

Annex Teen Clinic

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Guys Clinic

The Annex Teen Clinic is pleased to announce its launch of a Monday bi-monthly Guys Clinic, providing a confidential setting for guys up to age 23 for sexual health-related clinical care.

With a grant funded by the Medica Foundation, the Annex Teen Clinic's Guys Clinic has the capacity to significantly reduce rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) in Northwest Hennepin County and North Minneapolis. During clinic hours guys can comfortably receive thorough STI screening, testing and treatment as well as sexual health education. Additionally, young males will receive information on the need for birth control, as told from a guy's point of view from a male health and outreach specialist.

"For the first time, the Annex Teen Clinic will have a male health educator who will be out in the community and schools," Brian Russ, executive director of the Annex Teen Clinic, said. "Our male health educator will be stressing the fact that his is as much of a concern for young men as women."

The Annex Teen Clinic will offer other unique guy-oriented incentives for the Guys Clinic, including a male physician and free movie tickets when males attend one of the weekly Annex Teen Clinic birth control classes.

"We will provide a clinical setting that is designed specifically for young males when only young males are being seen," Russ said.

As STIs are one of the state's most persistent health problems, the Minnesota Department of Health reported a seven percent increase in new cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis from 2004 to 2005. While STIs have reached epidemic levels among 15-29 year olds in Minnesota, public awareness and knowledge remain critically low.

The Annex Teen Clinic anticipates a 100 percent increase in the combined attendance of males participating in Annex birth control education classes and the number of males seeking STI prevention, screening and treatment clinical services. The Annex recently received the "Meets all Standards" Seal from the Charities Review Council, meeting 16 Accountability Standards. As a nonprofit organization, the Annex Teen Clinic earned the Seal from the Charities Review Council by demonstrating responsibility and integrity.

"We're confident this approach to a guys-only clinic will assure young men that the Annex Teen Clinic is as much a place for young men as it is for women," Russ said.

Guys Clinic begins Monday, January 7th, 2008 with afternoon hours from two until five. For more information, please call the Annex Teen Clinic at 763-533-1316 or visit www.annexteenclinic.org.