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CELEBRATING
75 YEARS
OF EXCELLENCE

MEDICAL CENTER
+ HOSPITAL +

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SINCE 1949

Seventy-five years ago, Medical Center Hospital (MCH) emerged as a beacon of hope in the Permian Basin.

MCH has grown from one facility that opened in 1949 into a family of health care providers delivering a broad range of advanced medical services to the people of Odessa and the surrounding 17 counties. The small county hospital has evolved into a prosperous 402-bed regional medical center serving more than 100,000 patients annually.

Medical Center Health System comprises several entities, including Medical Center Hospital, the Center for Women & Infants, the Center for Health & Wellness, Mission Fitness, MCH ProCare, MCH Family Health Clinics, and Medical Center Health System Foundation. It's affiliated with Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Permian Basin Healthcare Network, West Texas Cancer Center, and serves as the sole Children's Miracle Network Hospital in the region.

Renowned for its cardiovascular services, inpatient and outpatient therapy, diagnostic testing, stroke, orthopedic, and women's services, MCH leads in various specialties. Notable areas include the Center for Heart Disease, Cardiac and Pulmonary Center, Wound Care Center, Total Joint Care Center for Orthopedics, Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the American Medical Response ambulance service. MCH ProCare further extends accessibility with two urgent care clinics and a walk-in clinic.

Committed to community health, Medical Center Health System offers educational programs through blogs, community events, and more, along with free screenings throughout the year. Continuously expanding its services and technology, MCH has earned numerous accreditations, certifications, and achievements from the nation's top accreditation programs.

From the beginning, MCH been at the forefront of healthcare, lighting the path to better health for all West Texans. From pioneering treatments to revolutionary technologies, we reflect on the countless lives transformed and the countless more we will continue to impact over the next 75 years.

Rest assured; we're continuously advancing. The future is bright for Medical Center Health System. In partnership with the Medical Center Health System Foundation, we're investing in this community. Over the next 10 years, more than \$6 million is committed for the brand-new state-of-the-art Odessa College



Wood Sciences Building. This building, which opened in September 2024 will be known as the Medical Center Health System Simulation Hospital. Its purpose is to train the newest and brightest students in healthcare.

In addition, we have raised more than \$3 million for the Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center. This center is a collaborative and joint venture between MCH and Midland Health. It is scheduled to open in April 2026 with 200 beds,

aiming to improve the Basin's access to high-quality mental healthcare.

Wherever you are, whenever you need us, Medical Center Health System has your family covered. From the joyous arrival of your newborn to unforeseen medical emergencies, we're the leading healthcare provider in the Permian Basin, offering comprehensive care. Medical Center Health System: Your One Source for Health. Helping you shine since 1949.

MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL
FROM COMMUNITY HOSPITAL TO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

The dream of Medical Center Hospital began in early 1948 when Odessa had only three small hospitals. But Dr. J.K. Wood knew the growing need for healthcare services and petitioned the Ector County Commissioners for a new hospital. The commissioners agreed and after almost two years of construction, Ector County Hospital was completed and dedicated in late November 1949, with its doors opening to patients on December 5, 1949. The total cost of the then 85-bed facility - \$838,946.

In its early years, the hospital catered to approximately 6,000 patients annually. That number today is approximately 100,000. Administrators, commissioners and residents saw the demand ahead of time and reacted accordingly. In 1952, a three-story expansion was completed on the west side, introducing a new x-ray

and physical therapy department. By 1964, a seven-story tower was added, which included an Intensive Care Unit, Obstetrics Unit, and Coronary Care Department. Between 1975 and 1979, a \$20.4 million renovation was carried out, culminating in the addition of another seven-story tower, now the Central Tower, which necessitated the closure of Alleghaney Avenue and created a new entrance on Fourth Street.

To enhance neonatal care, the Perinatal Center for the Permian Basin, a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, opened in 1988, making it one of only a few in the U.S. at that time.

Partnership with Texas Tech

In 1969, the Texas legislature established the Texas Tech University School of Medicine, designating centers in Lubbock,

Amarillo, El Paso, and Odessa-Midland. By 1974, an affiliation was formalized between Medical Center Hospital (MCH) and Texas Tech, and in 1978, Odessa was selected over Big Spring and Midland to host the Texas Tech University Regional Academic Health Center, driven by a pressing need for doctors and the hospital's capacity to provide training.

The School of Medicine began operations in MCH's basement in 1979, followed by the accreditation of a Family Practice Residency Program in 1984 and the admission of the first class at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Nursing in 1985. Today, it is known as the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at the Permian Basin (TTUHSC).

The collaboration has flourished through the years with MCH continuing to support TTUHSC in various ways, including funding for residents' education and providing mentorship. The first Dedicated Education Unit (DEU) in the Permian Basin was established in early 2014, allowing students from various healthcare disciplines to work alongside experienced professionals in a real patient care environment.



MCHS and MCHS Foundation welcomed to the Texas Tech University 'Sociedad de la Espuela' (Spur Society) for investing in the partnership with TTUHSC.



Groundbreaking of the Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center - April 2023.

"It's one of the strongest relationships we have here in the Permian Basin. When we get Texas Tech residents in here, they know what goes on out here. The ones that we help train and raise here, we install a little West Texas and MCH in them. Wherever they land after finishing school, whether that's here or someone else, they'll be successful and we like to think we help play a little part in that."
- Russell Tippin, Medical Center Health System CEO and President

With rising populations and increased industrial accidents, MCH also worked diligently to become the lead Trauma Center in the Permian Basin, where it currently sits as a Level III Trauma Center. The health system undoubtedly has its

sights set on Level II and Level I in the future.

Planning for the Future

Medical Center Health System has no plans on staying stagnant when it comes to the future of the health system and the community. In 2021, MCHS pledged to invest more than \$6 million into the state-of-the-art Wood Health Sciences Building on the campus of Odessa College, which features the MCH Simulation Hospital. Officially opened in September 2024, future healthcare leaders and nursing students at Odessa College can now get the hands-on training needed in a hospital-like setting, before stepping foot in an actual hospital.

"To be able to partner with OC for them to design a building with us to generate us nurses, lab techs, R.T.'s and more, it's going to shorten the time for training," says Tippin. "They'll be ready to handle our patients and equipment when they leave school and join us full-time because we've worked together."



MCH Simulation Hospital at Odessa College opened in September 2024.



Russell Tippin, CEO and President of Medical Center Health System

Chief Nursing Officer Kim Leftwich agrees.

"Just building a partnership with the Sim Hospital, they're going to be more prepared," she says. "When you're more comfortable, you can learn to adapt better."

One of the biggest healthcare needs in West Texas is also being addressed – mental health. And with a rare partnership between two competing hospital districts, MCH is working with Midland Memorial Hospital, Permian Strategic Partnership, and several other private and public donors to create the Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center. Scheduled to open in between Midland and Odessa in late 2025, it will feature more than 200 beds, aimed at addressing the needs of the patient, family, environment and support system.

"Behavioral health is the number one healthcare need in the Basin that's underserved," says Tippin. "To partner with PSP and MMH and the private companies who've donated, to construct this without any debt, is amazing."

Leading the Way in Healthcare Technology

MCH is recognized for its leadership in heart care, stroke treatment, orthopedics,

and more. The hospital just completed its 5,000th robotic surgery with the DaVinci Surgical System, completed more than 100 WATCHMAN and TAVR procedures in cardiology, and just this year, started using the VELYS Robotic-Assisted Solution for Total Knee Replacements. Each of these advancements allowing for less invasive procedures with better outcomes and quicker recovery times for patients.

"We're very proactive," says Tippin. "We're forward thinkers. We're on a path that we need to be to provide the greatest technology and advancements for our patients."

Tippin adds that staying stagnant isn't an option – it's a must for keeping MCH at the forefront of healthcare for West Texas and beyond.

"Healthcare is changing," he adds. "It's more efficient. Technology and healthcare are evolving. If you're standing still, you're getting left behind. We'll keep moving forward."

75 YEARS OF NURSING AT MCH

Becoming a Nurse

"Nurse: just another word to describe a person strong enough to tolerate anything and soft enough to understand anyone." — Unknown

Anita McDowell – Ms. Anita – as she's affectionately known, and Kim Leftwich, are the embodiment of Nursing at Medical Center Hospital. Between the two, they have more than 75 years of nursing experience at MCH. And for Anita, healthcare runs in the family.

"My father was a medic in World War II. My mother was a nurse's aide," says McDowell. "I graduated in 1971 from high school, so what was the most common job? Nurse, Airline Stewardess, or Teacher and I chose a nurse. I have five sisters and four of them are RNs."

Anita graduated Nursing School from West Texas State in Canyon in 1975, before taking a nursing position at St. Mary's in Lubbock for about a year. She joined MCH in 1976 in the Intensive Care Unit, while also spending time in the Emergency Department.

"ICU was my first love. Bar none. I don't do Labor and Delivery and I don't do babies," Anita jokes. "I got the best training ever because I had a mentor in ICU and the ER."

In between taking care of her family and her children, Anita moved over to Employee Health, where she's been since 1996. Meanwhile for Kim, her introduction into nursing wasn't anticipated like Anita's.

"There's nobody in my family in healthcare," says Leftwich. "I was in College and didn't know what I wanted or what I was going to do, and my mom told me to go to nursing school and so I did."

Kim became a nurse in 1996 upon graduating Nursing School from Odessa College, before officially becoming an RN in 1997. When it comes to interests within the nursing field, Anita and Kim were quite different.

"I did not want anything to do with adults. I was not interested in the ICU or ER. I didn't like it," Kim adds. "I much preferred children. My first job was in Pediatrics, before going to Postpartum, Labor and Delivery, and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)."

Kim has worked many roles at MCH, including spending time as a Charge Nurse and Staff Nurse in Maternal Child for 13 years. She also worked in Nursing Education and Medical Oncology and was an Assistant Chief Nursing Officer for three years before taking on the role as Chief Nursing Officer in 2022.

Relationship with Physicians

While they've carried titles and interests throughout journeys, both Anita and Kim agree that nursing, and the way physicians communicate with nurses is much different than at the beginning of their careers.

"In the 1970s, we had Team Nursing. Basically, your charges communicated with the physician. You did the work and your leaders spoke with the doctors. You just took care of your job and the patient. Over time, in the 1980s and 1990s, they became more of teachers and mentors," says Anita.

"It's more of a collaboration now," Kim adds. "It's just a different way of working together now. But I always remembered



Anita McDowell, RN, BSN, has worked at MCH since 1976.



Nurses uniforms used to include white hose, white shoes, white skirts & white cap. The white cap was special to nurses because they earned it after 9 months of nursing school. Slowly, dress changed from a skirt to pants to the modern-day scrubs.

once you started working with them, and knew how they worked, the teamwork was good."

Nursing Education in West Texas

They also both agree that the expansion and partnership with the nursing programs at Odessa College and the University of Texas Permian Basin are giving newer healthcare students more opportunities and better training than they had access to at the beginning of their careers. And they both laughingly agree that the nursing dress code is much better now than the past.

"In 1975 in the midst of the hippie generation of hot pants and mini-skirts, we were still wearing dresses, fingertips above the knee, and you had your white dress, white hose, and white shoes with your cap and stethoscope, as well as scissors and tape," recalls McDowell.

Future of Nursing

As for the future of nursing, they both see technology as the most likely path forward.

"I think a lot of it is going to be A.I. (Artificial Intelligence) driven," Leftwich says. "We still want the human aspect, but the newer generation is more comfortable with a screen. It's going to be us that are going to have to get used to it.

But whether it's in-person care or

telehealth screens leading the way into the future, both Kim and Anita are proud to call MCH their home.

"I've stayed here so long for the people," Kim adds. "My longest friends are from Medical Center. The connection I've made and the ability to grow is because of MCH. The only place I've ever worked."

It's where I've raised my kids," Anita says. "I had my family here – my work family AND my 'family' family. I always know that the people here are going to give the best they can give."





MCH PHYSICIANS THROUGHOUT THE YEARS

Calling West Texas Home

When it comes to physicians, Medical Center Health System has some of the best to offer. Dr. Fernando Boccalandro and Dr. Manohar Angirekula, both Cardiologists, have been in Odessa for more than 20 years. But neither thought they would end up here for the long haul.

For Dr. Angirekula, it was a chance meeting with Dr. Amaram in San Francisco in 2001, who helped bring Cardiology to the forefront in Odessa and at MCH.

"He talked about this opportunity and wanted me to come here for a year. I wasn't sure if I wanted to come to West Texas," says Dr. Angirekula. "Listening to him and the opportunity and the care and the facility here at Medical Center, impressed me. Once I came here, my family liked it and it's been great."

As for Dr. Boccalandro, he thought he would eventually return home to his native Venezuela to practice medicine, but because of the political crisis there and opportunity here in the States, he's made West Texas his home.

"My intention was to train here and go back home, but it was complicated, so it was no longer a possibility," says Dr. Boccalandro, who went to medical school in Venezuela before training in Houston. "I had the opportunity to move from a big hospital in Houston to a more rural environment in West Texas and I took advantage of that and have been here ever since."

Why Become a Doctor?

Both of them say that their fathers were physicians and that was part of their inspiration to join the medical field, although they had different interests and experiences that led them to ultimately becoming cardiologists.

"Growing up watching my dad help a lot of people with surgeries motivated me to be a physician," says Dr. Angirekula. "One of my Uncles died from a heart attack. In those days, there wasn't advanced treatment back then. It made me want to be a part of that, to pursue a career in Cardiology to save lives."



Dr. Fernando Boccalandro, Cardiologist at MCH ProCare Odessa Heart Institute.

"I had a curiosity in biology and wanted to understand why organisms work. Medicine is a practical extension of that. Cardiology is very evidence-based. It's a lot of research and it moves very fast. It was very attractive. We make an impact on patients' health in life or death situations so I decided to go for it."
- Dr. Fernando Boccalandro, Cardiologist at MCH ProCare Odessa Heart Institute

Treating Familiar Faces

And their patients are glad they have chosen the path they're on. Ironically, Dr. Angirekula treated the very man who runs the health system now, CEO & President Russell Tippin, who suffered a near-fatal heart attack several years ago.

"Dr. Angirekula is one of my heroes," says Tippin. "He's seen me at my worst. I owe him a lot. He used his skills, technique, and knowledge to save my life and to make sure I had another day on this Earth with my family and kids."

Rene Rodriguez, long-time Divisional Director for the MCH Center for Heart Disease, who's worked with both doctors for years, feels the same way.

"These guys are committed and loyal to MCH, to the health system, and the community they care for," says Rodriguez. "My family and I see these very same physicians. I'm also a patient. I've been treated here. I've been cared for. I've seen it for myself what they're capable of."

Giving a Second Chance of Life

Keeping patients healthy and giving people a second chance keeps both physicians motivated. Dr. Angirekula even recalls a case where his knowledge and the advancement of treatment and technology helped save a patient that previously wouldn't have had a great outlook.

"I remember a patient who came in with cardiac arrest and pulmonary edema, and a messed-up valve," says

Dr. Angirekula. "Once he recovered from that, he underwent TAVR (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement), and he's still thankful every time he comes into the office. He's very thankful to the facility and nursing staff. In the old days, we would have had to transfer him and out and I'm not sure the outcome would have been the same."

Dr. Boccalandro adds that he loves and appreciates hearing from patients that he's helped.

"Now they send me postcards from their vacations," Dr. Boccalandro recalls. "Heart procedures are a second lease on life. It gives us a lot of happiness to be part of their lives and give them a second chance."

Working Together to Move Forward

But neither doctor wants to take credit for all of the advancements and successful outcomes this area has seen. They also credit their nursing staffs and support teams for positive encounters – something that wasn't always there in the past.

"Over the years it has become more collaborative," says Dr. Boccalandro. "They play a very important role. Certainly today, to manage patients without the help of nursing staff and NPs would not be possible."

As for the future and outlook for MCH moving forward, both say the health system is in a good spot.

"It has grown leaps and bounds since I've been here," says Dr. Angirekula. "Divisional coverage and outreach to rural areas has grown dramatically. It's a major force in healthcare in West Texas right now."



Dr. Manohar Angirekula, Cardiologist at MCH ProCare Odessa Heart Institute.



The MCH Wheatley Stewart Medical Pavillion, connected to the hospital via the skybridge, is where many of the physicians hold their office.

CARING FOR THE HEART

Staying in West Texas for Care

When it comes to caring for the heart, no place does it better than here at Medical Center Health System – and that includes bigger cities. The days of having to go to Dallas or Houston for serious heart conditions are a thing of the past.

“If you look at the Permian Basin, MCH has always been at the front line of Cardiology, and we continue to be there,” says Dr. Boccalandro. “In our area, we are way ahead of other organizations for Cardiology. We’re at or above the national average for outcomes. We work very hard to keep that.”

“We are not inferior to any care in the bigger cities and most all issues can be taken care of MCH,” adds Dr. Angirekula. “99 percent of the problems can be taken care of here.”

And what better representative to be the living proof of that than the health system’s very own President and CEO, Russell Tippin. He had a heart attack in 2011, the “widow maker” as it’s called. He was brought into the Cath Lab where Dr. Angirekula and his team saved his life, and then helped diagnosed a valve issue after that could have been fatal.

“To this day, I’m so very appreciate of them,” says Tippin. “The Cath Lab crew is amazing. Every time I’ve had my heart issues, they’ve been fantastic. I have a deep love for those ladies and gentlemen.”

Cath Lab Recognition

Since opening in the early 1970s, the Cath Lab and heart team at MCH has treated nearly 100,000 cases in the Cath Lab. Just within the last five years, the Cath Lab is averaging about 2,600 procedures per year – that’s roughly seven procedures per day. Rene Rodriguez, Divisional Director for the MCH Center for Heart Disease, says the work in the Cath Lab wouldn’t be possible without the team.

“Nothing works without collaboration,” says Rodriguez. “You’ve got to have the nurses, rad techs, support group, to our cardiologists.”

Because of the collaboration of everyone, the Cath Lab and heart team at MCH is earning national recognition. They continuously receive Chest Pain Accreditation from the American College of Cardiology (ACC) and even recently received Cardiac Cath Lab Accreditation from the ACC as well. And that’s not all.

“Earlier this year we were asked to apply



Dr. Boccalandro, Dr. Angirekula, and Dr. Sudhir Amaram at the MCH Center for Heart Disease.

for the HeartCare Center Recognition Program by the ACC,” says Rodriguez. “Only a handful of hospitals in Texas are asked to apply.”

Embracing New Technology and Procedures

But in healthcare today, you’re only on top if you continue to move forward and embrace new technologies and procedures – something MCH is doing constantly.

“We keep progressing, catching on to the newest procedures,” says Dr. Angirekula. “Being up to date with things like TAVR (2019) and we started doing the WATCHMAN in 2020. Very few facilities in West Texas have those capabilities.”

TAVR is a better alternative for cardiac

patients who are considered a high-risk for typical open- heart surgery. It’s a less invasive procedure that uses a catheter to implant a new valve within a diseased aortic valve. The WATCHMAN is a left atrial appendage closure device that can close off an area of the heart called the left atrial appendage to keep harmful blood clots that form in the appendage that can cause a stroke. Both procedures have been completed more than 150 times since debuting at MCH. Even more impressive, these procedures are much quicker than the more invasive procedures of the past and are much easier on patients’ bodies.

“On average, the actual procedures only

take about an hour,” Rodriguez explains. “These have significantly improved outcomes and gets them out of the hospital faster and cuts down on complications,” says Dr. Boccalandro. “Recovery times in the last 20 years has significantly changed. These patients can even go home the same day in some instances, and if not, the next day.”

Reaching Out to the Community

The Cardiology team at the MCH ProCare Odessa Heart Institute isn’t just a staple here in Odessa. They make sure to travel to the surrounding counties which MCH serves to get the care these rural counties and populations need.

“We have satellite clinics – about 18 of them. Nobody I know has an extensive outreach that we have. Cardiology and OHI is pretty much covering the entire West Texas region and it’s very extensive. We have 18 satellite clinics and soon to be 20 clinics a month.”

- Dr. Manohar Angirekula, Cardiologist at MCH ProCare Odessa Heart Institute

Both doctors agree that it’s much easier to work with hospital leadership who understand that evolving and growing is necessary in heart care.

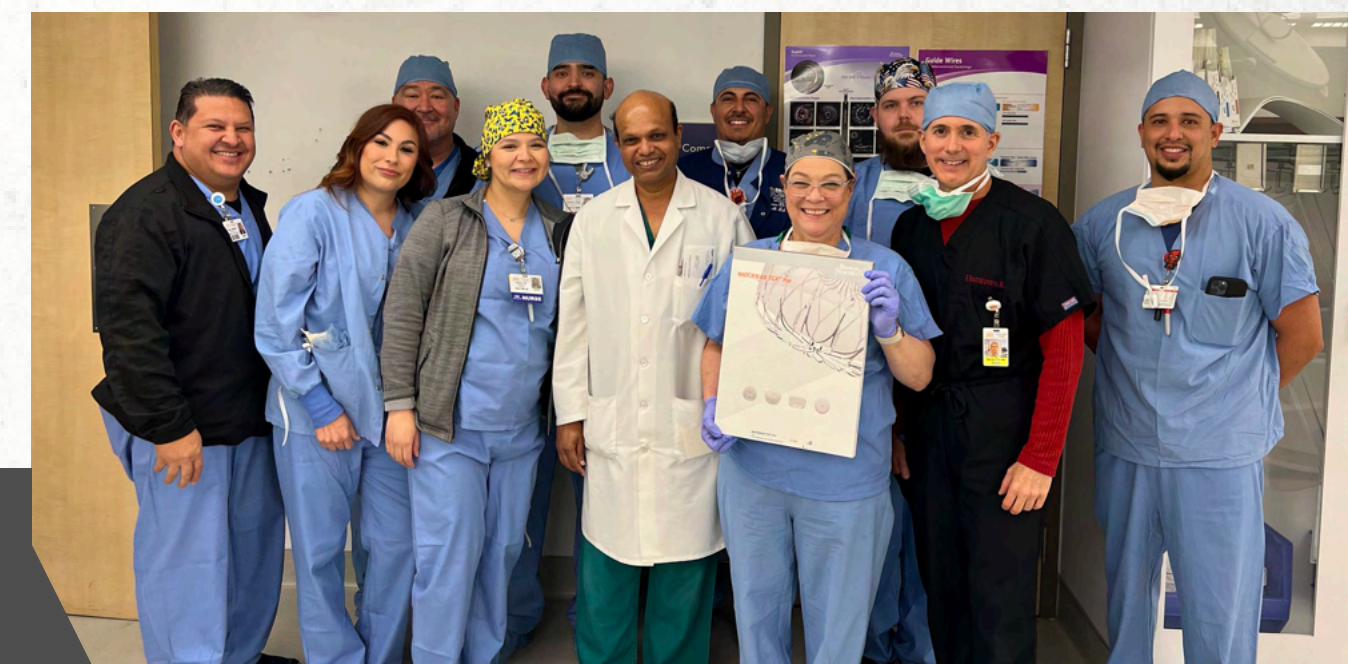
“They understand the importance of cardiovascular services and to continue to expand,” says Dr. Boccalandro. “We have very strong support.”

The Future of Cardiology

As for the future of cardiology and heart care, both Dr. Boccalandro and Dr. Angirekula believe Artificial Intelligence will play a role – and that’s a good thing.

“A.I. can be very valuable,” says Dr. Boccalandro. “You can develop A.I. applications that will read all the studies and tests. You could minimize time. You can focus more on the patient and abnormal. Once we learn how to use it, it could make things more efficient.”

“I think with the advancement of technology, we’ll have less hospitalization and prolong people’s length and quality of life,” says Dr. Angirekula.

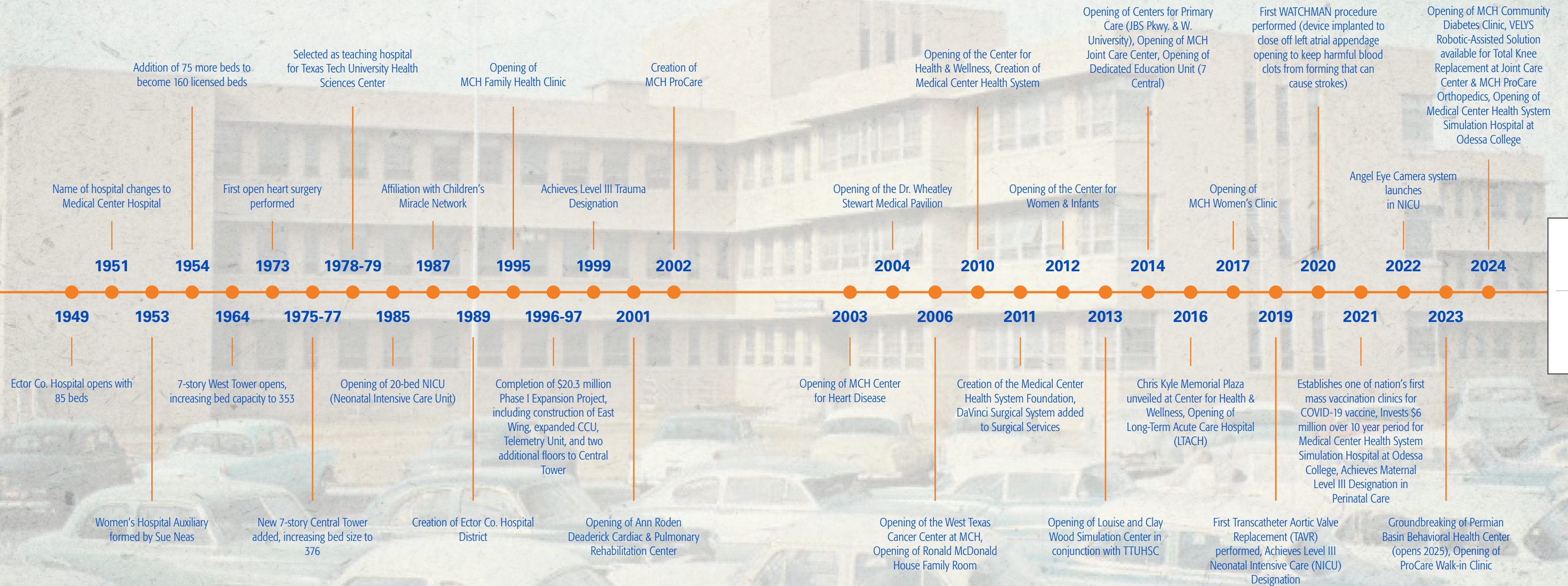


The Cath Lab team celebrating the successful implant of the new WATCHMAN FLX Pro Device in 2024.

MCH HISTORICAL TIMELINE

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75 YEARS OF MCH



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75 YEARS OF MCH

THE IMPORTANCE OF VOLUNTEERS

MCH Auxiliary

Volunteering has become synonymous with hospitals across the country, and Medical Center Hospital is no different. Founded by Mrs. Guy B. (Sue) Neas after seeing the impact volunteers had while visiting her father at a Kansas hospital, the MCH Women's Auxiliary started in 1953 with 83 members.

Starting the snack bar and offering nursing scholarships was just the beginning for this group, who later took newborn pictures, delivered books and packages to patients, and raised money for major projects and renovations around the hospital, including the chapel and the cardiac surgical recovery room in the 1980s.

By 1988, the name was changed to Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary because men were interested in volunteering and being members. And now, this enthusiastic group has grown through the years and is recognized today as the Medical Center Health System Auxiliary Volunteers, where you can see their smiling faces as soon as you walk in the door.

Current Volunteers

"We make it a friendlier place," says Jo Baker, who's volunteered at MCH since 1996. "It's a friendlier atmosphere for everyone with us here."

Jo Baker and Faye Smith are two of the longest-serving volunteers at MCH – Jo for 28 years and Faye for more than 22 years. Both of them say they still look forward to coming in and making a difference.

"My husband passed away two years ago, and it gets me out of instead of sitting there being miserable," Baker says. "It allows me to do some good and get out of the house."

Ms. Faye, as she's affectionately known, says the same thing, adding her desire for volunteering came after the treatment she and her late husband received during his care at MCH.

"My husband was up here off and on for



In the early days of the MCH Auxiliary, the volunteers were informally known as the 'Pink Ladies.'

about two years and the nurses and staff treated us so well," says Ms. Faye. "Even after he passed, I could do something that would help somebody else out. We feel like we're helping somebody. I still enjoy coming in every day."

Whether it's assisting other volunteer members at the snack stand, helping people get to the appropriate area at the front desk, or waiting with families in the ICU/Surgery waiting room, they both add they'll keep doing it, as long as they feel the urge to help others.

"I think it's real important," Ms. Faye says. "We help the hospital, people and the patients."

Giving Back to the Hospital

It is estimated that the MCH Auxiliary has donated close to five million hours of service to the hospital throughout the years – approximately 150,000 of those hours in the past few years (including where there were no volunteers in 2020/2021 due to COVID-19). In addition to the volunteering, the MCHS Auxiliary Volunteers have provided millions of dollars in essential contributions to the health system. In the past decade, the Auxiliary has been responsible for giving more than \$350,000 for numerous

equipment, projects and renovations, including a police golf cart, wheelchairs, Kids' Korner in the Emergency Room, the cafeteria renovation, COVID respite room and PPE, Odessa College partnership and the MCH Christmas tree.

"My favorite saying is 'there's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer,'" says Russell Tippin, MCHS President & CEO. "Volunteers are a group that I hold very near and dear to me. You've got a group of people that are giving their time to help us and help our patients and make their day a little easier. I love that group."

Junior and College Volunteers

Meanwhile, the Auxiliary isn't the only ones volunteering their time at MCH. The Junior Volunteer Teen Leadership Program (JVTLTP), formerly known as Candy Strippers, also makes their presence felt. It is a program dedicated to the leadership and education of volunteer teens – in 2024 alone, JVs have donated nearly 5,000 hours of their time!

Avi Mallik, 2024 Junior Volunteer President, has volunteered for three years now. He says he was interested in becoming a JV because of his interest in healthcare, but says this program is much deeper than that.

"I feel like our program is pretty versatile," says Mallik. "We're a leadership program. Not everyone who comes is interested in medicine. We get a range of interests – it's not just doctors and nursing. We learn how to communicate."

Mallik's thoughts are echoed by his friend



and Junior Volunteer Vice President, Kanishk Yankarla.

"It's a character-building program," says Yankarla. "You can translate these skills anywhere in life. These people are amazing."

Kanishk adds they learn a lot from everyone involved, including the college volunteers.

"They oversee us and make sure we're doing the right things," says Yankarla. "They guide us and are like mentors."

And for those thinking about joining the Junior Volunteer program now or in the future, it's a pretty simple answer from these veterans.

"We get a really good opportunity here and how the hospital system works compared to bigger cities," Yankarla says.

2024 Junior Volunteer President, Avi Mallik, and 2024 Junior Volunteer Vice President, Kanishk Yankarla.



Faye Smith has been a volunteer at MCH for more than 22 years.



Jo Baker has been a volunteer at MCH since 1996.

HISTORY OF TECHNOLOGY AT MCH

Early Technology

Much like healthcare, technology has rapidly evolved and developed over the years. While computers, technology and electronic records is standard in every hospital today, it wasn't always that way. MCH purchased its first computer system in 1985, and it was about the size of a car. MCH Chief Information Officer Linda Carpenter, who's been with the health system for 34 years, remembers the early years of technology.

"When I started working here, we had 300 'dumb terminals,' or green screen terminals, a handful of PCs (personal computers) and direct attached printers," Carpenter says. "A couple of years later, we were up to 29 PCs and three network printers. Our computer room and data center consisted of an enormous mainframe that took up the entire computer room. My how things have changed."

Currently, the hospital has about 2,500 work stations with about 500 virtual and physical servers – a far cry from just a handful of technological equipment just 35 years prior. Carpenter credits former long-time MCH Chief Information Officer Gary Barnes for adapting and understanding the role technology would play in the future of healthcare.

"I feel like Gary raised me up," Carpenter says. "We all learned so much from him. He set the pace for I.T. (Information Technology) a long time ago. When I started in I.T., we created the help desk around 1991. It was just me and one other girl. Now we have 46 full-time employees."

The importance of digital technology and computers in healthcare cannot be overstated. Doctors use computers for virtual visits, to order needed tests/prescriptions, view lab results and medical records, and complete patient notes in real-time. Time, efficiency and communication are equal to life in healthcare.

"We have the ability to send out alerts to the hospital through Everbridge," says

Carpenter. "We can send mass messages to cell phones. We have physician groups we can message directly no matter where they are – clinic, hospital, outside of the facility or even their home. Back in the day, physicians used to have to go



What technology looked like in the Critical Care Unit in 1992.

to Medical Records directly to sign their charts."

Adapting to the Future of Technology in Healthcare

It's not just computers and electronic records adapting to the future, technology when it comes to medical equipment and robotics is evolving as well. Her team, along with clinical staff have to stay up to date with all of the new state-of-the-art robotic procedures like the VELYS Robotic Assisted Solution and the DaVinci Surgical System.

"We really partner with our liaisons in the departments," Carpenter says. "Our team talks to them about security and basic stuff. Anything beyond basic really is specific to those projects that we roll out."

But with the addition of new technology in healthcare, comes the increased risk of

cybersecurity breaches – which has affected the healthcare industry massively over the past few years. In 2023 alone, security breaches involving healthcare directly impacted more than 140,000,000 nationwide. And data breaches involving more

"It seems like we're always trying to get new tools, even A.I. tools, to identify constant attacks. We've got to use A.I. to detect A.I. It is daily. We have all kinds of alarms and alerts. We've got a team watching those daily. We learn new stuff on the daily that we have to add in."

- Linda Carpenter, MCH Chief Information Officer



Modern technology in the Critical Care Unit in 2022.

than 500-plus records has increased every year since 2016.

Technology will continue to move forward and undoubtedly continue to transform the healthcare industry. When it comes to MCH adapting and evolving with the times, what does Carpenter want to see in the future?

"I want to see change in getting more people comfortable with technology," says Carpenter. "I would like to see us expand more with what we currently have but getting more into the automated systems. A.I. is a bad term for some people, but it's not all bad. I saw a Smart Room a few years ago and the room was listening to patient and doctor, and it was automatically charting everything for them. It gave them the ability to use technology and provide quality face-to-face care at the same time."

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75 YEARS OF MCH



Linda Carpenter, MCH Chief Information Officer

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75 YEARS OF MCH



MEDICAL CENTER HEALTH SYSTEM FOUNDATION

The Medical Center Health System Foundation plays an integral role in transforming charitable gifts and donations from our community into programs that provide real support and assistance to our patients, employees and their families. We are extremely proud of how our philanthropic mission touches the lives of people in need.

"The Medical Center Health System Foundation plays a pivotal role in supporting community health in the Permian Basin, inspiring hope for a healthier tomorrow by providing vital resources and compassionate care to those in need," says Alison Pradon, Vice President of Development.

Since its inception in 2011, the MCHS Foundation has raised nearly \$20 million, which goes to purchase better equipment, employee training, and improve patient experience. This is done primarily through donations from the community and organized fundraisers with local entities such as The Human Bean. Under the umbrella of the MCHS Foundation are three vital programs to support community health and the health system:

- Children's Miracle Network
- Patient Navigation Program
- Friends of Nursing Fund

In addition to these three programs, the Foundation also created an Employee Assistance Fund during the COVID-19 pandemic to assist employees who faced unforeseen hardship during those difficult times.

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75 YEARS OF MCH



Alison Pradon, Vice President of Development



Children's Miracle Network

Children's Miracle Network's mission is to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible, impacting local kids in our community. Since becoming a CMN hospital in 1987, they have raised more than \$5 million for Medical Center Health System. Our local partners (Walmart/Sam's Club, Ace Hardware, Panda Express, Love's Travel Stop, Dairy Queen, Credit Unions for Kids) help raise funds through programs like our Miracle Balloons that are sold at the register, allowing customers to choose the option to round up their change when checking out.

"Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is a network that changes healthcare for children in local communities," says Samantha Serrano, Children's Miracle Network Program Manager at MCH.

Medical Center Hospital became a Children's Miracle Network Hospital in 1987.



Since 2011, the MCHS Foundation has raised nearly \$20 million to purchase better equipment, employee training, and to improve patient experience.

"Being a part of this network has allowed us to connect and educate our community about the needs our hospital sees each day. Through corporate and local partnerships, Children's Miracle Network is able to supply the equipment, provide nursing education, and create hope for the future of health care for children in the 19 counties that we serve. Thank you to our community and the generations of Miracle Makers that continue to support Medical Center Hospital!"

Most importantly, 100 percent of these local donations stay in the Permian Basin and at MCH to support children's healthcare in our community, including new, life-saving equipment for our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Samantha Canady Center for Pediatric Care, and additional training for our NICU and Pediatric staff.

Patient Navigation Program

This program helps our breast cancer patients get the best care possible delivered in a timely and efficient manner.

Friends of Nursing Fund

The Friend of Nursing Fund helps MCH nurses achieve continuing education and stay up to date with today's rapidly evolving healthcare environment.



Chief Nursing Officer, Kim Leftwich, 2024 CMN Champion Jaxton Menix, and CMN Program Manager, Samantha Serrano.

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75 YEARS OF MCH



Medical Center Health System
FOUNDATION

MCH NAVIGATES CRISIS

August 31, 2019 Mass Shooting

August 31, 2019 is a day that West Texans will never forget. A mobile mass shooter brought chaos to Odessa and Midland. Seven people were killed and 25 were injured. Of those victims, 14 were treated here at Medical Center Hospital. Because of the incredible care they received, 13 of those victims were able to recover and be released by the hospital.

"This is one thing you train for. You train for it and you pray that it never happens, and when it did happen, our preparedness and our staff did their job," says Russell Tippin, MCHS President and CEO.

In all that day, there were 28 crime scenes, including 18 within the city of Odessa. Hundreds of law enforcement officers responded from the area and more than 60 Texas Rangers were called in.



"On that day, there was nobody higher than anyone else. Everybody was doing everything. The teamwork we had was incredible. Nobody had to be told twice and nobody questioned anything. It was just 'let's do it, let's take care of these people, and let's get these people's lives put back together as much as we can and start the healing process.'"
- Russell Tippin, MCHS President and CEO

The bravery of our first responders and healthcare workers that day was something to behold. In the worst of times, their light shined brightest. This community will never be able to thank them enough for their heroics that day.

"It's still very emotional for me to think about that day. I still pray for all of those affected," Tippin says.

Russell Tippin, MCHS President and CEO, addresses local and national media during a press conference following the August 31, 2020 shooting.



Volunteers from MCH and other city and county entities during the mass vaccination clinics at Ratliff Stadium.

COVID-19 Pandemic

The horrible day in August of 2019 isn't the only crisis that MCH has faced in the past ten years. The COVID-19 pandemic brought on challenges the healthcare industry has never seen.

"A scary time," says Tippin. "Not only for our world, but for MCH. A lot of people had to think outside the box. A lot of our people were doing extraordinary things. Our staff stood beside the beds of these patients not knowing about this virus, putting their lives on the line, and gave very good care to them."

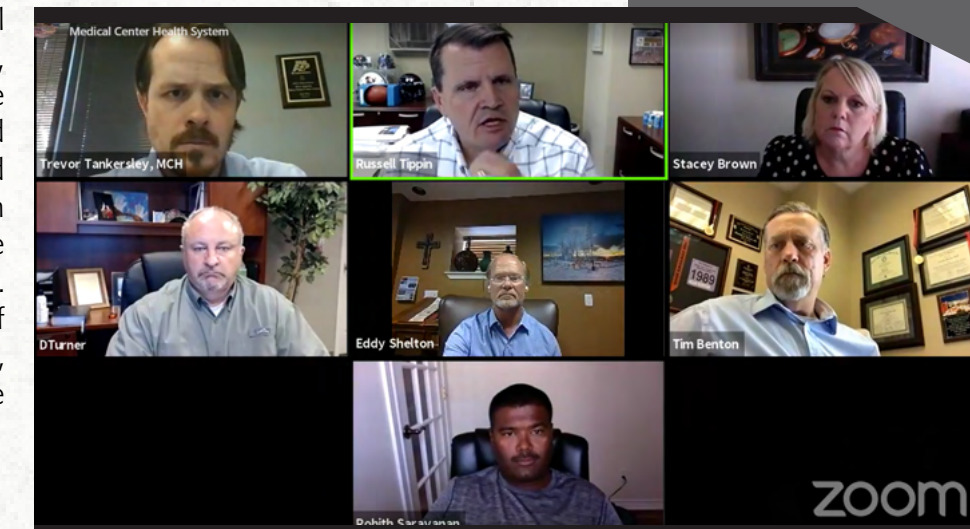
In the wake of the unknown, and in the face of a virus never seen before, MCH stepped up for the community. The hospital live-streamed more than 200 press conferences on social media with hospital, healthcare, city, county and community leaders to give the most updated information and recommendations, while nurses and doctors worked around the clock in man-made ICU units because of the extraordinary number of sick patients. And when there was light at the end of the tunnel after a vaccine was developed, MCH was one of the first healthcare

facilities in the country (along with help from Odessa Fire Rescue, the city of Odessa, Ector Co., ECISD and the community Incident Command Unit) to operate a mass vaccination clinic at Ratliff Stadium over several weeks. In fact, more than 55,000 vaccines were administered during that six-week clinic.

"Whether it was vaccinating thousands at Ratliff Stadium or driving all across the state to pick up PPE or equipment, whatever it took, our staff made happen," says Tippin. "I hope it's something we never see again or experience. It changed healthcare forever."



The first COVID-19 vaccines arrive at MCH in December 2020.



MCH live-streamed more than 200 press conferences on social media with other healthcare, city, and county leaders throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

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75 YEARS OF MCH

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75 YEARS OF MCH



POLICE: AT LEAST 5 DEAD AND 21 INJURED AFTER MASS SHOOTING IN MIDLAND AND ODESSA, TX

FOX NEWS ALERT

FOR TURKEY'S ISKENDERUN PORT, IS LISTED AS "FOR ORDER," USUALLY MEANING THE VESSEL IS AVAILABL

