



## St. Joseph's eyes Hackensack clinic

St. Joseph's Medical Center has announced plans to establish and operate a health care clinic in Hackensack in 2008.

Plans for the fall opening a year from now are dependent on the successful recruitment of a physician for the clinic. The Hackensack Family Clinic, 108 Third St., would be open to the public five days per week. The clinic is at the Hackensack Senior Class building, an assisted living facility with trained nursing care, said Gail Levenson, Cass County Economic Development Corp.

Levenson said the clinic is expected to create four jobs.

"Hackensack community leaders are committed to obtaining the capital and buildings necessary to establish a clinic in their community," Jani Wiebolt, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's, said in a news release. "We applaud these efforts and are committed to assisting the Hackensack community by providing our operational expertise and medical personnel so the community's health care vision is achieved."

Construction on the clinic is well under way in cooperation with the SJMC facilities director and property developer, Jim Johnson.

The nonprofit Cass County EDC led the recruitment effort of the medical provider and provided startup assistance for the Pines Area Medical Development Association, a local group that will help support the clinic.

Levenson said the EDC has been working on this project for a couple of years.

"I think it will be a great benefit to the city of Hackensack to improve the access to health care to a rural community," Levenson said. "It's always a quality amenity for a community to have health care nearby."

St. Joseph's Medical Center, Brainerd, is a 162-bed regional health care system that operates five family clinics in Crosslake, Pequot Lakes, Pierz, Pillager and Pine River. Brainerd Medical Center is a 50-physician multi-specialty clinic that provides physician services to all of St. Joseph's family clinics. St. Joseph's Medical Center and Brainerd Medical Center recently integrated and are part of the Brainerd Lakes Integrated Health System.

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