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Editorials/Opinion

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Welcome, Hunter Health Clinic

ON Saturday, the Wichita Urban Indian Health Center takes on both a new name and an important new mission. From then on, the center will be known as the Hunter Health Clinic, adding non-Indian Sedgwick County residents who are "medically underserved" to its clientele.

That term refers to those who aren't poor enough to qualify for free medical treatment, but who don't have the insured medical care so many Wichita-area residents take for granted. It's fitting that the clinic will offer such people its array of medical, dental and mental-health services, while continuing to concentrate a major part of its outreach on Wichita's Indian population.

As well, it's fitting that the clinic's board of trustees chose to honor two prominent local Indian leaders, Jay and Vera Hunter, in renaming the facility. Jay Hunter, who died in 1981, was a teacher who served as executive director of the Mid-America All-Indian Center from 1971 to 1979. Vera Hunter, also a teacher, advised Indian students in

the Wichita public schools during the 1970s. She died in 1984. Both devoted much of their lives to helping Indians bridge the cultural obstacles posed by urban life.

The clinic's name and mission change in this, its 10th year, symbolize its continued desire to afford Wichita's Indians quality health care, and its new desire to extend such care to others not now enjoying it. Wichitans should help the clinic celebrate its new direction and identity by attending Saturday's dedication ceremony at 1 p.m. at the clinic building, 2318 E. Central.



Jay and Vera Hunter: Their spirit will live in new clinic