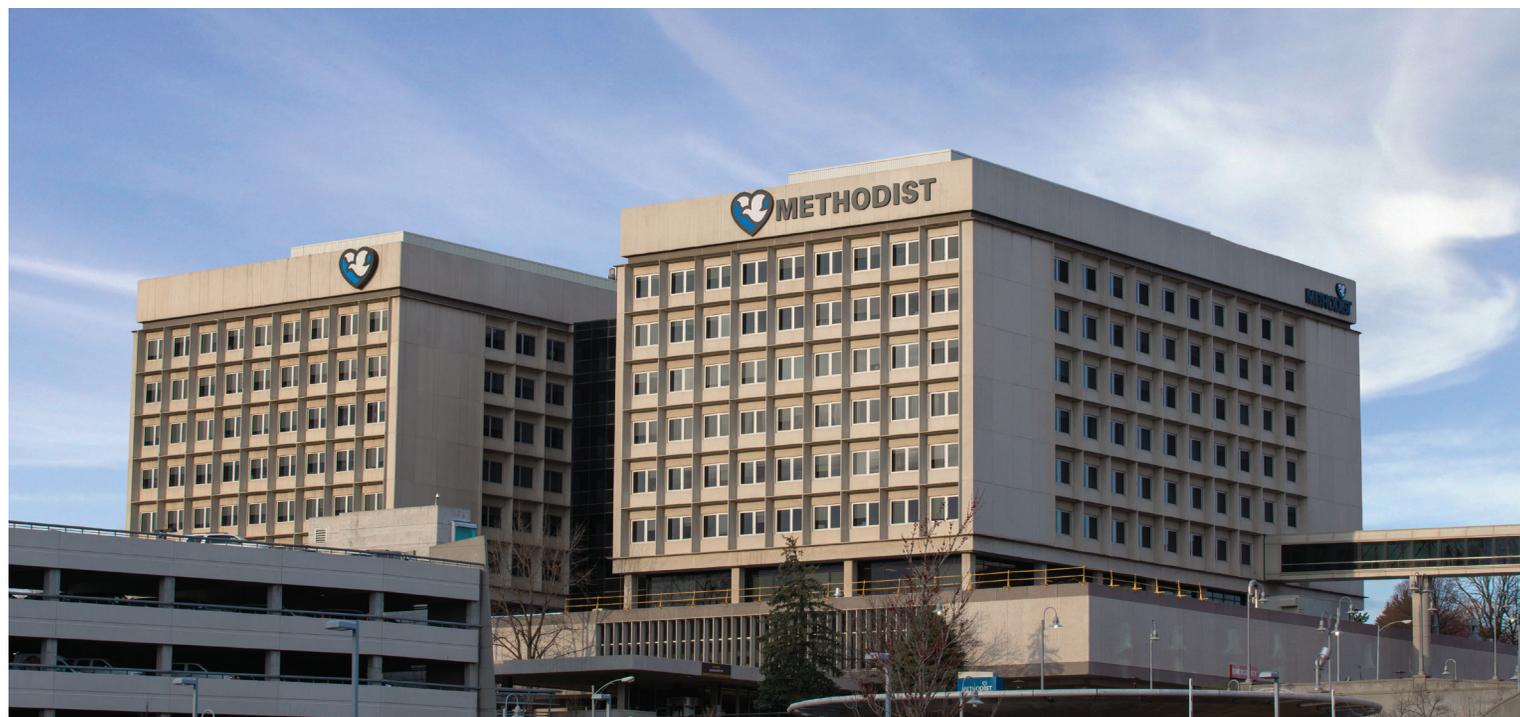


Methodist Health System

Celebrating 125 Years of Care



When the Methodist Episcopal Hospital and Deaconess Home Association of Omaha opened on May 28, 1891, at 20th and Harney Streets, the first patients traveled only as far as their feet or a horse-drawn carriage could take them.

Today, patients travel to Methodist Health System facilities from around the world, drawn to three hospitals and 21 clinics by the specialists, physicians and caregivers recognized as leaders in their fields, and by award-winning services including primary care and wellness, surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, bariatrics, neurology, orthopedics, women's health and the care of older adults.

That's a long way to come in 125 years. "Those who founded the Methodist Episcopal Hospital and Deaconess Home could not have imagined our current Methodist Hospital and Methodist Health System with 6,000-plus employees," says Methodist Health System President and CEO John M. Fraser. "Ours is a long and proud tradition of compassionate care, medical excellence, national recognition, leadership, growth, technology and the innovation essential to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Indeed, today's Methodist Health System is far beyond the wildest imaginations of 1891. Back then, medical facilities in Omaha were sparse and primitive. Most doctors treated their patients at home. Only the very sick or the severely injured even considered going to the hospital — and often as a last resort.

Six patients were admitted the first day Methodist Episcopal Hospital and Deaconess Home opened its doors. There were 13 people on the initial medical staff, including one female physician.

Word of the high quality of care received at the hospital quickly got around. The hospital's 28 beds were often filled, and the average length of stay was 14 days — at an average cost of \$1.04 per day. An annual report prepared by the Methodist deaconesses in 1899 tallied 832 patients admitted, including 350 surgical patients, along with "196 opportunities for prayer" and 104 baskets of food given away.

Driven by a reputation that grew as rapidly as the hospital's services, Methodist Hospital relocated in June 1908 to a newly built, five-story building at 36th and Cuming Streets. It was state-of-the-art,



with 80 patient beds and a modern and sanitary main operating pavilion.

Through the years, Methodist Hospital has set the pace in medical innovation and comprehensive care. It was the first Nebraska hospital to have a staff radiologist chiefly concerned with in-hospital radiology, the first private hospital in Omaha to elect a full-time board-certified pathologist to the staff, the first Nebraska hospital to provide a full-time board-certified anesthesiologist, and the first hospital in Nebraska to provide an emergency

service staffed 24 hours a day by licensed, practicing physicians. Methodist Hospital was also home to Nebraska's first intensive care unit.

Today, Methodist Health System encompasses Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital in Omaha; Methodist Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, Iowa; Methodist Physicians Clinic locations in Nebraska and southwestern Iowa; Nebraska Methodist College, a top nursing and allied health college; Methodist Hospital Foundation; Jennie Edmundson Hospital Foundation; and Shared Service Systems, a medical supply distributorship and laundry.

Methodist President and CEO Fraser notes there are many reasons to be proud of the first 125 years, and even more reasons to look forward to the decades ahead. "Our present-day culture of caring, and bright future of continued innovation and excellence, ensures the promise our founders made in 1891," he says. "Moving forward, we will continue to make a lasting difference as we live 'The Meaning of Care.'"

To hear more stories about Methodist Health System's amazing 125-year history, or to share your own story, visit bestcare.org/share.



A tradition of
**COMPASSIONATE
CARE**

bestcare.org/beyond

