

For Zysko, tackling his third career at an age when other lawyers are retiring was just a logical step. He has served as the clinic's president since 2012.

Zysko replaces Sister Marge Novak, whom he helped found the clinic in 1997.

"I thought about my practice and the clinic," Zysko said. "I enjoy the clinic, and I believe in what they do. I thought that I'd like to see if she (Novak) thought I could handle being the administrator, and she thought it was a great idea.

"I am doing it because I am a Christian, and I think we need to return to others," Zysko said. "I have been blessed, and this is my way of sharing that. I'll miss my clients and the interaction I had with people, but missing the law, the interpretation and those issues, I won't miss."

Novak, a nurse-practitioner, will remain as a consultant. Certified public accountant Mike Douville will take over as president of the board of directors.

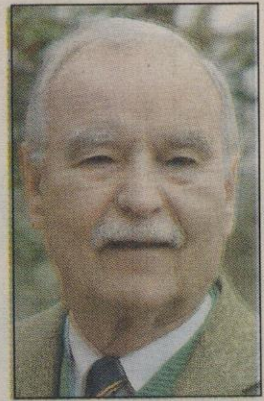
Zysko brings a wealth of practical business experience to the role. He operated both an RV park and the Family Sports Center before earning his legal degree from Texas Tech University.

"I didn't even go to law school until I was 45," Zysko said.

He joined the Texas and federal bars in 1988 and has served on local boards, including the Kerrville Bar Association, Kerrville Rotary Club, Notre Dame School Board and school endowment fund, Hill Country Independence House, the Special Opportunity Center and Diertert Center. He also is a past member of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys.

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**Kenneth Zysko,
new clinical administrator,
Raphael Community Free Clinic**



The Raphael clinic served patients once a week in the Notre Dame School gym when Zysko helped Novak and co-founder Sister Mary Ann Giardina to found it. Giardina retired in 2012.

The demand for services has grown steadily since then. A staff of 14 full-time employees is assisted by about 60 volunteers. Many are former nurses, Zysko said. Some are homemakers, widows and others who just enjoy helping the public.

"In 2014, we served 2,250 patients, including 133 new patients," Zysko said.

Most are from Kerrville, he said, but the clinic serves patients from around the Hill Country, including Boerne, Bandera and Comfort.

"The only place where we don't get patients from is Fredericksburg, but they have a clinic up there," Zysko said.

Identifying a typical patient is easier than identifying a typical volunteer, Zysko said. Half the patients are Hispanic, Zysko said, and married. Many have families, but uninsured singles also are eligible for care if they make less than 200 percent of the current federal poverty guideline of \$11,770, a rule that also applies to families.

"More than 50 percent of our patients last year fell between the level of zero and \$20,000 a year," Zysko said. "The only other guideline is that they don't qualify for the Affordable Care Act or other insurance."

He said the clinic's budget for 2015 is \$598,000, and that includes salaries and all expenses.

"Our biggest operating expense is drugs. Even though we receive discounts, we will spend \$160,000 on drugs," Zysko said. "The biggest portion is insulin and other diabetes-related drugs."

One area that has sharply decreased through the years is prenatal care, he said.

"In our highest year, 2006, we had 1,064 prenatal visits," Zysko said. "Last year, we only had 96."

Funding is an ever-present issue Zysko will tackle in the coming years. The clinic is funded through private donations and grants, but it doesn't accept federal or state funds. The board is looking at yearly outreach events to increase public awareness, he said. Some local churches also provide donations, but reaching out to those that don't is another option.

Zysko also will draw up free wills for donors who leave \$10,000 or more to the clinic.