



ST. JOE

M
American Nurses
Credentialing Center

ANCC MAGNET RECOGNITION

ST. JOSEPH'S
MERCY OF
ATLANTA
AUXILIARY

Shared
Governance
Saint Joseph's

St. Joseph's Infirmary
School of Nursing

MERCK'S MANUAL

Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation
2000 ANNUAL REPORT

Celebrating 120 Years in Atlanta

What can you do with 50 cents and a tackle box? How about provide high quality of health care with dignity and compassion to many – including the poor and homeless?

In 1880, four sisters with only 50 cents in hand and a mission in mind founded what has become one the nation's leading hospitals in clinical and nursing excellence. A century later, a volunteer group of Saint Joseph's doctors, nurses and support staff – with tackle boxes in hand and the same mission in mind – reached out to Atlanta's homeless and administered compassionate care.

A few years later, this volunteer-run "street program" evolved into Mercy Care Services, which is staffed with nurses, physicians and outreach workers, and is funded in part by gifts and grants acquired by Saint Joseph's Mercy Foundation. Today, Mercy Care Services operates a fleet of vans, and one fully equipped

mobile clinic, as well as five fixed sites. The mobile units, which provide services at 10 different locations throughout metro Atlanta, offer care not only to the homeless, but to the poor, the uninsured, the underserved and emerging immigrant populations.

This spirit of giving of time, talent, leadership, money and ideas – at great sacrifice, in the face of uncertain times – has been the hallmark of the entire Saint Joseph's community, including physicians, nurses, support staff, volunteers, trustees and donors.

Because of the enormous contributions of others – in prosperous times as well as financially difficult years, including the Great Depression and two world wars – Saint Joseph's has grown and thrived for 120 years. Today, it is an award-winning specialty medical complex, offering state-of-the-art care in diverse "centers of excellence."



Sisters of Mercy attend to the wounded in Atlanta during the Civil War.



Still recovering from the trauma of the Civil War, Atlanta is in the painful process of rebuilding what was – and again would be – a major hub.

Through private donations, the original property is paid for, and plans for expansion begin.



The Civil War

1880

1880-1884



Four nuns from the Sisters of Mercy convent in Savannah – Sister Cecilia Carroll, Sister Helena Sheehan, Sister Borgia Thomas and Sister Berchmans Young – travel to Atlanta. Armed with nothing but 50 cents among them, the sisters founded the city's first, much-needed medical facility in a two-story brick building, offering general and maternity care for the city's population of 37,000.

Empowered by her experience in establishing St. Joseph's Hospital in Savannah in 1875, Sister Cecilia leads the dedicated group through her strong determination and faith.

An article in the May 2, 1880, edition of the Atlanta Constitution eloquently expresses the city's response to the hospital:

"Atlanta has a hospital at last. It is a permanent institution that will grow in importance and usefulness as the city's needs increase. The new institution is called the Atlanta Hospital and is controlled by the Sisters whose beautiful ministrations to the afflicted are known to all."

Mercy is an intrinsic part of the Saint Joseph's culture from its inception, as the Sisters visit the sick in their homes and administer care to the poor on the streets of Atlanta.

The cost of running a hospital for one month:

- + Boarding of patients: \$16.50
- + Donations received: \$27.50
- + Wages: \$11
- + Medicine: \$40
- + Laundry: \$1
- + Groceries: \$39.45

A widow, Lula Cox McWhorter, gives her land downtown to officially start Saint Joseph's Infirmary and donates \$5,000 to construct a three-story building on Courtland Street.



1885



Dr. Robert D. Spalding provides \$10,000 toward a surgical wing, which includes an operating room, reception room, waiting rooms and a chapel.

1886



Saint Joseph's Infirmary is chartered by the State of Georgia.

1890



Specialties include:

- ◆ Specialty Center for Neuroscience and The Stroke Center – Saint Joseph's is the only National Stroke Association – designated Stroke Center in Atlanta.
- ◆ Specialty Center for Diabetes Care
- ◆ Specialty Center for Orthopaedics Care – Saint Joseph's has been rated among the top 100 orthopaedic hospitals in the nation.
- ◆ Specialty Center for Heart & Vascular Care – Saint Joseph's has been named in one of the top 100 cardiovascular hospitals in the nation, and is one of only 34 such hospitals rated in the top 100 for both open heart surgery and coronary angioplasty.
- ◆ Specialty Center for Cancer Care & Research – The hospital is one of only 52 sites in the country designated as a Community Clinical Oncology Program by the National Cancer Institute.
- ◆ Specialty Center for Gastrointestinal Care

Saint Joseph's opens its School of Nursing, which graduates 1,320 nurses over a 73-year period.



1900

Leftover funds from Dr. Spalding's 1886 gift are held in a trust and serve as the foundation for the additional surgical wing completed in 1902. Its operating rooms are considered "one of the most complete operating units in the country."



1902

Saint Joseph's has never lost sight of its original mission – to care for the sick with compassion – by striving for excellence in its commitment to healing, and by contributing millions of dollars annually in charity care and health-related services for those who bear the additional burden of poverty. As a result, Saint Joseph's reaches out to the community in need unlike any other health-care system in Atlanta.

Now, as Saint Joseph's endures another financially challenging time due to the government's Balanced Budget Act and limited medical reimbursements, its leaders again face the future with confidence, based on its rich history of support.

"We've been very fortunate to attract and retain physicians, employees, volunteers and other friends over the years who are concerned and interested in others," says Brue Chandler, president of Saint Joseph's Hospital. "Throughout our history, the strength of these individuals has significantly shaped who we are at Saint Joseph's."

"Our mission is what makes the difference. You don't give of your time, talent, energy and money without believing in something, nor do you create a culture overnight," he says. "Saint's Joseph's foundation on a healing ministry and our constant return to our mission – whether it's in a time of crisis or celebration – allows us to draw from our mission to make key decisions based on our values."

How is the mission experienced day-to-day? It's the medical staff who give their time above and beyond their practices ... it's the extraordinary medical leaders and board members who give to make Saint Joseph's a better place for patients ... it's the nurse and physician

who made the first Mercy Mobile visit ... it's the individual who paid out of pocket for transporting a patient back home ... it's Saint Joseph's employees who continually support the *One in the Spirit* campaign, which grows each year ... it's the Auxiliary putting together a food cart with homemade treats for the staff ... it's the houses the Saint Joseph's community has built over the years.

"It's the sum total of all the gifts people give – whether it's those who have the extra time and energy, or others who have the financial opportunity to make things happen through special donations, or those who do their work with compassion and commitment every day – that's what distinguishes Saint Joseph's," says Chandler.

"I'm optimistic about the future," he adds. "People that possess a spirit of giving are not impacted by blips in the economy. Generous people are still generous in good times and bad. They live out the mission every day, within their means. We are fortunate to be surrounded by them."

As generations turn over to new ones, Saint Joseph's culture is still molded by the mission. Not one area of care is untouched by its influence. The "Mercy Philosophy" is introduced at employee orientations and celebrated in awards. The hospital measures excellence by it and holds people accountable for carrying it out.

As Sister Jane Gerety, senior vice president of sponsorship, explains, "The spirit of giving is cyclical: As the community has given to Saint Joseph's over the years, the hospital has been able to provide excellent health care for the community." The cycle continues.



Col. Jack Spalding donates funds for Loyola Hall, which houses the nursing school.

Saint Joseph's purchases two more buildings from J.W. Tribble, who donates part of his property.

Additional property is acquired, involving a loan deal from Rose W. Young.

The surgical wing is rebuilt to include operating rooms, a Gothic chapel and remodeled wards fully equipped and furnished by a generous donation from the J.J. Haverly family.

Additional property is acquired as the hospital expands services to meet the growing needs of the community.



1909

1927

1929