

History of Nationwide Children's Hospital

The roots of Nationwide Children's Hospital date back to 1890 when a group of girls and young women, members of the King's Daughters of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, met at a home on East Town Street to discuss ways and means of establishing a children's hospital in Columbus. They planned and held a benefit fair, which raised \$125. This money was deposited in the Deshler Bank to earn interest while the women generated support for the new venture.

Less than a year later, a founding group of men and women met to plan a children's hospital in Columbus. The Articles of Incorporation were filed on February 27, 1892, and two days later, 15 trustees were appointed and 15 women were named to a "Board of Lady Managers." This latter group would volunteer their services to oversee the daily operations of Children's Hospital for more than 50 years.

The first patient was admitted in February 1894 to the then new, three-story brick hospital on Columbus' east side across from Franklin Park. Seventy patients were admitted to the nine-bed hospital that first year.

Children's moved to its present location in 1924 with the opening of an H-shaped 75-bed, red brick building that was easily expandable — and soon would be — to 150 beds.

The 1938 Marks addition to the hospital's east side began a period of physical expansion that still continues.

In the early 1940's, the Ohio State University moved its Department of Pediatrics to Children's and its chairman, Dr. Earl Baxter, was named the hospital's medical director, a dual appointment still used today.

During that same period, Children's hired its first administrator, Robert M. Porter, who assumed operational responsibility from the Women's Board.

Timken Hall was built in 1950 as a nurses' dormitory so that badly needed space in the hospital could be converted for patient care use. Construction of a new five-story South Wing in 1960 increased the hospital's bed capacity to 304.

The first building devoted exclusively to research was built in 1961 with the opening of Ross Hall, which was expanded from two to four floors in 1965. The hospital's role in research was formalized in 1964 with the founding of the Children's Hospital Research Foundation.



Elks Pavilion, Children's Hospital, 1894

A six-story patient tower was opened in 1976, followed by the completion of a two-story surgical addition in 1985. The five-story Wexner Institute for Pediatric Research was completed in 1987 to accommodate Children's burgeoning research programs.

The hospital's important role in education was tremendously enhanced in the fall of 1992 with the opening of a six-story Education Center. At about the same time, ground was broken for a seven-story Outpatient Care Center, which houses virtually all of the Children's outpatient programs, an Urgent Care and private pediatric practices on the hospital campus.

Nationwide Children's outreach into the community includes 21 *Close to Home*SM Health Care Centers and Physician Care Centers, including centers in Westerville, Dublin and the far east side of Columbus that provide urgent care services. *Close to Home*SM centers also provide services such as occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech therapy, radiology, lab services, behavioral health and counseling and primary physician care.

The expansion of the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital in December 2003, has helped to move Nationwide Children's forward in the area of pediatric research and support the hospital's mission of providing the highest quality patient care.

The Center for Child and Family Advocacy opened in January 2005 just across from main campus. The Center integrates, under one roof, comprehensive services for abused children and victims of domestic violence.

In September 2007, Columbus Children's Hospital became Nationwide Children's Hospital, honoring a transformational gift from the Nationwide Foundation. A new name and logo were adopted with the same commitment to treat all those in need of care, from newborns through young adults, regardless of ability to pay.

Your Role as a Volunteer

Volunteers can provide warm, helpful, positive interactions with patients and families, which add to their comfort and happiness. You help to personalize the hospital experience. Look for ways you can be of assistance in your designated volunteer area, as well as other areas such as the lobby, parking lot, elevators and cafeteria.

Volunteers provide extra services for patients and families, for which no staff are available. Services such as the admitting gift cart, Club-house support, and reading to children in waiting areas are good examples.

Volunteers also assist hospital staff so they can do the jobs for which they are specially trained. Volunteers greatly enhance the quality of care we provide throughout Nationwide Children's Hospital.

