

# HealthReach Community Health Centers



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## **Lovejoy Health Center holds Groundbreaking Ceremony** Construction crews have begun long-awaited Health Center expansion project



ALBION – On Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lovejoy Health Center staff, board members, architect Mat Ward, and members of Bowman Constructors assembled outside the Health Center for a groundbreaking ceremony.

The ceremony marked the beginning of a long-awaited expansion of the health center, which will provide additional office space, exam rooms, a centralized nurse station, additional storage space, and a new front entrance which will include an accessibility lift.

Lovejoy Health Center opened its doors in 1978 with two doctors, a small staff and a mission to serve the health needs of the people of Albion and surrounding communities. Dr. Forrest West was one of those two doctors and continues to practice at Lovejoy.

“This marks the fourth major expansion at Lovejoy since the beginning,” said Dr. West. “We have so many services now that we didn’t have before. The expansion will allow our Care Manager, Connector and Behavioral Consultant to meet

with patients on our main floor rather than the lower level. Our nurses will be able to work together and coordinate in the same room, and the new entrance will give our patients greater accessibility to our practice.

“The construction work may be challenging to work around, but we will continue seeing patients. We have done it three times before!”

Today, eight providers and a staff of more than 30 people provide care to over 4,000 people from Albion, China, Freedom, Palermo, Thorndike, Troy, Unity, and other surrounding communities. Services have expanded to include chronic care management, behavioral health, podiatry, and more.

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Lovejoy Health Center is part of HealthReach Community Health Centers, a group of eleven Federally Qualified Health Centers in Central and Western Maine. Dedicated providers deliver high quality medical and behavioral health care to citizens in over 80 rural communities. To ensure access for everyone, HealthReach accepts Medicare, MaineCare and major insurances. In addition, an Affordable Care Program is available to uninsured and underinsured residents as well as assistance with applications for programs that help with the cost of healthcare and medications including the Health Insurance Marketplace. A private, non-profit with a 42-year history, HealthReach is funded by patient fees, grants and individual donations.