

Clinic calms children, revitalizes central city

Shyla-Merrie Bryant sat not far from a fish tank and near a wall mural where deer, ducks and cows romped on a hill. Asked her professional opinion of the waiting room aesthetics, the 11-year-old said simply, "It's peaceful."

Her mother, Brandi, also weighed in: "Even the colors make you feel very tranquil."

The soundproofed calm and quiet were the aims, precisely, when Sutter Medical Foundation retooled an aging cannery

warehouse into its midtown Sacramento pediatrics center. Sutter's recent \$10.3 million upgrade near the corner of Stockton Boulevard and Alhambra Boulevard created a colorful art-splashed interior world geared primarily toward sick children and their often-worried parents.

Outside, the building also reactivated one more piece of central-city Sacramento.

Development pros call this "adaptive re-use." It means as generations come and go, as businesses and economies evolve, older buildings get

Home Front
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new lives and new acts.

This time, it's a 52-year-old warehouse for the historic Libby McNeil & Libby Fruit and Vegetable Cannery on Alhambra Boulevard. As Sacramento outgrew its cannery past, Libby's industrial buildings evolved into office centers. BloodSource bought the separate Libby warehouse in the mid-1980s "when it was nothing but an

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Many wonder: Why to aid homeless d

By **JENNIFER GARZA**
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They raised money for the homeless in a highly publicized campaign. Now people are trying to figure out how to get it.

Those in need say they are confused about how to receive the funds raised from the "One Day to Prevent Homelessness" drive and are frustrated by the lack of information available.

But officials in charge of the program say they are still working on ways of letting people know about how the funds are disbursed - and how to re-

ceive them. Demand is also very high,

"Unfortunately help everyone help," said Cindy assistant director planning for the Housing and Rehabilitation Agency. She said must go through process. "They sh a provider directl

"One Day to Prevent Homelessness" is a regional raising drive that telethon and far from about 80 hours of telethon asking congressional members to donate one day's w



Home Front: Patients had role in clinic's design

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old tomato warehouse," said BloodSource spokeswoman Leslie Botos.

BloodSource, which moved to Mather, did a first fix-up, and housed nearly 400 employees before selling the building two years ago to Sacramento developer Dain Domich.

Sutter signed a long-term lease with Domich to operate an outpatient medical center for children, and eventually for women, said Eric Rasmussen, director of growth and development for the health care giant. He said Sutter spent \$3 million to improve the building and nearby infrastructure, and \$7.3 million to build, furnish and equip its medical offices that opened March 1.

City Hall's design staff likes what it sees so far.

"It does sort of heal that corner a little bit," said Bill Crouch, urban design manager for the city of Sacramento. "It's a pretty important intersection and it was understated. Now we have a marker on that corner."

Sutter's architects on the project, Boulder & Associates, added exterior brick to blend with Libby's red-brick buildings across the street. They added exterior Moorish-style tiles to fit the city's Spanish colonial revival design theme for Alhambra Boulevard.

Sutter's new pediatrics center pulls together in one place the various offices and clinics where parents have previously taken their children. Doctors have also relocated to the center, which is one piece of Sutter's \$700 million medical campus scheduled for completion in 2013. Much of the new construction also features eye-catching designs.

"We involved patients in design issues," said Rasmussen. "They have definitive ideas about what makes it easier for them to get care."

Inside, that patient input resulted in warm pastel colors for carpets and walls. On the way to office visits children and adults pass a massive wall mural - "Window Into Nature," painted by Nikki Solone of Sacramento. Tots see ants near the bottom. Older children, those in wheelchairs, and adults see butterflies, cattails and flowers. Colorful kite-like butterflies and dragonflies hang from ceilings.



Said Hilary Johnson of Sacramento, making her second visit to the center: "I like the attention to detail. My daughters really enjoyed the murals on the wall."

In the quiet, the only sound was a door opening onto the waiting rooms, a nurse calling out a name.

Call The Bee's Jim Wasserman, (916) 321-1102. Read his blog on real estate, Home Front, at www.sacbee.com/homefront.

Butterflies dangling from the ceiling at the entrance of Sutter's midtown Sacramento pediatrics center, above, reassure sick children and their parents. Sutter spent \$3 million to improve the former cannery, above left.

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