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VIM clinic ‘will empower people like me’

At free clinic’s open house, speakers look ahead to Monday’s opening

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Standing at a lectern beneath a large “Volunteers in Medicine” banner, Laurie Currie smiled broadly while scanning a crowd of 150 sitting on folding chairs.

The 47-year-old Owen County mother of three said several surgeries on her right ankle over the past two years — performed free of charge through Bloomington Hospital’s CHAP clinic — have been a godsend.

“Honey, the CHAP clinic gave me back my life,” said Currie, who is automatically eligible to receive free care at the VIM clinic, which it replaces. “Volunteers in Medicine will empower people like me. Honey, now I can kick the world’s butt.”

Currie was one of eight people who spoke Friday afternoon on a balmy 70-degree day during a ceremony to mark the opening of the free clinic.

At 8 a.m. Monday, the doors of the Volunteers in Medicine will swing open, marking the dawning of a new era in Bloomington health care for those in need.

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