



AMANDA CAIN/The Facts

The Rev. Alan P. Trafford stands Tuesday in the doorway of one of the rooms that will be used as a patient room for the Live Oak Clinic at First Presbyterian Church in Lake Jackson.

HOME AT LAST

Live Oak Clinic,
Crystal Crafters find
new spaces for offices

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LAKE JACKSON

When the Rev. Alan Trafford saw the Live Oak Clinic was losing its facility at the Dream Center in Clute, he knew it was an opportunity for the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Jackson.

"They're very well known in the community, and the moment I saw they might be in danger, I thought, 'Well that will be a shame,'" Trafford said. "My second thought was, 'I wonder if we can accommodate them.'"

The Live Oak Clinic and Crystal Crafters, both non-profit organizations serving the uninsured, have both found new homes in Lake Jackson churches to allow the clinics to operate, and are working with the city on rezoning.

Both organizations serve people who are about 200 percent below the poverty level.

Crystal Crafters will be moving to Christ Lutheran



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As part of the new addition to First Presbyterian Church in Lake Jackson, the reception area will also be used for Live Oak Clinic consultations.

Lake Jackson and the Live Oak Clinic will be moving to the First Presbyterian Church on Yaupon in Lake Jackson.

City Council unanimously approved a first reading of the rezoning Monday evening. Both churches are zoned as a B-3 institutions, which include churches and schools.

As of now, medical clinics are not allowed within the zoning

The zoning will be read by council a second time at its next meeting, then will be sent to the Planning Commission at its May meeting for final approval.

The rezone would be a conditional use — and future interested businesses would need permission from the Planning Commission, said Modesto Mundo, Lake Jackson

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assistant city manager.

Council expressed concern about surgery and drugs in the facilities, but were reassured neither are available at their offices.

"As far as the dental, we offer extraction, but they are provided by our volunteers off-site," said Debra Morris, administrative director of the Live Oak Clinic to council on Monday. "If they need something we cannot offer, we have to refer them on to another clinic, maybe in Houston or Alvin."

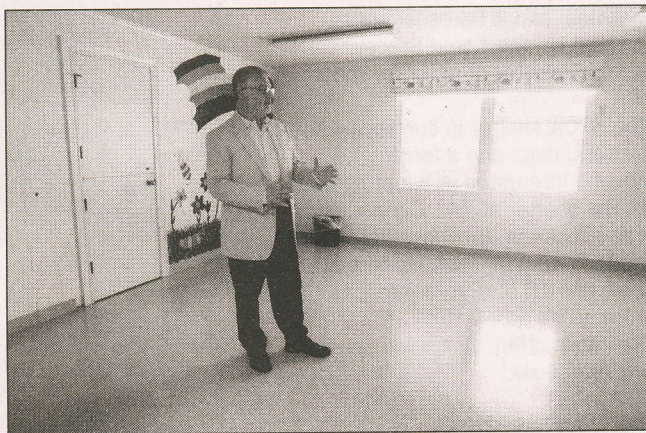
Crystal Crafters, a non-profit organization, provides optometry exams and glasses to uninsured and low-income people in Brazoria County.

"They have four classrooms available for us at Christ Lutheran," said Dr. Thomas Pruett, optometrist for Crystal Crafters. "We are about to start walking through and deciding which rooms will work best for which purpose."

Because four classrooms are available for the eye clinic, heavy optometry equipment will be able to stay in one spot, rather than having to move it every couple of days.

The two non-profits found out about November they would no longer be able to have their facilities at the Dream Center in Clute.

The Dream Center decided to expand its operations and needed the



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The Rev. Alan P. Trafford talks Tuesday about how this nursery room will be turned into a patient room for the Live Oak Clinic at First Presbyterian Church in Lake Jackson.

extra space.

Both the Live Oak Clinic and Crystal Crafters expressed appreciation to the Dream Center for allowing them to use their facilities for so many years.

Crystal Crafters was founded in 1985 and the Live Oak Clinic was founded in 2007.

After reading an article in The Facts on Jan. 22, Trafford called Morris at the Live Oak Clinic to see if they would like space in their church.

"It was just the perfect match," Morris said. "We're excited because we have a better use of our space. Everybody is excited for us to be there and that's a wonderful feeling."

First Presbyterian recently spent \$3 million on renovations, including a new reception area, multipurpose room and youth center.

"We spent all of this money and we didn't want to spend all of it on us," Trafford said. "We wanted to benefit the community."

The church is remodeling its old nursery into an office for the clinic. The volunteers will be able to use the common area for check-in and the hallway for waiting patients.

After Morris received the call from First Presbyterian, she also received a call from the Christ Lutheran Church. She told them the clinic had found a space, but knew someone still looking.

"I thought, I need to introduce these two

Morris said there were times during the search she became discouraged, but overall it was a positive experience for her and her team.

"In everything that happens, you have to look for the positive," Morris said. "A lot of people have said, well, the patients are going to have to drive further, but there's probably a whole section of people who have never heard of us that will be able to access our services."

Crystal Crafters makes glasses on-site from recycled and donated glasses.

Some lenses are recyclable, but often have to be bought, Pruett said.

Eye exams are available from 2:30 to about 5 p.m. almost every Tuesday. Exams are \$5 and glasses are \$10 for single vision and about \$20 for bifocals.

Wednesdays are used as volunteer days to salvage cases and lenses for glasses.

Crystal Crafters are looking for a volunteer optician who can be at the clinic Tuesdays and Wednesdays to edge glasses. Pruett is looking for anyone willing to learn.

The Live Oak Clinic is open most Thursdays during the month and sees a limited number of patients beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Exams are \$5 and the most a person would ever pay is \$25, Morris said.

The clinic sees the highest number of patients for high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes.