

## NEWS RELEASE

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## Heart to Heart Celebrates Opening of Joplin Community Clinic Medical Laboratory

OLATHE, Kan./April 23, 2012 — Heart to Heart International and the [Joplin Community Clinic](#) are celebrating the grand opening of the clinic's **new medical laboratory** at 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 24, 2012 at 701 S. Joplin Ave., Joplin, Missouri.

The Joplin Community Clinic serves those in Joplin and in surrounding Southwest Missouri communities who have limited or no access to quality healthcare.

In the past, the Joplin Community Clinic has relied on a partnership with local hospitals to conduct laboratory work for its patients. This additional work for the hospitals was time consuming and lab results could be delayed, which made patient follow-up more difficult.

The tornado of May 22, 2011 added more stress to this system due to the loss of a hospital, the loss of doctor's offices and the near doubling of patients using the clinic.

Now, thanks to [Heart to Heart International](#) and the generous support of its donors, the Joplin Community Clinic has its very own in-house laboratory, which will allow for **speedy lab results and quick patient treatment** at the time of the clinic visit.

"The addition of an on-site laboratory means our patients are treated promptly," said Barbara Bilton, Executive Director of the Joplin Community Clinic. "This is much more efficient. Heart to Heart has made it possible for our patients to get immediate and effective treatment, thanks to the lab results being in the doctor's hands while the patient is in the clinic."

April 22-28, 2012 is National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week, or "**Lab Week**" — making it a perfect time to highlight the accomplishments of the Joplin Community Clinic in the months following the tornado **to serve those in need**.

**NOTE:** *Following a brief grand opening ceremony, members of the public and media are invited to tour the facility for all photo and video needs. One-on-one interviews are also available.*

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Heart to Heart International is improving global health through humanitarian initiatives that connect people and resources to a world in need. Since its founding in 1992, Heart to Heart has delivered aid worth \$1 billion in U.S. wholesale value to more than 115 countries, including the United States. The organization was named to *Forbes* magazine's prestigious list of "America's 200 Largest Charities" in 2011 and was recognized as one of the top 15 nonprofits in the categories of efficiency. For more information on our programs and ways to get involved, visit [www.hearttoheart.org](http://www.hearttoheart.org).