

## Center for Family Health making big investment in downtown Jackson

by Jackson Citizen Patriot

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The roughly 24,000 people who use the Center for Family Health should be excited for the prospect of a single, new location in downtown Jackson, particularly when so many of them live in the city.

But whether you are a patient or not, the health center's recently announced plans are a big deal. It's not every day that someone announces a \$9 million investment in Jackson.

This consolidation stands to produce dividends in many ways.

Start with the location, the former Art Moehn car dealership location on N. Jackson Street that has been vacant for almost all of this decade. This will create activity on a stretch of street from a railroad bridge to the county fairgrounds that has little going for it, aside from the United Way building and a fire station.

It will create construction jobs (we hope local ones) over the next two years, plus move 160 employees to the downtown area.

Officials with the health center predict they will continue to grow and create jobs.

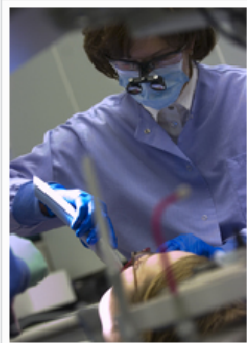
City government stands to benefit as those who now work in Blackman Township, for example, start paying 0.5 percent of their wages in city income taxes.

Let's not overlook, too, that the Center for Family Health helps the overall economy just from its very existence. The whole purpose of this and other health centers is to provide a social safety net. Patients pay for service on a sliding scale, meaning they pay what they can afford if they do not have health insurance.

Take away the basic services that the center provides, and it is no exaggeration to suggest that health-care providers, notably the emergency room at Allegiance Health, would be even more strained with patients seeking out care in a crisis. That benefits no one.

All the best to the Center for Family Health as it prepares for its expansion into downtown Jackson.

Its patients and the entire community can use this dose of good medicine.



Citizen Patriot file photo

Dr. Jane Grover, dental director at the Center for Family Health, does dental work on a patient earlier this year. Many of the center's operations will be consolidated into a single location in downtown Jackson.