

The Chester County Hospital

The Chester County Hospital traces its history back to 1880 when a group of physicians opened the West Chester Dispensary. The doctors rented a room above a hardware and gunsmith store. While the dispensary closed one year later because of funding problems, area doctors realized the need for a hospital in the borough.

On September 12, 1892, the West Chester Hospital opened its doors, changing its name to The Chester County Hospital a year later.

Chester County has grown significantly since that time and the growth continues. To keep pace, the Hospital has expanded too, not only its physical plant, but its services.

“Throughout its history, The Chester County Hospital has stood in the forefront in bringing the latest technology and advanced medical care to the people who live and work in Chester County and its surrounding areas,” says H. L. Perry Pepper, president and CEO of the Hospital.

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Chester County is projected to see a 13 percent population growth by 2013 with 13 percent of its residents over the age of 65.

“Over the years, we have felt the impact of this increased demand,” says Pepper, citing shortages of inpatient beds causing ambulance diversions to other facilities, waits for available beds and increased stress on the Hospital staff and systems. “It became apparent that we needed to act now to increase capacity, to ease shortages and to pave the way for future expansion.”

The Hospital’s board of directors has approved plans for a four-story, 160,000-square-foot patient care tower to be located adjacent to the Hospital’s North Pavilion. A “Heart Hospital within a Hospital,” the new West Pavillion will house an expanded and relocated CardioVascular Center, which will provide comprehensive one-stop service in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease. Since its opening in 2001, the CardioVascular Center has become a regional provider of cardiac services.

Plans also include completion of the emergency room expansion. “We were able to add a fast-track facility to the Emergency Department in 2000, but it is clear that we now need to complete the expansion of the acute treatment area,” Pepper says.

The projects are being funded through community support and bond financing.

The Chester County Hospital Foundation was created in 1983 to support the Hospital and its other Health Network organizations including health and wellness programs and hospice. The Foundation is responsible for all aspects of fundraising including solicitation, investing, managing and expending the funds.

The 2007-08 Annual Appeal was a great success. More than 2,200 donors gave over \$427,000, a new record for the Hospital.

The Foundation also is the beneficiary of several annual fundraising events including Chester County Day, The May Festival, The Chester County Hospital Golf Invitational, The Chester County Hospital Polo Cup, Fore Health Golf Tournament, Dilworthtown Wine Festival and SHINE, an annual fundraiser that benefits the Hospital’s cancer program.

The Chester County Hospital is the only independent nonprofit hospital in the county and is governed by a local board of directors.

“Our independent, not-for profit status sets us apart from other providers in the area and makes a difference in how we develop our plans and set our course,” says Hospital Chairman William W. Wylie, Jr. “This is a very exciting time for the Board of this Hospital and a very exciting time for the people of Chester County who will benefit from this comprehensive medical center.”

*The Chester County Hospital
701 E. Marshall St.
West Chester, PA 19380
610-431-5000
www.cchosp.com*

*Pictured: Advancing Care. Building Community.
The Campaign for Chester County Hospital
Photography: Courtesy of The Chester County Hospital*

