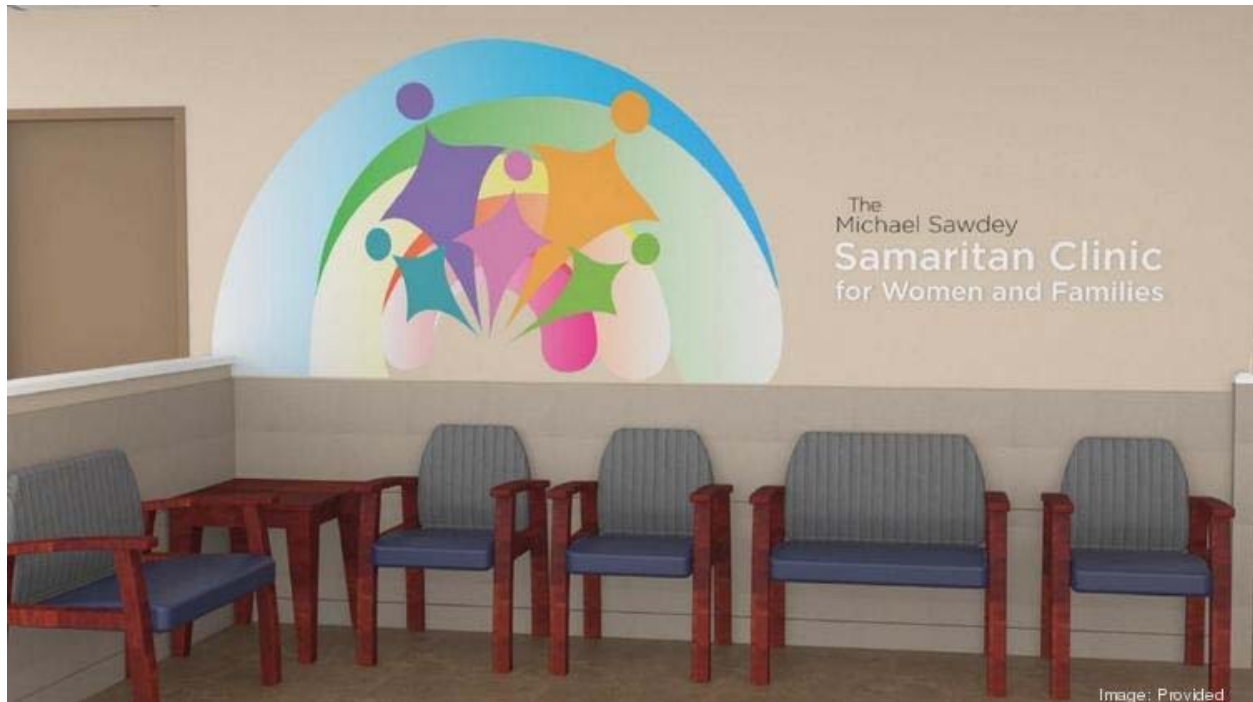


# New shelter clinic in Dayton to serve thousands of homeless women and families



[Enlarge](#)

A rendering of the recognition wall at The Michael Sawdey Samaritan Clinic for Women and Families.  
PROVIDED

By [Jacob Fisher](#) – Staff Reporter, *Dayton Business Journal*  
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A group of nonprofits and health providers have partnered to launch a shelter clinic near Miami Valley Hospital that will provide primary care, women's care and pediatric services for women and families experiencing homelessness.

The [Michael Sawdey](#) Samaritan Clinic for Women and Families held a soft opening in April and is now seeing patients. The clinic, located inside the St. Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Women and Families, is operated by Five Rivers Health Center and staffed by Samaritan Health Center providers.

Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton is funding the shelter clinic through its board of trustees and donations, including a charitable gift from Jeff and [Connie Sawdey](#), who co-own Sawdey Solution Services in Beavercreek.

More than 25 years ago, the nearby Samaritan Homeless Clinic provided care for Jeff's late brother Michael, who was experiencing homelessness and mental illness.

"When we started seeking out assistance for Michael, the Samaritan Homeless Clinic helped us," Connie told me. "At that time, we didn't have anything. We were working two jobs and struggling to make ends meet of our own, much less care for another family member — and they really helped us."

Though the Samaritan Homeless Clinic today serves about 1,800 patients per year, it doesn't get much traffic from women and children. Food insecurity, lack of transportation and other barriers have made it difficult for some homeless families in the Dayton area to access care.

That's what motivated Five Rivers and St. Vincent de Paul to collaborate on a new clinic, said [Christina Knowles](#), development director at Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton. By providing services in house, women and families can more easily access routine care — like vaccinations, screenings, gynecological exams and treatment for minor illnesses or chronic conditions.

The goal is to ensure access to healthcare is enhanced, not interrupted, by the fact that a family is experiencing homelessness.

St. Vincent de Paul donated shell space for the clinic, and Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton approved \$210,000 to outfit the site. The 1,500-square-foot space includes three exam rooms and a children's waiting area, as well as a reception lobby and restroom.

The shelter clinic is named in honor of [Michael Sawdey](#), and the space is equipped to serve more than 1,200 individuals annually.

"We have seen the good that the clinic does," Jeff said. "We saw firsthand the benefits that our donations were making, and we want to encourage others to give back to the local community."

Initially, the [Michael Sawdey](#) Samaritan Clinic for Women and Families will be staffed at least three half-days per week, though hours may be expanded based on need, Knowles said.

Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton is continuing to fundraise for the shelter clinic. [Click here for more about donation opportunities.](#)

Representatives from Five Rivers, St. Vincent de Paul, Good Samaritan Foundation-Dayton and the Sawdey family will hold an event June 15 to commemorate the new space and unveil the donor recognition wall that bears [Michael Sawdey's](#) name.

"We are so thankful to Jeff and [Connie Sawdey](#) for their continued support and inspiring others to give toward enhancing the health and well-being of our community," said [Jenny Lewis](#), system vice president of philanthropy for Premier Health.