

Seasons



Celebrating 50 Years of Care

Through the years...



1965

Citizens in Cass County vote to establish a county hospital. This was particularly significant because of the taxpayers' commitment to help fund the new hospital on an ongoing basis.

Did you know? The ballot measure only passed by 14 votes!



1967

April 1: The official groundbreaking is held and construction begins.



1968



February 12: The Cass County Health System Foundation begins as the Dorothy S. Kelloway Diagnostic and Research Foundation. To date, the CCHS Foundation has reached more than \$1 million in total assets and has provided more than \$2 million in equipment, services, and education. Major projects include the Healing Garden, 3D Mammography unit, and OB central monitoring equipment. The CCHS Foundation also oversees a scholarship fund created by a bequest from Elsie & Louie Hansen.

October 6: Cass County Memorial Hospital holds the official dedication and open house.

October 12: The first patients move into the new hospital.

November 1: Atlantic Medical Center opens. AMC was a private medical practice owned by five general practice physicians: John Moriarity, MD; Einer Juel, MD; Dwain Wilcox, MD; Millard Petersen, MD; John Weresh, MD.





It is a privilege for me to bring greetings and to extend my congratulations to all those who are a part of CCMH at this point in its history. My years at CCMH were early years at the current site. As I reflect on the highlights, it is important to begin with the people, including the Board of Trustees, Medical Staff, Management Team,

Nursing Staff, Support and Service Staff, and the Hospital Auxiliary. Their philosophy of "reaching out to people with care that is more than concern" prompted rapid growth in use of the hospital and its services.

The recruitment of a pathologist, P.C. Ramon, MD, not only enlarged the hospital's capabilities by bringing in other physician specialists, but began a time of shared services on a regional basis. With the void in public health nursing services, CCMH became the first hospital in Iowa to provide in-home

nursing services. By 1974, the first expansion of the CCMH facility at this site became necessary. This major addition, completed in 1977, provided for the growth in services needed throughout the county and beyond.

In October 1978, CCMH celebrated its ten-year anniversary on this site and its 75th year in Atlantic. Five paintings done by Atlantic artist, Marilyn Van Antwerp, were unveiled. These paintings represent the five hospital buildings that have been a part of the growth since 1903. A newspaper supplement was placed in the Atlantic, Anita, and Griswold newspapers explaining the history, progress, and growth of CCMH.

I'm delighted to see all of the ways CCMH keeps moving forward. The strong creative leadership and people-to-people commitment continues. This will maintain the vitality in an ever-changing health care environment.

Respectfully,
Marlin Stirm
Administrator 1972-1981

1972

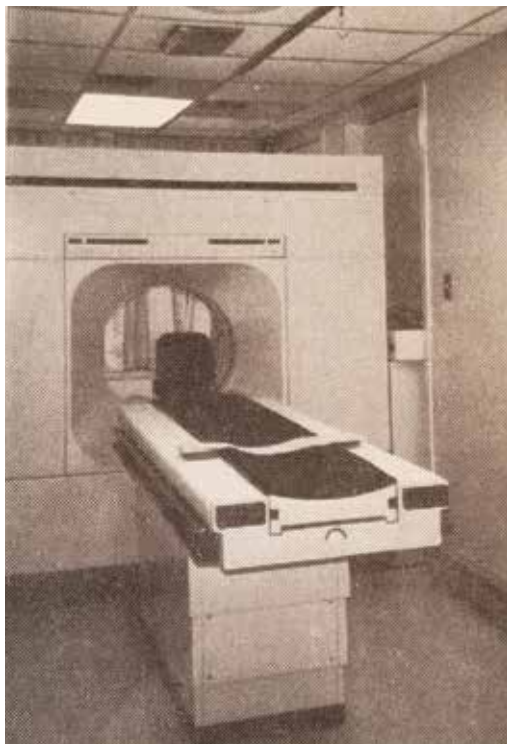
The Cass County Board of Supervisors contracts with CCMH to manage and staff public health services for the county, making CCMH the first hospital in the state of Iowa to incorporate home care and public health services into the hospital.



1974

First Expansion: The growth of ancillary services meant that the hospital needed to expand. The hospital breaks ground on a 27,000 sq. ft. addition in November 1974, which would provide additional space for 16 areas including laboratory, x-ray, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, special care and outpatient departments. The \$2,250,000 project was completed in 1977.





1985



Cass County Memorial Hospital becomes part of the first mobile CT network in southwest Iowa, collaborating with four area hospitals. This high-tech diagnostic equipment was just beginning to reach out from major metro hospitals into rural communities at this time.


1982 - 1984





Second Expansion: The Iowa Department of Health approved the conversion of some acute care beds to skilled care beds, which allowed the hospital to provide nursing care on an intermediate level, between acute hospital care and nursing home care. This enabled patients to stay in the hospital for rehabilitation care after surgeries rather than transferring to a nursing home before going back to their own home.

Construction begins in January 1983. The expansion cost \$1,500,000 and included the complete renovation and remodeling of the power plant, which would make the hospital more efficient. The expansion allowed for the relocation of medical records, doctors' lounge, admitting area, outpatient waiting room, and home health.



1987

 CCMH installs an in-house mammography unit.

1988

 A 16-bed mental health unit opens on the second floor of the hospital. The unit was divided into an 8-bed adult section and an 8-bed pediatric section. At this point in time, the hospital had 74 acute care beds, 10 skilled care beds, and 16 psychiatric care beds. Today, our Behavioral Health Unit is a 4-bed facility located near the Emergency Department.

1992

 In an effort to better coordinate inpatient and outpatient behavioral health care, CCMH enters into an agreement with Southwest Iowa Mental Health Center so they could share staff and coordinate services. On January 2, 2018, SWIMHC transitioned to a new partnership with Heartland Family Service.



A few thoughts!
 As Cass County Memorial Hospital marks its 50th anniversary, I would like to extend my congratulations as you celebrate this significant achievement. It is with fond memories that I was privileged to be a part of the CCMH family. I joined the CCMH family in 1973

as Laboratory Director and in 1981 became the Administrator until 1988.

The delivery of healthcare has changed so much from the early days when a patient would stay for “who knows how many days.” I recall many days when patients would be kept in the hallways and even in the 2nd floor conference room because there were no patient rooms available.

The facility has changed a number of times over the years and I recall the new Emergency Room, Special Care, Physical Therapy, Medical Records and the list goes on. One thing for certain was how CCMH kept abreast of the changing healthcare environment and was on the cutting edge of what was needed.

One of the memories I have of Cass County Memorial Hospital was the privilege of working for a Board of Directors who were laser focused on the delivery of healthcare for the residents of Atlantic and the surrounding area. The many hours of volunteer leadership was instrumental in making CCMH what it is today. I can’t name them all here but I remember fondly a few: Charles Hunt, Boyd Cambridge, Patricia Bullock, Gail Burke, John Robinson, Don Reinertson, Bernard Pettinger and William Beatty.

I also had the privilege of working with some key individuals who have been instrumental in providing leadership. Marlin Stirn was the Administrator that hired me. I had the privilege of hiring Patricia Markham as an Assistant Administrator. Both of these individuals were a key part of my professional career. Fortunately, I keep in touch with them on a limited basis.

There are so many things I could share about my years in Atlantic, but I would be remiss if I did not say a special “thank you” to all of the employees, past and present, that were and are part of a very special family. I especially want to say a thank you to those I had the privilege of working beside.

Dennis Renander
 Administrator 1981-1988



1993

CCMH celebrates its 25th anniversary.



1997

Atlantic Medical Center opens in their new location on February 14, 1997.

Eye Associates opens their clinic on the second floor of the newly added wing.

New outpatient cardiac rehab program begins.



1995

As improvements in healthcare technology and methods continued to advance, hospitals across the country were shifting their focus from inpatient to outpatient care. In May 1995, CCMH begins an \$8.6 million expansion and renovation project, which would create a centralized outpatient wing of the hospital. The new wing included a medical clinic with space for 12 physicians, outpatient specialty clinic, surgical areas, and centralized rehab services. Extensive renovation created space for an in-house CT scanner and improved surgical areas. The project was completed in 1998.



As I reflect back on my years at Cass County Memorial Hospital, I realize I have many people to thank for making my time at CCMH such a significant part of my life. First of all, Dennis Renander, my mentor, for hiring me in 1984, and secondly, the Board of Trustees for appointing me as Administrator in 1988, as well as the other Board members over the

years for their confidence, trust, and support of me, and their commitment and dedication to providing the highest quality healthcare for the citizens of Cass County. They attend monthly Board meetings, committee meetings, healthcare conferences, read numerous articles as well as learn the language and regulations that make up the very complex business that healthcare has become.

Some memories that stand out for me are the two large construction projects undertaken in 1995 and 2011. Both projects allowed us to improve the facilities, equipment, technology, and infrastructure to better provide the services needed by our community in a rapidly changing environment. The Board of Trustees and Medical Staff I was privileged to work with always looked to the future, stayed abreast of changing times, and made sure CCMH adapted as needed to ensure that CCMH was on the cutting edge and continued as a premier rural healthcare facility.

One of the more significant events that occurred during my tenure was the creation of Cass County Health System in 2000. The foresight and vision of the Board of Trustees and Medical

Staff allowed the hospital and all providers to create the Health System, allowing us all to work together, be stronger, and better position ourselves to face the healthcare challenges of the future and ensure the long-term viability of healthcare in Cass County.

But, most importantly, what makes CCMH so special and what stands out for me are the truly hardworking, service-minded, dedicated staff. Everyone, including physicians, other providers, nurses, laboratory and radiology techs, maintenance, housekeeping, food service and all others, were always there for our patients and each other. This was evidenced not only by their day-to-day dedication, but also in the unusual times or times of "disaster." The Halloween ice storm in 1991 and the March blizzard in 2007 are just two of the examples of this exceptional service. In 1991 a major ice storm knocked out power around the county. People sought shelter at CCMH and we accommodated over 100 people in every available room, conference room, and even hallways, some for over a week. During this storm and the 2007 blizzard, staff prepared in anticipation, coming in early for shifts or staying after their shifts were over, with suitcases in hand, prepared to stay for the duration of the storms, leaving families behind at home, to make sure patients and community members always received the best possible care even in the worst of times. This truly exemplifies the heart and soul of CCMH for me.

Congratulations to CCMH for the past 50 years! I have no doubt CCMH will be around to provide the same outstanding healthcare services for the next 50 years!

Pat Markham
Administrator 1988-2014



2000



Cass County Health System is formed on January 1, 2000. The local health system included three charter members: Cass County Memorial Hospital, Cass County Medical Clinics (Atlantic Medical Center and Eye Associates), and Southwest Iowa Mental Health Center. Partnering together as CCHS allowed these local healthcare providers to work more closely in recruiting, staffing, and employee benefits. Southwest Iowa Surgery joined CCHS in October 2004.

2005



CCMH becomes a Critical Access Hospital, which is a designation given to eligible rural hospitals by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Congress created the Critical Access Hospital (CAH) designation through the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 in response to a string of rural hospital closures during the 80s and 90s, to ensure rural citizens would continue to have access to healthcare. In 2007, Atlantic Medical Center becomes a Rural Health Clinic.

2011

2011 brought the beginning of a three-phase expansion and renovation project to CCHS. The total project cost was close to \$25 million, financed with recovery zone bonds made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



2012









A new two-story addition opens that includes the Emergency Department, Surgery, Inpatient Services (med/surg, intensive care), and OB. Existing hospital spaces were renovated to create new or expanded areas for Rehabilitation Services, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Specialty Clinic, Oncology, Wound/Ostomy/Continence Care, Diagnostic Imaging, MRI Suite, Atlantic Medical Center, and additional conference room space. The project was completed in 2016.



How your hospital impacts the local economy

What is the Multiplier Effect?

The health sector and the employees in the health sector purchase a large amount of goods and services from local businesses. These purchases are referred to as secondary impacts or benefits to the economy. In economics, this measure is called the “multiplier effect.” In this report, two multipliers are utilized: “employment multiplier” and “income multiplier” which are included in the employment impact and payroll impact shown.

	 Employment	 Payroll	 Retail Sales	 Sales Tax
 All Cass County Medical Services	1,611	\$67.8 Million	\$18 Million	\$1 Million
 Cass County Memorial Hospital	575	\$30.3 Million	\$8 Million	\$481,789
 Physicians, Dentists & Other Practitioners	179	\$7.9 Million	\$2.1 Million	\$127,299



2016



Southwest Iowa Surgery expands to accommodate increased orthopedic surgery and general surgery services.

2018



We bring together more than 375 individuals with one common goal—to provide the highest quality medical care possible in a compassionate, caring manner. We care for patients from all walks of life with medical needs ranging from minor aches and pains to life-threatening emergencies, and everything in between.

CCHS affiliates include Cass County Memorial Hospital, Atlantic Medical Center, Eye Associates, and Southwest Iowa Surgery.

At Cass County Health System, we believe in the values of respect, communication, accountability, and customer service. We take to heart our slogan, “Neighbors Caring for Neighbors.”



The Power of Volunteers

Volunteers have played a vital role in the health of Cass County Health System. Auxiliary members assist in patient care areas with transport and communication, staff the information desk, run the gift shop and have fundraisers to provide equipment, supplies and educational opportunities for staff. The Auxiliary also supports students with annual health career scholarships. Other volunteers provide free transportation and install Lifeline emergency alert units in clients' homes. Volunteers serve on our Board of Trustees, the CCHS Foundation Board, and numerous committees.

It would be impossible to measure the full impact that volunteers have made here; simply put, we would not be here today without their tireless support.

At Cass County Health System (CCHS), we have a lofty vision of being the best rural hospital in the country. We work diligently as a team to live out our mission of providing a superior experience to everyone we are privileged to serve.

Others across the country have taken notice. Through a concentrated team effort and an organization-wide commitment to quality, outcomes, and patient safety, CCHS was recognized for the 2017 Performance Leadership Award. We were also nationally ranked as one of the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals in the country in 2017 and again in 2018. Our staff has rated CCHS a top workplace in Iowa according to the Des Moines Register poll for each of the past 4 years. Our emergency care team received a 2018 national award for being in the top 1% of emergency departments in the country for hospitals under 100 beds. Because quality, safety, and trust are foundational to the culture at CCHS, these recognitions are affirming for our team members and underscore that we are focused on the right work.

Over the past 18 months we have recruited over a dozen additional physicians and advanced practice professionals

to meet our goal of providing more services at CCHS. We are currently working on innovative care utilizing telemedicine technology so that we can offer some of the hardest-to-get specialties locally. This year we have also spent a considerable amount of time and effort in the implementation of our new state-of-the-art electronic medical record.

Our strength today builds upon our heritage over the past 50 years and the leadership, vision, and dedication of those who came before. As we look forward to the rest of 2018 and the years ahead, we know there will be many more opportunities to bring exceptional healthcare to even more patients in Cass County and beyond. We are actively engaged in this work, and know that we could not do it without your overwhelming support. Thank you for choosing CCHS and partnering together with us on this exciting journey!

Sincerely,

Brett Altman, DPT, MBA, FACHE
Chief Executive Officer
Cass County Health System

CCHS Administrative Team



Brett Altman
Chief Executive
Officer



Denise Coder
Chief Human
Resources Officer



Jeff Osegard
Chief Information
Officer



Abbey Stangl
Chief Financial
Officer



Beth Spieker
Chief Clinic
Administrator



Amanda Bireline
Chief Nursing
Officer



Dr. Todd Bean
Chief Medical
Officer

CCMH Board of Trustees



Left to right: Jerry Putnam, Jody Lorence, Julie Pollock, Roger Herring, Michael Klocke, Ned Brown, and Leanne Pellett.

Weresh Expands Practice at CCHS

Beginning November 5, Dr. Matt Weresh will be caring for patients in Atlantic three days each week, and Southwest Iowa Surgery will be his only practice location. Dr. Weresh provides a wide scope of orthopedic services, including total knee and hip replacements. He enjoys working with patients of all ages, including children and adolescents. Patients can make an appointment directly with Dr. Weresh by calling Southwest Iowa Surgery at 712-243-7535.



Dr. Keiser Now Seeing Patients

Dr. Autumn Keiser began seeing patients at the Atlantic Medical Center on September 19, 2018. She provides the full spectrum of family medicine care, including obstetrics. An Omaha native, Dr. Keiser received her medical degree from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 2015. She completed her family medicine residency at the Siouxland Medical Education Foundation. To make an appointment with Dr. Keiser, call Atlantic Medical Center at 712-243-2850.



You're invited!

Please join us for a free chili dinner to help celebrate our 50th anniversary! Stop by any of these locations from 5 – 6:30 pm.

October 3 — Cass County Memorial Hospital, Atlantic

October 17 — Griswold Community Center, Griswold

October 23 — Anita Community Center, Anita

October 30 — CAM Middle School, Massena



Medical Staff

Chief Medical Officer

Todd Bean, MD

Ear, Nose, and Throat

Tracey Wellendorf, MD

Family Medicine

Seann Atkinson, DO

Edna Becht, DO

Elaine Berry, MD

Ben Howard, DO

Autumn Keiser, MD

Angie Weppler, MD

Stacey Bean, PA-C

Jodi Goodrich, PA-C

Elisha Hardy, ARNP

Scott Hixson, PA-C

Jessica Jackson, ARNP

Mary Robinson, PA-C

Max Starlin, PA-C

Hospital Medicine

Paul Kerschinske, ARNP

Shannon Peterson, ARNP

Obstetrics and Gynecology

James Brown, MD, FACOG

Optometry

Jeff Goergen, OD

Orthopedics

Matthew Weresh, MD, FAAOS

Zachary Hollingsworth, PA-C

Podiatry

Roger Drown, DPM

Psychiatry

Ivan Delgado, MD

Surgery

Chad McCance, MD, FACS

Emergency Department

Mark Johnson, MD

Tammy Bireline, ARNP

Jen Morgan, PA-C

Ann Wieseler, ARNP

Specialty Clinic

Allergy, Asthma, Sinus

Ravinder Agarwal, MD

Cardiology

Anand Deshmukh, MD

Aaron From, MD

Mark Holmberg, MD

Ann Narmi, MD

Atul Ramachandran, MD

Dermatology

Anne Nelson, PA-C

Linda Schilling, ARNP

Diagnostic Imaging

Diagnostic Radiology, PC

Gynecologic Oncology

Kerry Rodabaugh, MD

Hemodialysis

Davita Atlantic

Nephrology

J.P. Schmolck, MD

Neurosurgery

Ric Jensen, MD

Obstetrics & Gynecology

Mike Woods, MD, FACOG

Oncology

Stacey Parker, MD

Sakeer Hussain, MD

Seema Harichand, MD

Ophthalmology

David Hanks, DO

Pediatric Cardiology

Robert Spicer, MD

Plastic Surgery

Bryan Folkers, DO

Pulmonology

Jason Mohr, DO

Erin Tracy, ARNP

Retinal Specialist

David Ingvaldstad, MD

Urology

Bruce Lundak, MD

Vascular Medicine

Hazem El-Arous, MD

Board Of Trustees

Ned Brown, Chairman

Roger Herring

Jody Lorence

Leanne Pellett

Julie Pollock

Jerry Putnam

Michael Klocke

CCMH Auxiliary

Marcia Weis, President

Chuck Ehen, Vice President

Elaine Martens, Secretary

Cheryl Wessels, Treasurer

Lucy Newton, Bookkeeper

CCHS Foundation

Kent Gade, President

Jim Mailander, Vice President

Sid Knop, Secretary

Dave Chase, Treasurer

CCHS Services

24-hr. Emergency Department

Acute, Skilled and Intensive
Care Nursing

Ambulatory Heart Monitoring

Behavioral Health Services:
Inpatient, Senior Life
Solutions

Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab

Care Coordination

Cass County Public Health

Continuing Education

CPR & First Aid Classes

Diabetes Center

Diagnostic Imaging: CT
scans, ultrasound, MRI,
nuclear medicine, bone
densitometry, PET scans, 3D
mammography, stereotactic
biopsy and digital
radiography

Health Screenings

Hydrotherapy

Laboratory

Lifeline

Obstetrics: birthing room,
prenatal classes, fetal
monitoring, epidural,
certified lactation counselor

Pet Therapy

Rehab Services: physical,
speech, occupational
therapies

Respiratory Care

Sleep Studies

Surgery: general; orthopedic;
ear, nose & throat; podiatry;
ophthalmologic; urological

Telemetry monitoring

Tobacco Cessation

Wound, Ostomy, Continence
Care

Individuals shall be accorded impartial access to treatment or accommodations that are available or medically indicated, regardless of race, creed, color, gender, national origin, age, sexual preference, disability or sources of payment for care.

Seasons is published quarterly by Cass County Memorial Hospital to keep residents of the Cass County area in touch with issues in health care.

For more information, contact Cass County Memorial Hospital, 1501 East 10th Street, Atlantic, Iowa 50022. Telephone: (712) 243-3250

Seasons Editors

Sara Nelson

Ann McCurdy



www.casshealth.org



(712) 243-3250



@CassHealth



[www.facebook.com/
CassCountyHealthSystem](https://www.facebook.com/CassCountyHealthSystem)