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# The Portland Observer 46

'City of Roses'



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PHOTO BY CERVANTE POPE/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Dr. Jill Ginsberg oversees the remodeling of a commercial space at 714 N.E. Alberta St. into new medical offices and the future home of her North by Northeast Community Health Center, a free and low cost clinic to serve the under-respected and underserved.

## New roots for legacy clinic

### Move to Alberta keeps focus on underserved

BY CERVANTE POPE  
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

North by Northeast Community Health Center (NxNE) has been a lifeline for minority and disadvantaged populations since its inception by a Kaiser Permanente doctor and African American pastor over a decade ago. On Oct. 17 the free and low-cost clinic will have a new home that thankfully will still be located in the heart of the community it serves.

"We knew we were going to have to

move and we had been planning it for awhile," says Dr. Jill Ginsberg, the medical director and co-founder of NxNE. "It was a great opportunity to think about what we want this new space to be, how much space we need, what we can afford and where it should be."

The new location will open at 714 N.E. Alberta St., just a few blocks from the clinic's current location at 3030 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., a site being redeveloped by Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare to accommodate new affordable housing and upgrade its mental health services with a new ground floor clinic.

Faced with the impending move, NxNE turned to the community to help decide where their next location should

be.

"There was a very clear agreement that people wanted us to stay in the neighborhood," says Ginsberg.

"A lot of people see this neighborhood as home, even if they've had to leave. They come back maybe for church or to see their friends or go to the barbershop and it was really important to people that their health clinic was in their home neighborhood."

Ginsberg stressed her displeasure with the displacement she's seen happen to minority and low income residents in inner north and northeast Portland and didn't want her clinic to be another one. She has grown close to the predominately African American clientele the clinic has served since she founded it with the

late Pastor Mary Overstreet-Smith in August 2006.

The clinic's history of serving uprooted citizens runs deep, as its beginnings were somewhat a response to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 when Pastor Overstreet-Smith helped relocate 30 storm-displaced families from the New Orleans area to the Pacific Northwest.

"I felt very overwhelmed and I had no idea what to do to help with all of that," says Ginsberg. "When I saw what she was doing I was inspired by it, and I thought maybe she could use some help."

Ginsberg rallied her neighbors to help collect items like diapers and food for the families, but Pastor Overstreet Smith

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