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History



Although United Hospital District (UHD) has been in existence as a district hospital under Minnesota statutes since 1966, the history of the organization has been traced back as far as 1886. In 1966, legislators in Minnesota created special taxing districts for the formation of hospital districts. United Hospital District, "a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Minnesota under Minnesota Statute #447.31" was created out of this legislation on December 12, 1966, and ownership was transferred from the City of Blue Earth to the special district on January 25, 1967. The original district was comprised of 14 communities and townships within Faribault County. In addition to the Blue Earth campus, an existing hospital in Winnebago was also part of the newly formed district.

The new Governing Board determined an expansion was necessary at the Blue Earth location and property adjacent to the existing location was cleared for this expansion in the summer of 1968. Construction was completed and an open house for the new hospital building was held in January 1971. Just before the open house, UHD received its first successful accreditation by the Joint Commission on Hospital Accreditation, an accreditation UHD continues to hold.

The Winnebago hospital site was closed on August 3, 1977, and both the Village of Winnebago and City of Winnebago subsequently withdrew from the District on February 29, 1980. On November 14, 1981, the Winnebago facility reopened as Fountain Lake Adolescent Treatment Center.

Meanwhile, the Blue Earth facility continued to expand and groundbreaking for additional patient care areas, including a new special care unit, was held in November 1982, with an open house for the new addition two years later in October 1984. Fundraising for hospital activities was given a boost in 1990 with the formation of the UHD Foundation in June. Expansion of services

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continued in March of 1993 with a dedication ceremony for UHD's first in-house CT unit.

Major renovation of the facilities Emergency Room, Outpatient Services, and Rehab Therapy areas and the addition of a new Same Day Surgery center commenced with a groundbreaking in July 1999. The open house for the completion of this project was held in October 2000. Final cost: \$4.2 million. Yet another renovation project, this time focusing on UHD's inpatient rooms, laboratory, and addition of a third operating room began with a ground breaking ceremony in April 2003, with an estimated cost of \$4.1 million.

Groundbreaking for the most recent renovation took place on September 15th, 2009, and marked the beginning of the clinic and hospital expansion. The newly consolidated facility will allow all UHD providers to offer their services in one, easily accessible location. It will also provide updated spaces for medical imaging, laboratory and food services enhancing your care experience. More information on this project can be found under the construction update tab on this website.

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