

## Alief/Southwest News

Drs. Aijaz Ali Khowaja, left, and Dilawar Ajani stand in front of the new Ibn Sina Foundation Community Clinic.

**R. CLAYTON MCKEE:** FOR THE CHRONICLE



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### New community clinic earns kudos from White

Group hopes to build child-care development center on nearby land

**By SESHADRI KUMAR**  
Chronicle Correspondent

HOUSTON Mayor Bill White, speaking at the March 29 opening of the Ibn Sina Foundation Community Clinic, lauded the \$1.8 million state-of-the-art medical facility as "an extremely cost-effective model" that could be duplicated throughout the city.

Referring to the clinic's emphasis on preventive medicine, paperless technology and volunteer doctors, White said it was an occasion "not only to celebrate, but to learn."

He specifically praised the Muslim community's role in bringing the clinic to Houston.

The city has gone from having no nonprofit public health facilities to nine in the last three years, he said.

"We need to rely on frontline physicians to craft a health-care system," instead of letting the politicians, lobbyists, insurance companies or pharmaceutical companies do the job, White said.

Ibn Sina Foundation chairman Nasruddin Rupani said his group is committed to providing health care to those who cannot afford it.

Nearly 1.1 million of the 3.5 million people in Harris County are uninsured, and only 38 percent of the uninsured have some access to health care, he said.

The foundation's clinics in Houston and Clear Lake have treated 43,000 patients in the last five years. This year, the two clinics will serve 15,000 people, Rupani said.

The opening of the new southwest Houston clinic is "a milestone in providing comprehensive health care for underinsured and uninsured families," he said.

The lack of health-care access to uninsured people is "an invisible disaster," unlike Hurricanes Katrina or Rita, he said.

Rupani also outlined the foundation's next project — building a child-care development center on land behind the new clinic.

The proposed center will cost about \$1.8 million, and its operational cost would be about \$250,000 a year, he said.

Donations have already started coming in for this project and the foundation would expect help from the city of Houston as well, he said.

It also will have a Montessori school, day-care center, after-school programs for high school students and a learning center for parents and children.

Councilman M.J. Khan, in whose district the clinic is located, said the clinic's purpose is to serve humanity as a whole without prejudice.

The clinic provides medical and laboratory services, dental services, eye exams and specialty services for cardiovascular diseases and diabetes.

Call 281-977-7467 for information.