

**COLORADO
RURAL HEALTH
CENTER**

The State Office of Rural Health

RELEASE DATE: August 15, 2014

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CRHC Recognizes a Certified Rural Health Clinic as the Featured Member of the Month

Las Animas Family Practice is a small Certified Rural Health Clinic providing primary care to residents in Bent County Colorado

Denver, Colo – As the Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) prepares to celebrate Safety Net Clinic Week August 18-22, it is only fitting that this month's member recognition is bestowed upon one of Colorado's Certified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).

Safety Net Clinic Week is devoted to educating the public, policymakers and other community leaders about Colorado's Community Safety Net Clinics and federally certified Rural Health Clinics.

This month's featured member is the Las Animas Family Practice, a Certified RHC in Las Animas, Colorado. A town of little more than 2,300 residents, Las Animas, is the idyllic small town in rural America.

"Rural Health Clinics are a crucial source of outpatient primary healthcare services," says Niki Hyde, CRHC's quality improvement specialist. "In fact, in some cases RHCs are the only source of outpatient primary care located in the county," added Hyde.

CRHC chose to feature Las Animas Family Practice in connection with the beautiful article posted in the Washington Post earlier this month, "[Portraits of a rural town in flux: Las Animas, unfiltered](#)".

Certified RHCs are a federally designated clinic located in a non-urban healthcare professional shortage area. Currently there are 51 RHCs in Colorado. Once certified by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), RHCs receive enhanced (cost-based) Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement for the services they provide. Even though the greatest financial benefit to RHCs is the enhanced reimbursement, RHCs provide healthcare services to the privately insured as well as the uninsured and underinsured.

Hyde and other quality improvement specialists at CRHC work heavily with Colorado RHCs to ensure they have the resources to remain viable in the current healthcare environment.

Through CRHC's RHC Program, clinics can access a variety of support services including billing, coding and credentialing services, quality and performance improvement coaching, mock surveys, compliance and regulation evaluation, and more.

The Las Animas Family Practice is a small medical clinic which provides primary health care for the entire family and an access point for the Colorado Women's Wellness Connection and Free Vaccines for Children. The clinic is owned and operated by the Prowers County Hospital District. To learn more visit, www.prowersmedical.com.

About The Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC's serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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