

New location, new outlook for Thrive Alabama clinic in Florence

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FLORENCE, Ala. (WHNT) - Thrive Alabama unveiled a new location, and a few new services for those living with HIV or AIDS in the Shoals.

It may have just been a move down the block, but Thrive Alabama's new location on Pine Street in Florence is a step in the right direction.

"It is increasing our awareness of what we do here at Thrive Alabama," explained

CEO Mary Marr. "We care for people living with HIV and AIDS. Also those who are affected by HIV or AIDS."

The new Thrive facility is at a more central location, helping them to better serve the community.

"We are here to help people thrive, that is exactly what we are here to do," Marr said.

Formerly the AIDS Action Coalition, the name change hopes to erase the stigma that goes along with the illnesses. Although they have served the Shoals for eight years, those affected may not be aware of the services offered.

"We have a substance abuse program, prevention programs. We have outreach to those who are highly at risk for HIV."

The Florence office of Thrive Alabama houses the Hames Clinic and offers many services including HIV and primary medical care, case management, medication assistance, HIV testing and counseling. The organization has a substance abuse and behavioral health counseling program called The Den.

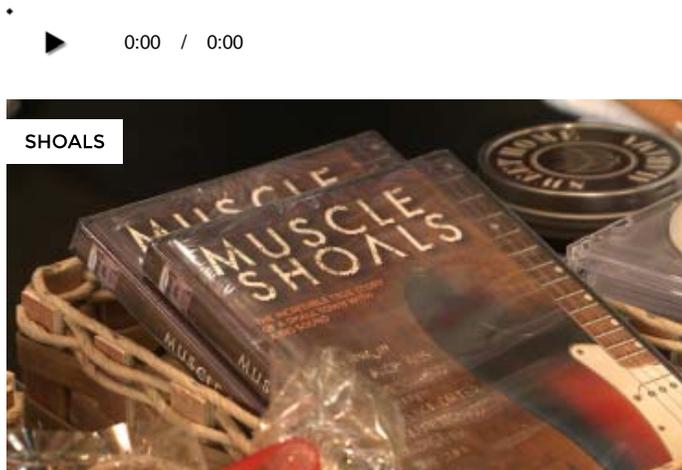
They also offer a few new services, medical and mental health care through telemedicine. Now, patients in the Shoals don't have to travel to Huntsville to see a provider and Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP.)

With clinics in Huntsville and Florence, Thrive Alabama provides medical healthcare, free HIV testing, prevention and education programs, housing assistance, substance abuse treatment, and supportive care to its clients regardless of their ability to pay.

Leaders hope to open an additional clinic in Alberville in the future.

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