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Wednesday, 08 October 2014 09:56 Jacob Pierce, Sally Neas [News - Local News](#)

Capsule of Health

An important piece of history will be sealed away for future generations on Oct. 11, when the Santa Cruz Community Health Center, formerly known as the Santa Cruz Women's Health Clinic, buries a time capsule in their newly opened East Cliff Family Health Center.

The Health Center has unique roots. In 1974, 14 UC Santa Cruz students founded the Health Center's first iteration, called the Women's Health Collective. The Collective was founded on feminist healthcare principals, meaning "equality, providing healthcare for anyone and everyone," says board member Joan Burns.

The Collective then grew into the Women's Health Clinic, which treated women and children in their downtown location. A few years ago, with the Affordable Care Act on the horizon, the clinic saw the need to expand. They now see all genders, changed their name to Santa Cruz Community Health Center and opened up their new site in East Cliff Village.

"Feminism has really changed since the '60s and '70s, and it's a much broader-based concept now," says Burns.

That unique history will be placed into the time capsule, via items such as documents from the past four decades, T-shirts, and a copy of the Affordable Care Act. The time capsule will be opened in 35 years, on the Clinic's 75th anniversary.

Putting the capsule's contents together has offered a chance to reflect on where women's health care used to be. "[I have learned] how much women really had to negotiate to get the kind of care that they needed," says Burns. SALLY NEAS