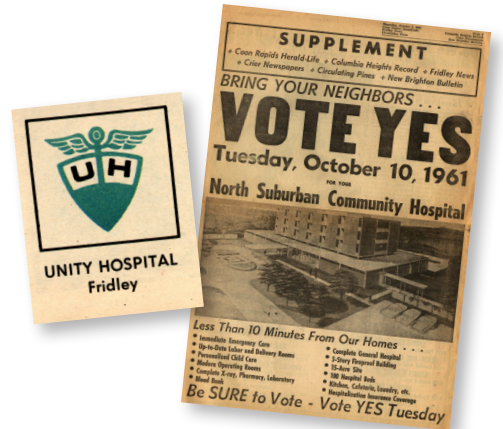# 50
Years of Caring!

The 1950s saw a boom in population and growth in the regions surrounding the Twin Cities. Central Avenue in Fridley was a two-lane highway with dirt shoulders, and East River Road was an obstacle course of mud after it rained. Young families moving here didn't let a few bumps faze them — unless there was an emergency.

For example: little Randy Wall was at home in Mounds View after tonsil surgery and began bleeding. His terrified parents grabbed him and began a harrowing drive to a downtown Minneapolis hospital.

Randy got better and, over time, so did the roads. However, Randy's mother, Betty, vowed that future north metro residents would receive hospital care close to home.

Betty and others active in the newly formed North Suburban Hospital District gathered support for a new hospital, and Unity hospital was dedicated on May 1, 1966.

We now celebrate 50 years of service to the North Metro. In that time, Unity Hospital has continued to grow, enhancing services and capabilities to meet the communities' needs. Please enjoy this look through the past 50 years, and know that Unity will continue offering the best in health care to the people of its communities for years to come.
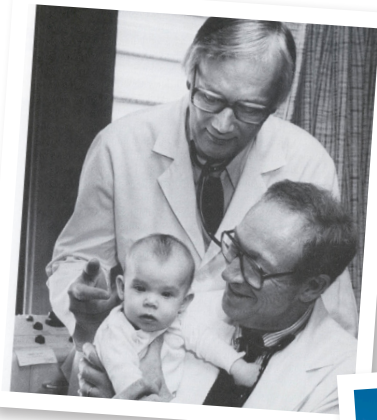

In 1961 the North Suburban Hospital District urged the community to vote in favor of the name "Unity" from the word "community" for the new proposed hospital in Fridley.

The Unity Hospital Auxiliary was formed in March 1966 to support hospital fundraising activities.

The first baby was born at Unity May 24, 1966; she was named Eunice.

1984 William Carr, MD, holding a new patient, and Donald Dummer, MD, were among 52 charter physicians on Unity's original medical staff. Today the medical staff of Unity numbers more than 600.

Unity Hospital was dedicated on May 1, 1966 and saw their first patients on May 23.

Between 1971 and 1985, Unity's licensed beds grew from 150 to 275; a medical office building, a new emergency room and additional surgery suites were added.

allinahealth.org/unity

A 24-hour community pharmacy opened in 1986, one of the first available to north metro residents.

The Radiation Therapy Center opened in April 1992, providing outpatient cancer treatment close to home.

More than 7,000 North Metro patients have benefited from the renowned bariatric surgery program at Unity, which opened in 1996.

In 2003, Unity offered new cardiovascular catheterization facilities and upgraded diagnostic equipment; North Suburban Hospital District made a major contribution to the project.

The Emergency Department was renovated in 2008 to include 39 bays and specialty rooms, including state-of-the-art isolation of infectious diseases.

In 2011, Unity's new Joint Replacement Center opened. Since then, Unity earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for Hip and Knee Replacement Certification.

In 2015, Interlude Restorative Suites, a transitional care facility in partnership with Benedictine Health Systems and Presbyterian Homes and Services, opened on Unity campus.

In 2012, The Virginia Piper Cancer Institute opened on Unity Campus. The ACE (acute care for the elderly) unit also opened. An innovative model of care for older, hospitalized patients, it was the first of its kind in Allina Health and only the second designated ACE unit in Minnesota.

Unity was designated one of four Ebola treatment centers in Minnesota in 2014.

A very special thank you to Mercy & Unity Hospitals Foundation and our generous donors for their continued support of Unity Hospital.

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UNITY HOSPITAL