

HENRY COUNTY
HEALTH CENTER

CARE YOU TRUST. COMPASSION YOU DESERVE.

MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA
OCTOBER — DECEMBER 2011

Our tradition of excellence



It is uncertain when the idea of a hospital for Henry County was born, but the dedication of the new hospital in December of 1921 marked the finished product of at least 10 years of promotion and planning. There was plenty of activity occurring in the early 1920's with work planned on a high school, Iowa Wesleyan College and a public library, without the added work of a fledgling hospital. However, the need was obvious and forward-thinking men in the county realized the need must be met.

HCHC HISTORY..... 2

HCHC HISTORY (CON'T) 3

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 4

BOARD OF TRUSTEES (CON'T) 5

FUTURE OF HCHC 6

FUTURE OF HCHC (CON'T) 7

90th CELEBRATION..... 8

Tradition of excellence in healthcare prevails over hospital's 90 year history

Washington and Jefferson Counties had already opened new hospitals. The people of Henry County took a closer look at their needs, and turned to the men who had long seen the need, giving them wholehearted support and naming those individuals as the proposed hospital's first Board of Trustees.

An article in the Sept. 11, 1919 issue of "The Daily News", Mt. Pleasant, states, "The voters of Henry County by a clear majority of 283 votes, authorized the bond issue of \$100,000 for the erection and equipment of a county hospital in Mt. Pleasant." It was evident there was tremendous community support for building a local hospital.

Henry County Health Center history mentions specific men who played vital roles in the hospital's early beginnings. Legend has it that C.S. Rogers and F.B. Crane, both members of the first Board of Trustees, disagreed with the

planned site of the hospital. Although the two men were outvoted, it is reported that Rog-

ers and Crane felt so strongly about their views regarding the hospital that they moved the corner stakes the night before construction began.

Saunders Grove was chosen as the location for the building which was a wise choice as it allowed room for future expansion. By February of 1920 an architect had been contracted to build a 20-bed hospital. With the building well underway, plans were made for a ceremony to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone which failed to arrive in time for the ceremony. Encountering only the usual delays, the building was completed in late November 1921.

Miss Margaret Stoddard, RN, was hired by the Board as combination administrator and director of nurses to begin her duties in September 1921. Miss Stoddard, with the help of the community, supervised the furnishing of



the rooms. A staff of employees was assembled, and on December 12, 1921, Henry County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital was opened.

On December 14, 1921, the first medical patient was admitted by Dr. George Smith. Later that day the first surgical patient was admitted and an emergency appendectomy was performed by Dr. Walter Sternberg.

EXPANSION PROJECTS

It became obvious by 1936 that the hospital was going to have to expand. However, it was not until 1949 that the first addition of 12 beds was dedicated. This 36 x 41 addition added 4,428 square feet and was three stories high. The addition came from a bond issue of \$75,000 adding patient rooms and new space for laundry. This addition actually ended up being only 30% of what was originally planned.

By 1953 the community had again outgrown its hospital. May 19, 1957, marked the opening of the addition of 16,000 square feet that included 23 beds, x-ray, lab, pharmacy, a doctor's "dressing room", Emergency Room, two surgical suites, the current physical facilities including boiler room, air conditioning and emergency electric generators, and offices at a total cost of \$554,605. Of this amount, \$315,000 came from a general obligation bond issue; \$205,924 by federal Hill-Burton funds, and



Memorial Hospital, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa



MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - MT. PLEASANT - IOWA
1921



\$33,681 from 113 gifts from individuals and organizations.

During the years, new pieces of equipment were added to improve the care of the sick and injured. Many were given to the hospital in memory of loved ones who had been cared for there. The hospital acquired the reputation of keeping well abreast of medical progress.

In November 1969, the Norene Short Addition was built, consisting of an Extended Care Facility with 44 beds, and costing \$1,568,000. With this addition, the hospital was now a 98-bed facility staffed by 13 doctors. Of the total amount, \$785,000 was raised by a well-supported county bond issue; \$491,000 was given in a federal grant; and the remainder was from hospital operating funds and gifts. In recognition of a donation of \$153,000 from Miss Norene Short, the Board of Trustees voted to name the new extended care facility after her. The project was slated for reduction due to cost, but the donation allowed the

completion as planned. The year 1969 also marked the opening of the Renal Dialysis Unit. At this time, HCHC was the only hospital to

provide renal dialysis in Southeast Iowa.

HCHC's Emergency Medical Services Department was established in 1980 after HCHC acquired ambulance operations from a local funeral director. In 1982, the service was granted a license from the Iowa Department of Public Health to operate as a paramedic level service.

The 24,000 square foot addition built in 1981 provided

improvements to the following areas: laboratory, radiology, operating suite, pharmacy, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, emergency room, examination areas, the Maternity Services Department which included a birthing room and nursery, special care unit, admissions, and a new entrance. A \$3.1 million addition, voters approved the sale of \$1.5 million in general obligation bonds, and the balance was financed with a combination of hospital revenue bonds and monies on hand in the funded depreciation account and individual donations and memorials.

In 1990, a 34,000 square foot addition included a new medical office building, a new area for dialysis, and a home health care area for Public Health. (Public Health came to HCHC in 1985.) Also added was a gift shop, new lobby, a retail pharmacy, and changes were made to radiology as HCHC acquired a fixed-based CT Scanner at this time. The need to recruit additional physicians prompted the build-

ing project. This project led to the formation of Family Medicine of Mt. Pleasant, P.C., and

the relocation of several physician offices to the campus. It also was the beginning of specialty services coming to the HCHC campus from Iowa City and other locations.

The project also included enhancements to physical therapy and outdoor site improvements to landscaping and parking. The \$4.4 million project was financed with monies on hand in the funded depreciation account and sale of hospital revenue bonds. This was the first hospital construction or renovation project in HCHC's history in which a general obligation bond sale was not necessary. A vote was not required because the cost of construction was to be repaid entirely by hospital revenues.

In 1996, the hospital completed a building project which included the addition of an attached, free-standing, long term care unit, now known as Park Place Elder Living. This increased resident capacity from 31 beds to 49 beds. In addition, a new cafeteria and kitchen addition was constructed, rehabilitation services was relocated and expanded to include aqua therapy, and a new ambulatory surgery clinic and outpatient clinic

continued on page 7



Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees play vital role in HCHC's 90 year history

The Henry County Health Center Board of Trustees has a long history of innovative, forward-thinking board members. This tradition of progressiveness started 90 years ago when the original Board of Trustees made it a priority to build a hospital in Henry County.

C.S. Rogers, F.B. Crane, J.A. Lauger, James Bates, N.C. Buck, O.A. Garretson, and J.F. McKinnon were the original board members who had specific ideas in mind regarding the new hospital.

In fact, in the local newspaper, Rogers wrote a column called *The Bystander's Notes*, and on Sept. 8, 1919, it read, "The county hospital will be a godsend to people

on December 14, 1921. And now, 90 years later, HCHC continues to have a Board of Trustees that is committed to providing quality healthcare for future generations.

HISTORY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Hospital history shows that the board's responsibilities have changed over the past 90 years. Years ago, trustees sat in the halls with clipboards to observe how nurses delivered patient care. They also met regularly for hours at a time. However, some things have remained the same over the years. The hospital Board of Trustees is still responsible for overseeing the overall operations of the hospital which includes ensuring the continued quality, convenient, progressive healthcare that area residents have experienced for 90 years.

HCHC is governed by the publicly elected, seven-member board of trustees who are elected by Henry County voters to serve six year terms. In the event of a vacant seat, a replacement is appointed by the remaining members of the board. Trustees are volunteers, and as such, receive no payment or compensation for their services. The trustees meet monthly and are committed to the hospital's mission to enhance the health of individuals and our communities through high quality, effective and efficient services. They volunteer their time and efforts to assist HCHC in providing area residents with the best health services available.

VIEWS FROM A FORMER BOARD MEMBER

Waunita Hobbie is well-aware of the changes that have occurred over the years at the hospital and with the Board of Trustees. The longest serving trustee who served 45 years on the board was Ernie Hayes. As the second longest serving trustee, Waunita joined the board on January 1, 1967, retiring after 38 years and



Families of the original trustees were represented in the 1968 ground-breaking ceremonies. Pictured is Orville Allender, 1968 Board Chairman, Bernard Bates, Baron Crane, Warren K. Rogers, Keith Garretson, John McKinnon, Mrs. John A. Lauger and daughter, Mrs. Glenn Kiger.

of limited means. A poor man or a man of limited means cannot send his family to the high priced hospital of the large cities. Instead the sufferers remain at home and get along the best they can." Rogers' column informed the public and they were excited and supportive about the idea of a county hospital.

The board's vision to construct a hospital in Henry County was realized as the 1919 bond issue of \$100,000 passed for the construction of a county hospital in Mt. Pleasant. Henry County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital admitted its first patient

18 days of service. Thirty-two of those years she filled the important role of secretary, then was chair-elect for three years and chair of the board for another three years.

“Serving on the Board of Trustees was a very satisfying experience. I met people I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet. I was always impressed with the caliber of people who served on that board. We varied in age, occupation, and where we lived in the county. We knew the importance of the board having representation from different areas in Henry County. During my tenure I developed some lasting friendships,” commented Hobbie.

She agrees that the hospital has certainly changed over the years which is necessary as our culture has changed. The decisions made by the board that enabled the hospital to expand and meet the growing healthcare needs of the county were positive, but those decisions were not always easy or popular.

“I recall that it created a stir when the hospital took over the ambulance service from the funeral homes. But it was the right decision and has benefitted area residents. It was also controversial when we transitioned from using the legal name of Henry County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital to doing business as Henry County Health Center. We did that because we had evolved from being more than a hospital to being a true health center. The construction of the Medical Office Building also created some discussion,” she recalled.

“This hospital was ahead of the game on so many things, which means we sometimes took the guff then, too. But the changes were absolutely necessary and were for the benefit of the patients we serve. HCHC was recognized by others in healthcare for our progressiveness, and that can be attributed to the trustees, hospital administration and staff moving the hospital forward.”

Even though there have been significant changes over the years, there is one thing that has remained the same – the commitment to delivering quality patient care.

“I’ve been to other hospitals and the care has been good, but at HCHC it’s the personal touch that you receive. I recently had cataract surgery and everyone was great. The staff visited with me, including the anesthetist and the surgeon. Because this is a small town you are likely to know some of the people caring for you. That personal touch is what HCHC has to offer and I hope they never lose it,” she said.

“This hospital is an asset to our community. I never walk into it without a feeling of pride and of gratitude that so many services are available close to home. Pride in knowing that I helped make some of the decisions that have made this care center what it is today. I have often laughed and said I felt like I was being dragged kicking and screaming into change, but I firmly believe that if we had not made changes, we would not still be here. And if this health center was not here, Mt. Pleasant would not be the place that it is today.”



Future of HCHC

Looking to the future

CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Over HCHC's 90 year history, area residents have come to expect the continuing tradition of excellence in healthcare. And although healthcare is constantly changing, the one thing that remains the same is HCHC's commitment to our mission to enhance the health of individuals and our communities through high quality, effective and efficient services.

Robb Gardner, HCHC's CEO, projects that with this dynamic time in healthcare we will see dramatic changes in the industry within the next five years.

Particular emphasis will be placed on value, quality, and access to healthcare for everyone. He agrees that there is a need to experience change within the current healthcare system to ensure the provision of high quality medical services throughout the United States.

"I think in Henry County we are well-positioned if you look at the progress we've made with our quality emphasis over the last few years. We are looking at defining and tracking important metrics and putting action plans in place to improve those quality measures. With the development of HCHC's Process Improvement Committee,

we are also utilizing process improvement tools like Lean and Plan-Do-Study-Act throughout the organization," explained Gardner.

Emphasis is also placed on leadership and staff staying active within their professional associations and organizations in an ongoing effort to remain educated and stay current on the changes in healthcare. This education includes HCHC's Board of Trustees.

"Our Trustees are taking on more education than ever before. They want to know how we govern in terms

of our organization moving forward in this dynamic time as emphasis is being placed on quality, transparency, access and accountability. The Board is really doing a phenomenal job positioning HCHC to have a great healthcare organization for many years to come," Gardner said.

CARE YOU TRUST. COMPASSION YOU DESERVE.

Even in the midst of significant changes in the healthcare system, one thing will remain the same-- the quality care given at HCHC. Patients can always count on HCHC to provide care you trust and compassion you deserve.

"That's the great thing about being positioned for the future. We are already doing the things to position ourselves to provide the necessary services to those we serve. We do that by providing outstanding service and care to patients and families with the highest emphasis on quality of service," stated Gardner.

"We utilize different techniques throughout the industry to enhance the services offered, and make certain throughout the organization that we have a culture of being a progressive organization that never settles for the status quo. We are always striving to enhance this organization by being innovative and using evidence-based techniques in every facet of service we offer, from the care we provide to our patients, to making sure the organization is running effectively on an infrastructure basis."

By incorporating performance excellence using the Malcolm Baldrige philosophy, HCHC is cultivating a culture as an organization striving to constantly improve.

"That's what is unique here at HCHC. Along with our caring culture and compassionate approach, we have an infrastructure of an



innovative, progressive organization. That's been our well-documented history, and that's the reason that even with all the changes in healthcare today, we are very stable" commented Gardner.

FUTURE GROWTH

As healthcare demands change, it is essential to constantly evaluate the services offered to be certain that needs are being met both now and in the future. That is why HCHC is looking at a potential building project.

"We are currently discussing a proposed building project that would create a new physical plant, surgery area, and allow for remodeling part of our outpatient service areas. The reason we are considering a potential building project is for growth and sustainability of the organization for the next 40-50 years to meet the needs

of future generations," explained Gardner.

In terms of growth of the organization, the health center leadership realizes the importance of identifying services that could potentially be offered locally for our community. Emphasis is also placed on retaining HCHC associates and medical staff.

"It's not always about growing and recruiting the next service. It's really about living and striving to achieve our vision of being the healthcare provider and employer of choice. I think for growth capabilities, we also need to be able to recognize specifics of how to continue to grow within the healthcare industry, work with our partners, and collaborate and develop community partnerships that will ensure growth throughout the upcoming years."

continued from page 3



area was developed. Central sterile supply was relocated to be adjacent to the operating rooms, and the ambulance garage was relocated directly south of the Emergency Department. Other improvements included relocation of patient accounting and admissions for the public's convenience and efficiency of staff. The project cost was \$6.5 million financed through hospital revenue bonds.

In 2000, HCHC completed another addition to the hospital, constructing a new Emergency

Department, as well as new departments for Emergency Medical Services and Imaging Services. In addition, Park Pavilion was built and Family Medicine of Mt. Pleasant, P.C. moved into their new space in 2001. The former areas occupied by these departments were remodeled to accommodate other outpatient services. Consistent with previous building projects, the new areas were constructed due to increased utilization and expansion of medical and health services and programs, which would in turn provide area residents with the best healthcare facilities and services. The 45,000 square foot, \$9,000,000 building project was financed through hospital revenue bonds. Also in 2000, HCHC unveiled the new Multislice CT Scanner, joining the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics as the only two hospitals in the state to offer this technology.

This long history shows what first began in the early 1900's as a dream to build a local hospital to meet area residents healthcare needs has most likely surpassed even the highest expectations of the first trustees and supporters of Henry County Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hospital. Thanks to the progress we have made over our 90-year history, HCHC is positively positioned to meet the opportunities and challenges of healthcare in the 21st century.





407 South White Street
Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Cedar Rapids, IA
PERMIT NO. 174

Save the Date

HENRY COUNTY HEALTH CENTER'S

90th Anniversary

Celebration!

Sunday, September 25, 2011

1-4 p.m.

HCHC Lobby Entrance

*Please join us for lunch and an afternoon
of fun and festivities for all ages!*

Celebrating
90 YEARS
of excellence IN HEALTHCARE

HENRY COUNTY HEALTH CENTER
CARE YOU TRUST. COMPASSION YOU DESERVE.

**The public is invited to join us for
an afternoon of festivities and fun
as we celebrate our 90 years of
excellence in healthcare!**

- Department displays
- Health screenings
- Information on HCHC programs and services
- Outdoor inflatable activities
- Face painting
- A complimentary meal
- And more!

This publication does not constitute professional medical advice. Although it is intended to be accurate, neither the publisher nor any other party assumes liability for loss or damage due to reliance on this material. If you have a medical question, consult your medical professional.

Chief Executive Officer: *Robb Gardner*
Editor: *Shelley L. Doak*
© 2011 Henry County Health Center