

PRESS RELEASE

info@hopefamilyhealth.org



615-644-2000 extension 473

Macon-Based Health Center *HOPE Family Health* to Relocate & Expand Acquires Dr. Ilia's Westside Facility & Leases Sumner Regional's Westmoreland Medical Campus

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HOPE FAMILY HEALTH PURCHASES MACON'S WESTSIDE MEDICAL OFFICE FROM DR. HANNA ILIA

HOPE Family Health, a faith-based not-for-profit health center in Macon County, has purchased a medical office building in the Westside community from local physician Dr. Hanna Ilia. The property, located at 10427 New Highway 52 in Westmoreland, will become the organization's new Macon County home, allowing easier, closer access for Macon county residents who utilize the center's services.

"Over the last few years, HOPE has been blessed with many new relationships which have helped to create a more unified approach to addressing the community's health care needs," says HOPE Board President Mark Beeler, Commissioner of Trousdale County and longtime local business leader. "These great relationships have recently included collaboration between HOPE Family Health and Dr. Hanna Ilia, MD, of Lafayette. Dr. Ilia recognized HOPE's need for a new facility which would be more convenient and welcoming for its Macon County patients, and offered to sell his Westside property to help meet that need," added Beeler.

HOPE Board Member Dennis Wolford, CEO of Macon County General Hospital, states that "as a local health care organization, HOPE has a deep commitment to the people of Macon County, nurtured by nine years of relationship since HOPE first opened its doors in the Siloam area in 2005. Planting roots at Westside", he says, "shows HOPE's long-term commitment to its valued patients of Macon County, who represent the very core of the health center's mission".

HOPE plans to place both medical and mental health care providers who will rotate to the new Westside campus and will be available to treat the health care needs of patients in that area. A unique feature of the HOPE practice model is that medical and behavioral care are integrated in order to better meet all the needs of the patient. HOPE mental health provider and therapist Michael Ball, LCSW, will be available part time at the Westside office, along with medical providers Amanda Perry, PA-C; Andrea Brooks, FNP; and long-time Macon County resident Janice York, FNP, who work under the supervision of HOPE's medical director, Bien Samson, MD.

Dr. Ilia, an award winning and nationally recognized Board Certified Family Physician who originally practiced as a Board Certified Surgeon in France, has demonstrated a commitment to the patients of Macon County for many years. This has included his tenure as Chief of Medical Staff at Macon County General Hospital, where he currently serves as the Medical Director for the hospital's Emergency Room. Dr. Ilia has chosen to consolidate his practice to his Lafayette office in order to focus on the primary care of his established and growing patient base in Lafayette and throughout other parts of the local community.

HOPE ADDS SITE IN SUMNER COUNTY THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH SUMNER REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

In addition to opening its new Westside location, this fall, HOPE Family Health will move many of its operations from its current facility in Siloam to the hospital-owned Westmoreland property owned by Sumner Regional Medical Center located at 1124 Highway 52 in Westmoreland (the facility formerly known as Westmoreland Medical Pavilion). The lease of the facility to HOPE by Sumner Regional is viewed by both parties as the continuation of a mutual effort to provide high quality health care to the residents of northern Sumner

County. HOPE's new Sumner County location will remain an autonomous and independent site of HOPE Family Health that will operate in collaboration with partners including Highpoint Health System's Sumner Regional Medical Center and Macon County's critical access hospital, Macon County General. "Expanding operations across two counties will give HOPE the ability to work together with these key partners in an effort to maximize resources that have been established to benefit the health center's insured and uninsured patient base that will utilize our different locations." said Joey Forman, HOPE's Chief Information, Development and Compliance Officer.

DUE TO CENTER'S QUICK GROWTH – TWO FACILITIES WILL INCREASE ACCESS & PATIENT CONVENIENCE

As a result of HOPE continuing to develop new essential health care services and programs, the not-for-profit health center is simply running out of space to grow on its current campus. A 2012 expansion and renovation of its current facility, which it has occupied since 2007, gave HOPE room to grow during 2013, but once again, the volume has outgrown capacity and more room is needed as the organization continues to meet community need.

According to a third party service area needs assessment conducted by the health center earlier this year, more than 85% of the local community is not currently accessing health care resources on a regular basis. Based on the overwhelming community need outlined in this survey, coupled with HOPE's current lack of space to support its continued growth, the health center will vacate its current property this fall and expand to the Westside facility in Macon County and the Sumner Regional facility in Sumner County.

HOPE IS CREATING A BRIGHT SPOT DURING LOCAL ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

Since it was awarded Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status in June of 2012, HOPE has more than doubled its staff size, adding new medical providers and expanding its services to include mental health care and programs like assistance with insurance application and enrollment in plans found on the new Health Insurance Marketplace. "One of the most rewarding things I get to do here is to give somebody a job," says HOPE's CEO and Executive Director Jenny Dittes, PA-C. "Building a strong team at HOPE also benefits the community by providing much needed employment for local residents."

In addition to new jobs, HOPE's annual budget has also more than doubled in size since 2012, thanks in part to new grant funding supplied by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Other significant sources of funding include clinical revenue, long-term foundation partnerships, local Safety Net funding, church and religious affiliates, and faithful donations made by private contributors.

A STABLE AND GROWING ORGANIZATION SUPPORTED BY STRONG LOCAL LEADERSHIP

HOPE Family Health, a rural health center based in Westmoreland, Tennessee, was co-founded in 2005 by current Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer Jennifer Dittes, PA-C, and currently serves both insured and uninsured patients throughout the community. HOPE received a federal grant award in June of 2012 designating it as a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) has committed long-term funding and support to HOPE, accompanied by strict oversight including frequent audited site visits by the Administration. With these resources, HOPE is now more adequately equipped to become a permanent cornerstone of the local health care community, offering affordable comprehensive primary health care, behavioral/mental health care, insurance counseling and enrollment assistance, and prescription medication assistance, as well as other essential health and social services.

HOPE's Board of Directors includes: Mark Beeler, President (Commissioner, Trousdale County); Bill Mize, Vice President (Former Administrator, Trousdale Medical Center & current Executive Director, The Upper Middle Tennessee Rural Health Network); Kei Keene, Treasurer (Banker, US Bank); Dennis Wolford, Secretary (CEO, Macon County General Hospital); and Directors: David Flynn (Senior Director of Technology, Macon County Schools), Cynthia Templeton (Attorney at Law, The Templeton Law Firm), Allie Summers (Retired Education Administrator), Brad Tuttle (Co-Owner & Operator, Alexander Funeral Home), and Isa Corcino (RN, Veterans Hospital of Nashville).

COMING FALL OF 2014 | www.wheretofindHOPE.com

To keep the public informed, the organization has launched a dedicated extension of its website where it will publish moving dates, grand opening announcements, individual campus services, hours of operation, and other information specific to the health center's move as such information becomes available. Patients and community members can visit www.wheretofindHOPE.com to learn more.

- - - ISSUED BY HOPE FAMILY HEALTH OFFICIALS AND AUTHORIZED FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON MAY 21, 2014 AT 8:00 AM, CST - - - For more information, official comments, media inquiries, or other questions related to this press release or any other official statement released by HOPE Family Health, please contact the health center's Chief Information, Development & Compliance Officer – Joey Forman – by phone: 615-644-2000 ext 473 – or by email: joeyforman@hopefamilyhealth.org