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Our opinion

Community well served by relocation of clinic

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Another sign of community commitment comes to us from Cook Medical and the health care professionals and volunteers who operate Bloomington's Volunteers in Medicine Clinic. These organizations and individuals are committed to providing medical care to low-income, uninsured residents of Monroe and Owen counties.

Volunteers in Medicine opened in April 2007 in a building on East Miller Drive in Bloomington. Cook Medical bought a larger building on West Second Street and announced recently it will lease it to VIM for \$1 a year. The clinic will move to the new location in February.

The relocation will provide more efficient space in general and include more exam rooms, allowing the volunteer doctors and nurses to see more patients each day.

Volunteers in Medicine was conceived to provide a local solution to a national problem. Local visionaries, led by Dr. Rajih Haddawi, wanted to provide free access to high-quality health care for 16,000 Monroe and Owen county residents — 3,000 of them children — who don't have and can't afford health insurance.

Nationally, about 47 million Americans are uninsured.

The generosity of Cook Group helped fund VIM from the beginning with a \$600,000 donation. Cook Medical's most recent purchase-and-lease agreement will help provide more and better access to health care for thousands of our friends and neighbors.

That's a commitment to making our community a healthier and better place to live. It's action worth celebrating.

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