

EXTENDING “HOPE” IN SALYERSVILLE: JOANN ARNETT BUILDING NOW OPEN

Salyersville, Ky.- Dr. Tiffany Mills and her pediatric team recently moved from Hope Family Medical Center to Hope Family Health Services, a new clinic location in Salyersville. The new clinic, an extension of Hope Family Medical Center, is located in the “Joann Arnett Building” at 194 Beriah Blvd., Salyersville, Kentucky.



The building is named after Joann (Salyer) Arnett, a Magoffin County native who has dedicated her life to improving the health of residents in the Big Sandy region. Arnett said she was drawn to health care while working as a bookkeeper at a local nursing home. “I went to work in a nursing home as a summer job and I fell in love with health care,” Arnett said. “It was a small nursing home with 20 or 30 patients. There was one registered nurse, who was recruited from Louisville. There weren’t many nurses in the region at the time, and I saw there was a need.”

Joann Arnett received her nursing degree from Prestonsburg Community College in 1975 and started her career in nursing at Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center as an OB/GYN nurse. When asked about her decision to become a nurse, Arnett replied, “You’re meant to be a nurse I think,” she added “I thought, ‘I want to do this.’ I knew that was what I was meant to do.” Arnett cared for a countless number of patients with a large variety of health needs during her extensive nursing career. She spent the first several years of her nursing career working on the different floors of Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center. Soon, she was promoted to Associate Director of Nursing, a position she held for 19 years. During the last 10 years of her career at the hospital, Arnett was in charge of utilization management and discharge planning. She retired from Highlands ARH Regional Medical Center in 2008.

In November 1988, Arnett’s passion for healthcare led her to join the Board of Directors of Big Sandy Health Care, another way she felt she could help improve the health of her community. Subsequently, Arnett has invested her time and shared her expertise as a member of Big Sandy Health Care’s Board of Directors for over 31 years. During that time, Arnett helped the organization complete a vast number of projects. However, one



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project stands out as her favorite - giving Hope Family Medical Center a permanent home at its current location in Salyersville. The facility, originally named the Magoffin County Clinic, started providing healthcare services to Magoffin County residents at another location in Salyersville in 1974.

Arnett said she encouraged Big Sandy Health Care to apply for a grant to begin construction of a new building for the clinic, which was completed in 1993. At that time, the clinic was renamed Hope Family Medical Center. “A lot of people have benefited from Hope Family Medical Center’s services,” Arnett said. She added, “I’m still committed to the community and everyone involved in healthcare.” Arnett also has served as a member of the Magoffin County Board of Health for over 30 years.

Because of Joann Arnett’s long and dedicated history with Big Sandy Health Care and her untiring commitment to improving the health of her community, Big Sandy Health Care officials named the new pediatric clinic building on Beriah Boulevard in Salyersville after her. “I had no idea the building was going to be named after me, but I am honored to have my name on it. I’m certainly very pleased and proud of all Big Sandy Health Care has accomplished,” said Arnett.

Big Sandy Health Care opened the new facility to offer a fresh, new environment for Hope Family Medical Center’s pediatric patients. This new space will allow children to be treated away from sick adult patients and will reduce the children’s potential exposure to serious illnesses, such as COVID-19. Dr. Tiffany Mills and her team will continue to provide quality pediatric care for current and new patients in this new location in the Joann Arnett Building in Salyersville.

About Big Sandy Health Care, Inc.

Big Sandy Health Care, Inc. is a non-profit organization committed to providing comprehensive, quality health care in the Big Sandy region. The organization has several community health centers in southeastern Kentucky that offer medical, dental, behavioral health, vision, pediatric, podiatry, OB/GYN and pharmacy services.

For more information about Big Sandy Health Care, please visit www.bshc.org.

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