

Idaho Falls Post Register, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008 – by Heather Wells

A caring cause

Idaho Urgent Care offers free treatments to veterans

William Eder doesn't consider himself a hero. On Tuesday, though, the 59-year-old doctor provided military veterans with everything from free office visits to lab work to X-rays at his Idaho Falls medical clinic, Idaho Urgent Care.

Tuesday was the first time Eder has offered the complimentary services, but he plans on making it a Veterans Day tradition. "We owe them an enormous debt," Eder said. "We should honor them all by offering free services."

Lois Frantzich is glad to hear it. Lacking medical insurance, the U.S. Army veteran stopped by Eder's facility at 740 S. Woodruff Ave. to take advantage of the free care. "As soon as I heard about it, I knew I had to come," Frantzich said. Judy Young, a veteran with the U.S. Air Force, dropped by after seeing a newspaper ad for the free services. "I think it's marvelous that this is happening," she said.

Don Holverson Jr. got a pleasant surprise Tuesday when he stopped by to have a doctor clear him for Brigham Young University-Idaho's nursing program: He didn't know the clinic was offering free care to veterans. "It's a nice surprise; it's good to see them support us," said Holverson, who did a four-year stint in the Air Force.

One of the reasons for the gesture, Eder said, is that many veterans have a hard time traveling to veteran hospitals and, therefore, fall into poor health. Eder's optimistic he'll help alleviate the problem. In fact, on Tuesday he treated a veteran who hadn't seen a doctor since 1985.

"Many of them have fairly meager resources," Eder said. "... I swore I'd never work on Veterans Day, but now I realize it's actually even better to work on Veterans Day for nothing."