“It began as a dream, then a prayer, a hope, and finally a reality. On St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, 1899, Father William O’Connor and the people of Stockton gathered to celebrate the official setting of the cornerstone for St. Joseph’s Home and Hospital . . .”

St. Joseph’s Medical Center

A CENTURY OF HEALING

1899 - 1999
Through the Years

July 21, 1884
Father O'Connor purchases a 9.23 acre site of ground situated several blocks north of the city, facing California Street.

March 20, 1899
The cornerstone of St. Joseph's Home is placed into position. Ceremonies held the previous day, the feast of St. Joseph.

December 21, 1899
St. Joseph's Home and Hospital opens its doors with 25 beds, for the reception of old men and hospital patients, under the supervision of the Dominican Sisters. Father O'Connor is superintendent.

December 5, 1900
The Chapel is completed and the first Mass is celebrated on Christmas morning.

A 14-room annex is completed to expand housing.

1902
The Sisters propose a training school for nurses in connection with the hospital.

1905
The first trained nurse graduate from St. Joseph's training school.

A new building is added to the Home, and is situated east of the main complex to better accommodate the growing number of residents.

December 26, 1911
Father O'Connor dies. Shortly before his death, he makes known the plans to turn the hospital over to the Sisters.

1912
The final steps are taken to turn the hospital over to the Sisters and the transfer becomes effective before the end of the year in 1912.

1914
A statue of Father O'Connor is placed on St. Joseph's grounds.

1915
The doctors form the first medical staff.
For the past 100 years, St. Joseph’s Medical Center has been serving the Stockton community as a leader in health care. As St. Joseph’s approaches its centennial, the dream of its founder lives on today through the commitment to its mission to continuously improve the health and well being of its communities. The complexities of health care and the practice environment have changed dramatically during the 20th Century. It was a period of great medical transition, in which health care left home and medicine evolved from elementary to exquisite sophistication. St. Joseph’s weathered the changes and challenges to emerge as a health care leader. As the genesis of science and medicine continue to advance, St. Joseph’s staff will continue to deliver leading edge technology with caring hearts and healing hands.

From concept to cornerstone:
The mission and vision of a Catholic priest
Fr. William Bernard O’Connor, born in County Cork, Ireland in October 1841, left his homeland for missionary work immediately upon his ordination to the priesthood. He arrived in San Francisco in 1868. Joseph Sadoc Alemany, OP, Archbishop of San Francisco, was so impressed with this young priest’s unusual ability, piety and zeal that he quickly appointed him to take charge of St. Mary’s Church in Stockton. He celebrated his first Mass on St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, 1872.

Father O’Connor made significant efforts in his lifetime to provide foundations for education and health care in the Stockton area. He was respected and loved by people of all faiths. "During the smallpox plague, which raged in Stockton during 1881, Fr. O’Connor went from house to house, visiting the afflicted, bringing them the consolations of religion, and speaking kind, encouraging words to the poor sufferers. He thus exposed his life daily."

In 1875, he made application to the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael to help him establish St. Agnes Academy Convent and School in Stockton. After establishing St. Agnes, Fr. O’Connor pursued his vision to build a home for men who would be cared for in their last declining years in comfort. On September 19, 1898, Fr. O’Connor’s plans for the Home were announced:

“For many years I have entertained the hope that God would give me the means to establish an (sic) Hospital and home for old men in Stockton. I have seen the great need of such an institution where the sick would be cared for by the devoted Sisters and the last declining years of worthy old men be made happy by the ministrations of these same angels of mercy.

Oh, I thought if I could only be the instrument in God’s hands for such a work. For years and years I have hoped and prayed, invoking the powerful aid of St. Joseph. Thank God I have not hoped and prayed in vain.”

In July 1884, Fr. O’Connor purchased 9.23 acres of ground north of the city limits, facing California Street. Miss Julia Weber, daughter of Stockton founder, Captain
Charles Weber, Mrs. Basilio Laogier, and Major J.D. Peters, presented the money for purchase of the property to Fr. O’Connor. When the town heard of the plans for a home for old men, Dr. Ellis Harbert and a group of local physicians suggested that they construct a hospital as well as a home. They pointed out the great need of the community for a suitable place to which they could bring their medical and surgical patients for specialized care. Doctors of Stockton pledged support for the project.

Fr. O’Connor selected the name for the institution, St. Joseph’s Home, and dedicated the home and hospital annex on St. Joseph’s Day, March 19, 1899. The cornerstone was put into place on March 20, 1899, due to inclement weather on March 19.

1938
St. Joseph’s Training School for Nurses closes.

1939
A new Maternity Department is built and the X-ray Department is established.

1941
May 9, St. Joseph’s holds its first public open house, demonstrating the pride of the hospital, which exists in spite of the difficult depression.

World War II creates many problems due to changes in staff and physicians, shortages of help, and rationing. Survival during these years is attributable to the unfailing and devoted duty of the Sisters and the staff.

1943
In spite of nearly insurmountable difficulties, for the first time in years, St. Joseph’s is able to pay its current bills each month.

1944
The first intravenous injection of penicillin is given to a patient in the hospital.

Fr. O’Connor closely monitored construction of St. Joseph’s. It is said, “he saw every stick that went into the building.” Major J.D. Peters, Miss Julia Weber, Basilio Laogier and John Barrett made substantial donations. Estimated cost of the building was $30,000. St. Mary’s parishioners with aid of the entire community of Stockton, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, organized a week-long fair to raise funds to finance the building.

St. Joseph’s formally opened on December 21, 1899 with 25 hospital beds. Staff included: Fr. O’Connor, administrator; Sisters Philomena Kennedy, Margaret McNamara and Imelda Garvin; resident physician, H.E. Allen, M.D., and head nurse, Miss Eliza McClain. Two patients were admitted to the home.

Admission to St. Joseph’s Home for people ages 60 to 65 years was $2,000; from age 65 to 70 the full price was $1,500; from 70 to 75, $1,200 and from 75 up, $1,000. The fee included everything needed for the remainder of the resident’s life – food, clothing, washing, medical attendance, nursing when ill, funeral and burial costs.

Rates for patients at the hospital included single rooms, $18 to $25 per week. For a bed in a ward, containing four or five beds, the price per day was $1.50 to $2 a day. In 1900, St. Joseph’s offered a new concept in hospital care by offering it free-of-charge on Sundays.

Fr. O’Connor wrote of the Sisters’ dedication and community support in 1905:

“All are willing to admit that a first-class hospital was a long-felt want in Stockton and, did we need proof, the large number of patients treated in St. Joseph’s would be conclusive evidence. The physicians of Stockton and the vicinity and those from other cities who visit here are pleased with the appointment and management. The patients who have been treated there are not sparing in...”
their praises of the manner in which they were nursed and cared for in St. Joseph's. This is, no doubt, due in a great measure to the watchful care of the good Sisters who have the management of the institution and who are ministering angels to the sick and aged."

**Dominican Sponsorship**

Rev. W.B. O'Connor did not live or die in vain. His life was a success. On down through the ages will go the influences he set in motion. His life was triumph over mortal weakness; his death was triumph of brightest faith.8

Upon his death in 1911, Fr. O'Connor transferred ownership and operation of the hospital to the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael.

On his deathbed he told Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan that the Sisters had worked at the home and hospital for 12 years with no salary or compensation. In 1912, members of the original board of directors, which included Julia H. Weber and Joseph D. Peters, stepped down. The Sisters formed a new board. From 1912, to the early part of 1973 the Board of Directors was comprised of Dominican Sisters. In 1973, the bylaws of the corporation were amended to establish a larger Board of Trustees, to consist of representatives of the Dominican Sisters, the medical staff of St. Joseph's Hospital and the community served by the hospital.

The Dominican Sisters continued to sponsor the hospital throughout a turbulent century that saw many changes in medicine and health care. Their visionary leadership and commitment to excellence brought compassion and quality to all aspects of care. Under their leadership, St. Joseph's grew from a 25-bed hospital into today’s 291-licensed bed regional medical center and multiple outpatient centers. In addition, the organization has developed into a regional health system, which currently includes five acute care hospitals, a behavioral health facility, a retirement community and health care services throughout the Northern San Joaquin Valley.

**Education and Nursing Trends**

Shortly after the opening of the Hospital in 1899, the Sisters felt that a nurse's training school was necessary. In 1902, St. Joseph's Training School for Nurses opened as the area’s first nursing school. Three women, Miss Alice McCabe, Miss Fannie O'Sullivan and Miss Beatrice O’Hara were first to graduate on January 3, 1905. For 33 years, the training school, which earned a reputation for educational excellence, trained nurses to bring their expertise and skills to the sick and those in need. Patients were hospitalized up to four months at the turn of the century due to contagious diseases. A private duty...
nurse worked 24-hour days and at night slept on a cot within the patient’s room.

Training at the nursing school took two years and four months. Nurses lived on the hospital grounds and received $5 per month. Applicants had to be in perfect health, of good moral character and age 22 or older. With classes held in the hospital, many instructors were physicians. Shoes shined with laces clean and caps on straight, St. Joseph’s Training School for Nurses, the early years. (1925) nurses attended the ill, providing what was described then as basic survival care such as bathing, changing and feeding.

The school closed in 1938, due to finances and changes in educational requirements for nurses.

With the dawn of wonder drugs such as penicillin in the 1940s, nursing evolved from a service to a profession. Education standards increased in the 1950s with the introduction of a Master’s Program in Nursing available at colleges. The nursing profession has changed dramatically but one constant remains, nurses provide respite with compassion and kindness – the human touch in a stress induced world.

Early Medical Technology and Epidemics

At the turn of the century, hospitals were a place where infants were born, the sick were cared for and most people died. Aversion to hospitals began to break down when physicians started using them for their private patients. The public was beginning to realize that many illnesses could be treated more effectively in hospitals than at home. Surgery in the early 1900’s was still new, and mortality rates were high because sterilization techniques had not been discovered.

Physicians performed their first surgery at St. Joseph’s on October 3, 1901, under the direction of W.E. Gibbons, M.D., to demonstrate a new sophisticated procedure in which solutions of cocaine were injected into the cavities of the patient’s spinal column to produce anesthetic.

By 1916, crowded conditions in the original hospital forced the building of a more modern up-to-date hospital. Four operating rooms were completed with modern appliances. Surgery advanced rapidly. Two rooms were used for major surgery, one minor, and a tonsil room. State of the art Wilmot Castle Sterilizers were installed in the surgery rooms to combat infection.

Expanding to meet Stockton’s growing population, St. Joseph’s added 100 beds in 1916. In 1918, the influenza epidemic was raging and St. Joseph’s 125 beds were full. Patients were placed wherever a bed was available. Sisters were called in throughout the county to work around the clock. Many of those afflicted owed their lives to the loving care of the nurses.
Modern X-ray equipment (1953)

care they received from the Sisters who, without thought of their own welfare, fought valiantly against the virulent disease. By the time the epidemic had subsided more than 200,000 people had lost their lives.

Radiology services were available at the local hospital since the beginning of the century. In the early 1920s, St. Joseph’s added what, at that time, was considered the most modern x-ray equipment in the area. Doctors had access to a fluoroscope for the actual observation of the human skeleton, as well as soft tissues of the body such as heart and lung. A German Kenex tube gave fast exposure time, which was valuable in diagnosing young children, shocked and badly injured patients. During 1929, an expensive high-powered Deep Therapy plant was purchased for the treatment of cancer, gland tuberculosis, fibroid tumors, certain blood and gland diseases and many other ailments.

The Great Depression, War Years and The Baby Boom

During the difficult years following the crash of Wall Street in 1929, St. Joseph’s remained open and responsive to the growing medical needs of the community even though the hospital was depleted of personnel and services.

In 1930, plans for a much needed new maternity ward and kitchen had to be abandoned. The hospital was forced to borrow $10,000 from Dominican College in 1934 to keep the doors open. In 1939, the average daily census was seven patients or less. The Sisters would go room to room turning on lights during visiting hours. They would turn the lights off later. The hospital was empty much of the time. During this time, the Sisters persevered as they struggled to meet payroll and pay public utilities.

St. Joseph’s worked to provide the community the best health care possible when a new maternity ward opened in 1939, to welcome new generations. During the 1940s, as many as 40 babies were born in one month, where there previously had been as few as nine.

In 1943, the Baby Boom had begun and there were record months of 150 births or more. When there weren’t enough bassinets to go around, necessity became the mother of invention and laundry baskets and dresser drawers were put to good use.

It was 1955, St. Joseph’s experienced another technological first when the Young Ladies Institute donated an “isolette incubator,” a combination of an incubator, oxygen tent and air conditioner. The first oxygen analyzer was donated by the Phi Delta Club to the hospital to be used for newborn infants, particularly premature infants.
**Doctors and New Medicine**

From the very beginning, when Fr. O'Connor announced his plans, St. Joseph's has always received the enthusiastic support of the medical community and the people of Stockton. During the past century, physicians have worked closely with hospital administration in bringing the most innovative medical technology to the area.

The doctors formed the first medical staff in 1915. First Chief of Staff was Dr. Charles R. Harry. He was followed by Dr. Barton Powell and Dr. R.R. Hammond. Stockton was developing rapidly, and as the population grew, physicians laid the foundation to meet the community's health care needs.

By the time the American College of Surgeons accredited the hospital in 1928, St. Joseph’s consisted of a medical and surgical department, an obstetrical department and the old men’s home. In 1928, 44 doctors, 10 Dominican Sisters and nine head nurses managed the facility. There were 45 men in the Home, 14 students enrolled in nursing school and 30 graduate nurses were on duty to care for 125 beds.

St. Joseph’s introduced the “wonder drug” penicillin to the area when the first injection was given to a patient at the hospital in 1944.

World War II brought a shortage of cotton goods to area hospitals. Mending was done to keep the linen in useable condition. With a shortage of cotton, paper goods were introduced to the hospitals, hence followed with other disposable items such as syringes that had been used in war hospitals. Patients were placed wherever a room was available and power failures were not uncommon at this time. Dr. Dewey Powell recalls that sponges used in tonsillectomies were not discarded, but washed carefully, sterilized and re-used.

During the closing days of World War II in 1945, Stockton had few doctors in private practice. Hospital records show only a dozen doctors were available at that time. Many doctors were serving in the war.

In the summer of 1945, Sr. Mary Gabriel, O.P. was assigned to St. Joseph’s to assist Sr. Daniel Kelleher, O.P., Administrator. There were 125 beds, mostly private rooms, and a few larger wards with six to eight beds. Outpatient services consisted of radiation therapy, x-ray and laboratory. In 1945, there were 50 men residing in St. Joseph’s Home and the original 1899 hospital building was still utilized.
Rheumatic Fever Ward (1949)

St. Joseph’s opened a Rheumatic Fever Ward in August 1949. The ward was built by the Stockton Junior Aid. The funds for the ward were from the sale of Junior Aid’s Home for Girls and the ward was built at a cost of $20,000. It accommodated eight patients at a cost of $250 per month per child. At that time, rheumatic fever was causing more fatalities among children than all other diseases combined. The average length of stay in the ward was 77 1/2 days. By 1956, treatment advanced and the ward was closed. The hospital needed the space for other building expansions.

Building for the Future – a History of Firsts

As the population of Stockton and the surrounding towns increased, St. Joseph’s grew with the community. Expansions, which took place from 1950 through 1980, would see the hospital located on California Street grow from a little over 3 to more than 16 acres. With changes in medicine and the launch of the Medicare program, hospital construction and expansion boomed.

Expansion

It wasn’t until 1954 that the hospital added another major addition that included 52 additional beds, a dietary department and a coffee shop. In 1962, St. Joseph’s added a $3.5 million south wing that included a 90-bed addition, large surgical suites with eight operating rooms, recovery room and intensive care unit. New laboratory and nuclear medicine departments were added in 1966.

Emergency Services

St. Joseph’s opened the county’s first dedicated emergency services department in a hospital. Emergency Room doors opened on March 5, 1971 to provide emergency care 24 hours a day, seven days a week. City Emergency in downtown Stockton took care of such cases before the hospital opened its ER services department. Prior to that, the hospital had provided doctors on an on-call basis for emergencies. During the first year of operation, 16,000 patients were treated, contrasted with 34,000 patients in 1998.

Cardiac Care

Physicians at St. Joseph’s were first to pioneer better cardiac care in the area. In December 1957, St. Joseph’s was the first to install a cardioscope in the operating room to assist the physician and anesthesiologist in monitoring changes in a patient’s heart during surgery.

In 1967, St. Joseph’s became one of the first hospitals in the nation to create a Coronary Care Unit with help from a $15,000 donation from the Women’s Auxiliary. The Auxiliary furnished two rooms with highly specialized monitoring equipment, which enabled nurses to keep a continuous status on their patients.
In 1972, St. Joseph’s opened the first modern Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory in San Joaquin County. The lab was upgraded in 1978, and in 1984 cardiologists at St. Joseph’s performed the first balloon angioplasty procedure in the county.

Christmas Day, 1974, under the leadership of James Morrissey, M.D., doctors Sam Felahy, M.D. and William Shinn, M.D., performed the area’s first open-heart surgery at St. Joseph’s Hospital. The surgery team spent months training at Stanford University Hospital. The surgery assured San Joaquin County and foothill residents that they could have such sophisticated surgery in their own community. In 1975, 55 open-heart surgeries were completed. The program has grown significantly since 1974, with 367 open-heart surgeries completed in 1998.

St. Joseph’s was the first area hospital to bring Transesophageal Echocardiography technology to Northern California in 1989. The instrument, mounted on a flexible endoscope, enables physicians to directly view segments of the heart not previously available.

St. Joseph’s Heart Center, opened in 1996, centralized all cardiac services. Integrating clinical research with innovative and advanced diagnosis, St. Joseph’s Heart Center participates in pioneer studies both nationally and internationally to advance the treatment of cardiovascular diseases. Today’s center features three state of the art cardiac catheterization laboratories; two specially designed heart surgery suites and a complete diagnostic program. In 1999, St. Joseph’s was selected as one of the top 100 hospitals in the nation for interventional cardiology.

Again, in keeping pace with the changes in medical technology, St. Joseph’s opened the Sister Mary Pia Regional Cancer Center in 1988. The hospital had operated a dedicated oncology department since 1978.

The 13,000 square foot facility, which houses two linear accelerators, centralizes cancer services for patient convenience. Within the Cancer Center, the Patti Guiliani Memorial Library houses hundreds of books, tapes and informational items available to the public. The Cancer Center
Center treats between 80 to 100 outpatients every day and also sponsors several programs to promote healing, compassion and hope for cancer survivors and their families.

The Cancer Center was named in honor of Sr. Mary Pia, O.P., who was “Sister Visitor” for more than 40 years at St. Joseph’s. Her daily visits were enjoyed by many patients who remember her warm smile, flower bouquets, and the Sister who brought music to the pediatric ward. She brought incalculable comfort to patients and staff alike. Her presence throughout the halls of St. Joseph’s will never be forgotten.

As an accredited facility, St. Joseph’s Cancer Center maintains a Tumor Registry. Information collected through the Registry allows St. Joseph’s to participate in national studies that are designed to improve patient care.

St. Joseph’s is the only hospital in San Joaquin County that has a dedicated Respiratory Intensive Care Unit, Respiratory Care Floor and an all-encompassing Respiratory Therapy Department. The hospital also offers diagnostic testing, pulmonary rehabilitation and therapy modalities. St. Joseph’s is the only hospital between Sacramento and Fresno with hyperbaric oxygen chambers. Installed in 1984, the chambers are used to treat illness where oxygenation will help kill bacteria, expedite wound healing and prevent potential amputation.

Outpatient Surgery

Hospital records show that by 1986, more than 40 percent of the hospital’s surgeries were done on an outpatient basis. Recognizing the trends in health care delivery and making changes to meet the need, St. Joseph’s opened its first outpatient surgery center in 1987. In 1998, St. Joseph’s performed 6,244 outpatient surgeries.

Community Expansions

On November 16, 1988, St. Joseph’s broke ground on its retirement community, O’Connor Woods. Named in honor of St. Joseph’s founder, Fr. O’Connor, and created with his original intent to establish a home, the senior residential community provides accommodations and care. Also located on the O’Connor Woods campus, Garden Oaks and Meadowood facilities provide skilled nursing care for the aging and sick. Fr. O’Connor’s vision to comfort and care for the sick continues today.

In June 1989, St. Joseph’s officials broke ground in Manteca to build St. Dominic’s Hospital and expand services to meet the growing needs of this south county community.

St. Joseph’s Hospital began offering psychiatric services in 1974 and in 1991, opened St. Joseph’s Behavioral Health Center, a non-profit, licensed psychiatric hospital that specializes in geropsychiatric, psychiatric, chemical dependency and outpatient services.

St. Joseph’s expanded their hospital facility in 1996, with a $19.9 million project that included construction of the Heart Center, expansion of the Outpatient Surgery Center and Emergency Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Immediate Care opens on March Lane to serve north Stockton.</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s purchases Stockton Pathology Medical Group to establish HealthCare Clinical Laboratory.</td>
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<td>1985</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Lifeline services are made available to patients in their homes.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s SPIRIT Club (Special People Involved in Reaching Into Tomorrow) a volunteer employee service organization is formed.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Fitness Center opens.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s purchases Abbey Medical, a durable medical equipment company.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Completion of HealthCare Clinical Laboratory Building at 2101 California Street.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Hospital trustees vote to create St. Joseph’s Healthcare Corporation. Edward G. Schroeder becomes President and Chief Executive Officer of the newly formed corporation.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>Larry Philipp becomes Chief Operating Officer of St. Joseph’s Medical Center.</td>
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<td>1986</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Silver Service Medicare Plus program begins serving the senior population.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Adult Day Health Care opens to serve the frail elderly in the community.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s is the first area hospital to perform Cardiac Electrophysiology.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s CareVan starts to provide free health services to the community.</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Omni Health Plan, a health maintenance organization, is founded with affiliated physicians and is available to residents in San Joaquin County.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s opens its first freestanding, Outpatient Surgery Center.</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s Sister Mary Pia Regional Cancer Center opens to offer patients advanced technology and cancer treatment.</td>
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<td>1998</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s opens a Distinct Pan/ Skilled Nursing Facility.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s recognizes the need for employer health services and begins St. Joseph’s Employer Services Program.</td>
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Privileged to Serve:
St. Joseph's Volunteers in Action

The efforts of St. Joseph's Auxiliary grew as facilities began to expand. Founded in 1957, the auxiliary volunteers worked in the linen department where they performed tasks like stamping and hemming towels for maternity and surgery. They also assisted in preparing dressings, sterilizing equipment, sharpening hypodermic needles, and preparing surgical gloves in central supply. Advances in technology and equipment have made these services no longer needed but the role of the hospital volunteer has expanded. For 31 years, the popular "Pinkie Puppet" brought countless smiles to thousands of children at St. Joseph's. The smiling, pixie-like hand puppets were made and packaged at the hospital by Auxiliary volunteers. By 1968, over 9,000 Pinkie Puppets were received by young patients. Pinkie Puppet has been replaced by the Auxiliary's “Cuddle me” bear, a teddy cloth bear handmade by Auxiliary members. More than 700 children received one in 1998.

The hospital continued to find volunteers to fit the ever-expanding needs experienced by growth and rapid change in health care during the volunteers’ 42-year history. Since its inception, more than one million volunteer hours have been served and more than $2 million has been raised for equipment for St. Joseph’s Medical Center.

Hospital volunteer opportunities have grown to include participation in the Cancer Center (C.O.P.E. volunteers), Emergency Department, Spiritual Services (Eucharistic Ministers), patient care areas, community health services, Behavioral Health/Chemical Dependency programs, cardiac services and more. In 1998, over 500 volunteers shared their diverse gifts and talents with St. Joseph’s, serving more than 61,000 hours.

St. Joseph’s is also fortunate to count among its volunteers the leaders who serve on the Regional Health System Board of Directors. The first lay board was formed in 1973. The current board is comprised of 15 community leaders, health care professionals and sponsors who give their expertise in governance of the extensive and complex health system.

St. Joseph’s Fund Development Council, formed in 1989, is comprised of business professionals who volunteer to help raise funds for capital equipment and special projects. To date, the Council has raised over $10 million through the development of donations in many forms.

Members of the first St. Joseph's Regional Health System Board of Directors (1976) and staff: (from left), Sr. M. Gabriel, OP; William Brock, MD; Trevor Logette, Chief Financial Officer; Leo d’Or; Edward Schroeder; Harold Nelson; Sr. Margaret Ann McCauley, OP and William Hobbin.
Leadership

Since St. Joseph's inception, the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael continue to sponsor St. Joseph's in a volatile health care environment.

"From its earliest days, the mission of the hospital and its implementation have been consistent, I believe, in providing quality medical care, always with real concern for our patients, as well as responding to the needs of the community. Our work has been bountifully blessed by God, and under the patronage of St. Joseph. It is my prayer and hope that this will continue forward," said Sr. Mary Gabriel, OP, Administration, St. Joseph’s for 45 years.

Sr. Gabriel was known for her business acumen, her keen sense of intelligence and her remarkable memory. She was completely focused on providing excellence and compassion in the delivery of patient care. Daily she would interact with staff, patients and physicians. For over four decades and even after her retirement in 1990, Sr. Gabriel was remembered for her life of dedication and service to St. Joseph's. She died peacefully on February 11, 1999, at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent in San Rafael.

Edward G. Schroeder, President and Chief Executive Officer joined St. Joseph’s in 1973 as Associate Administrator. Under his tenure St. Joseph's Hospital became St. Joseph’s Medical Center and both comprehensive heart and cancer centers were established. He founded St. Joseph’s HealthCare Corporation, which became St. Joseph’s Regional Health System.

"St. Joseph's Medical Center has enjoyed and benefited from many leaders throughout its history. God’s work has been accomplished through talented men and women at all levels and positions in the hospital. Physician leaders have also given much in volunteering their time and talent to continuously improving patient care through medical science and administration," says Edward G. Schroeder.

As a leader in health care today, St. Joseph’s Medical Center with 291 licensed beds is an acute care hospital specializing in heart, cancer, respiratory and emergency services. In addition to hospital services, St. Joseph’s operates HealthCare Clinical Laboratories with 22 drawing stations, home health nursing, Community Home Care, Immediate Care Clinics and Occupational Health Clinics.

Quality health care is what patients expect and St. Joseph’s established its first Quality Assurance Program in 1979. Since then, St. Joseph’s has enhanced and integrated quality services throughout the regional health care system with the Quality Improvement Process. In 1992, St. Joseph’s Medical Center was distinguished “Best of Class” for outpatient surgery and procedures by Arthur Andersen and Company.

National medical and quality journals have published numerous articles on St. Joseph’s benchmark studies.

St. Joseph’s has grown to become St. Joseph’s Regional Health System. The region includes six hospitals: Mark Twain St. Joseph’s Hospital, San Andreas; Mercy Hospital and Health Services, Merced; Oak Valley Hospital, Oakdale; St. Joseph's Behavioral Health Center, Stockton; St. Dominic’s Hospital, Manteca; and St. Joseph’s Medical Center, Stockton.

In 1996, St. Joseph’s Regional Health System affiliated with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) becoming the San Joaquin-Sierra Region. CHW is a multi-congregational health system co-sponsored by nine religious communities, which currently join together 48 acute care facilities and nine medical groups of the CHW Medical Foundation throughout California, Arizona and Nevada.

Edward G. Schroeder

1995

St. Joseph’s purchases Star Clinic in Stockton, an orthopedic outpatient physical therapy clinic.

St. Joseph’s Functional Services, offers new services in work injury prevention and rehabilitation.

St. Joseph’s Community Resource Center opens to offer free consumer health information.

St. Joseph’s installs Multi-Purpose Vascular Imaging System in Regional Health System Radiology Department. The new x-ray system is designed to enhance complicated diagnostic vascular exams and interventional procedures.

St. Joseph’s provides seed money to start Parish Nurse Program, a partnership with faith communities.

St. Joseph’s Nurse Call Center begins a service offering 24-hour free access to health information staffed by Registered Nurses.

St. Joseph’s named Employer of the Year by Goodwill Industries. The honor recognizes the Medical Center’s commitment to hire physically challenged individuals and work with them to ensure success.

Sr. Mary Gabriel, O.P. (1915-1999)
1995
St. Joseph's interventional cardiologists are first physicians in County certified to perform Coronary Rotablation.
St. Joseph's Regional Health System and St. Joseph's Medical Associates form primary care-independent practice association, St. Joseph's Primary Care IPA.

1996
St. Joseph’s Heart Center opens Stockton’s premier heart care institution. The Heart Center brings all diagnostic and interventional cardiovascular areas into one location improving efficiency and patient care.
St. Joseph’s Medical Center, as part of St. Joseph’s Regional Health System, affiliates with Catholic Healthcare West (CHW) becoming the San Joaquin-Sierra Region.
St. Joseph’s Heart Center Intervventional Cardiologists successfully implant the first AVE microsled as part of a national research trial.
Sister Mary Pia Regional Cancer Center offers High Dose Remote Afterloading (HDR) Brachytherapy, making the new radiation available to residents in the county.
St. Joseph’s is first hospital in the county to provide a new Spiral CT Imaging System in their Radiology/Diagnostic Imaging Department.
St. Joseph’s partners with Lodi Primary Care Medical Associates.
St. Joseph’s Medical Center awarded Quality Leader Award from the National Research Corporation.

1997
Sister Mary Pia Regional Cancer Center nominated for the Catholic Health Association of the United States Achievement Citation, “Innovators In Healing.”
St. Joseph’s vascular surgeon performs first vein bypass in northern California using advanced technology.
St. Joseph’s offers revolutionary heart valve replacement procedure.
St. Joseph’s awarded Quality Leader Award for the second consecutive year from the National Research Corporation.
Donald Wiley, St. Joseph’s Regional Health System Senior Vice President becomes Chief Operating Officer of St. Joseph’s Medical Center.

Improving Health Beyond Hospital Walls
Today, St. Joseph’s mission reaches beyond the walls of the Medical Center. The mobile health services of St. Joseph’s CareVan have served more than 65,000 individuals who are uninsured or can’t afford care.
Committed to providing individuals with access to the most current information and resources, St. Joseph’s Nurse Call Center received over 131,000 inquiries in 1998.
St. Joseph’s has partnered with 42 faith communities throughout the Region to establish a Parish Nurse program. Parish nurses promote health and healing within the context of their faith community. It is an ecumenical program, recognizing a diversity of belief systems.

The Stockton Interfaith Caregiver Program is a coalition of faith congregations, St. Joseph’s Regional Health System and community agencies providing services to seniors and their families in Stockton free-of-charge.
With a rich tradition of caring for the community, St. Joseph’s Regional Health System committed over $8 million in community benefit programs and services in 1998.
Looking towards the future with respect to the past

"I have no doubt, myself, that in the course of years it will grow to much larger dimensions than could now be imagined by those who planned it, for these great works of charity are like the trees of the field; the beginnings are always small, but the plant, if watered by the rains of heaven and nourished by the sun, grows to be an immense tree. So with all the institutions of charity; they commence in a small way; their first beginnings are always humble, but if the people will only take care of them and give them the cultivation they demand, they grow in a few years to be large and extensive. And I have no doubt that this Home and hospital will in a short time be much larger than even our fondest wishes can imagine. With these few words, I commend the work to you, and hope and pray that it will prosper."

—Archbishop P. W. Riordan, March 20, 1899

St. Joseph’s was the vision and mission of a Catholic priest who desired to serve his people. From the beginning, St. Joseph’s has responded to the needs of the community, and provided the best care possible. Programs and services are in place to accommodate the next generation of medical technology and patient care. Reaching out beyond hospital walls to cure body, mind and spirit, St. Joseph’s commitment to our community is a matter of record—a record of human achievement in the healing arts.

The leadership team of St. Joseph’s Regional Health System includes:

(Back row, left to right) Gary Spaugh, Senior Vice President; Rick Canning, Chief Financial Officer; Larry Philipp, Senior Vice President. (Seated, left to right) Don Wiley, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, St. Joseph’s Medical Center; Edward G. Schroeder, President and Chief Executive Officer; Sister Lois Silva, O.P., Vice President of Mission Services.

Endnotes
2 “A Tribute to the Memory of Father W.B. O’Connor,” Stockton Record, 1912.
3 Letter written by Fr. W.B. O’Connor, dated March 20th, 1899. St. Joseph’s Medical Center archives.
6 “Rain Interfered with the Ceremony,” Stockton Evening Mail, March 20, 1899.
8 “A Tribute to the Memory of Father W.B. O’Connor,” Stockton Record, 1911.
12 Transcript from taped interview with Sr. Gabriel, O.P. President of St. Joseph’s Hospital, June 5, 1984.
13 Interview conducted by Kathleen Bonham, St. Joseph’s Medical Center archives.
14 Panacea, St. Joseph’s Home and Hospital and Training School for Nurses, 1929, page 45.
15 Ibid.
17 Ibid.
18 Ibid.

Photos from St. Joseph’s Medical Center Archives.

1998
St. Joseph’s is the first hospital in Northern California to add a voice-controlled robot to its surgical team to assist in minimally invasive procedures.

Community helps to raise more than $200,000 to replace CareVan with new truck and trailer.

St. Joseph’s Heart Center Interventional Cardiologists perform transradial procedure to combat Coronary Artery Disease. St. Joseph’s is the first hospital to offer the new procedure.

Shades of Survivorship, a breast cancer awareness program sponsored through St. Joseph’s, is highlighted in a special section of Newsweek magazine.

St. Joseph’s Heart Center is the only area hospital that participates in international clinical trial for Angina medication. Results published in New England Journal of Medicine.

St. Joseph’s Medical Center awarded Quality Leader Award for third consecutive year from the National Research Corporation.

1999
St. Mary Gabriel Lally, O.P., whose career at St. Joseph’s Medical Center spanned 45 years, dies February 11, at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent, San Rafael.

St. Joseph’s Medical Center is selected as one of the top 100 Top Hospitals in the nation for Interventional Cardiology according to HClA, an industry leader in health care information.

St. Joseph’s Medical Center is honored by the American Heart Association with the Heart Hall of Fame Award, honoring St. Joseph’s for their continuing commitment to fighting heart disease in our communities.

St. Joseph’s Medical Center is honored by the Greater Stockton Chamber of Commerce with the Heritage Award. The award honors area businesses that have served the Stockton community for a century.

St. Joseph’s awarded 1999 Consumer Choice Award (formerly Quality Leader Award) for fourth consecutive year from the National Research Corporation.

St. Joseph’s Medical Center is selected as the 1999-Century Business of the Year by the San Joaquin County Historical Society.

December 21, St. Joseph’s Medical Center of Stockton celebrates 100 years of service to the Stockton community.
...A century later, St. Joseph's had grown to become a regional medical center, with 291 beds, over 400 physicians and more than 2,000 employees. For the fourth consecutive year St. Joseph's has been named the Consumers Choice, chosen as the most preferred hospital by local consumers, and recently selected as one of the nation's Top 100 Hospitals for cardiovascular services. For 100 years, St. Joseph's has served a growing community with care and compassion, technology and innovation. We've become a regional medical center, recognized for quality, leadership and excellence.

What began as a dream on a small stake of land, has grown to become a premiere organization, valued for its contributions to health care as well as the economic health of our community. Thanks to the pioneering efforts of Fr. O'Connor, and the visionary leaders that have followed, St. Joseph's Medical Center continues to exemplify leadership, excellence and community service.