of the funds we raise go to provide direct services to Ravalli County residents. We are working with a sense of urgency, knowing that there are hundreds of women for whom this outreach effort will be their only source of medical care.

On March 1st – with your support – we will begin offering services at Sapphire Community at 303 N. 3rd St. in downtown Hamilton. We will provide annual exams, cancer screening, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and contraceptive services. We will offer these services to the women of Ravalli County regardless of their income, insurance status, or ability to pay.

Please consider a gift of \$1000, \$500, \$150 or even \$25. No contribution is too small. Your gift will assure that the women of our community do not lose access to these basic and necessary health services.

Thank you for your support,

Heather Liebe ☐
Outreach Coordinator
Sapphire Women's Wellness Clinic