

Celebrating 105 Years of Service of Healthcare to North Central Kansas

A brief history of Cloud County Health Center,
formerly St. Joseph Hospital –

The hospital, owned and operated by the Sisters of St. Joseph, was established in Concordia in 1903. It was one of several acute care hospitals opened by the Sisters. They also sponsored St. Ann's Home, later re-named Mount Joseph in Concordia.

The Sisters of St. Joseph were originally founded in Le Puy, France in 1650 by Father Jean Pierre Medaille. They worked among the people, serving orphans, prisoners, the sick and the destitute. They organized confraternities of mercy, through which they inspired ordinary women to holiness and directed them in missions of mercy and healing. Some of the Sisters of St. Joseph then immigrated to the United States and started a foundation in Buffalo, New York.

In 1883, Mother Stanislaus Leary and several other women set out for Arizona to establish another foundation. Along the way, plans changed, and they offered their services to Loius Mary Fink, O.S.B., Bishop of Leavenworth, Kansas. He appointed them to Newton, where they opened a school. The following year, they were asked by the Rev. Joseph Perrier to come to Concordia. The Reverend offered assistance in the construction of the motherhouse. Mother Stanislaus took residence in Concordia in 1884.

The original hospital was located in the three-story brick building on East Fifth Street, now the Manna House of Prayer. The hospital stayed there for nearly forty five years, but an inadequacy of space forced them to start construction of a new building. Some land west of town was purchased, and construction of the new facility began in late 1949.

The completely modern 150-bed hospital was dedicated on March 6, 1951. The Sisters of St. Joseph maintained their basic philosophy and mission at the new building, continually responding to the health care needs of the

1951 - Entire building air conditioned

1962 - Pediatrics department added

1963 - Central therapy began, hospital store and purchasing department added

1965 - X-Ray and Lab departments received new equipment for further testing

1970 – Intensive Care Unit opened

1976 – 1985 Chemical Dependency Inpatient Unit

1976 - Bio-Medical program began

1978 - 1994 Psychiatric Unit

1982 - Began offering I-125 isotope testing

1983 - Mobile CT Scan service began, which later became the Mobile MRI Scan service

1985 – Hospital ownership transferred to CSJ Health System (Sisters of St. Joseph in Wichita)

1986 – Expansion of Partial Day Surgery

1990 - Skilled Nursing Unit opened

1993 - Wrote new mission statement, and the hospital experienced a \$1,000,000 financial turnaround

changing times.

During 1975-1985, a hospital-based chemical dependency service was implemented to address the increasing problems of alcoholism and drug abuse. A psychiatric unit, family oriented birth center, home health services, outpatient services, and cooperation with other hospitals and physicians also were started. St. Joseph also became the center for providing Lifeline Services, an emergency response system for citizens in their homes. This service provided around-the-clock contact with the hospital, which facilitated immediate help to Lifeline subscribers.

Ownership of the hospital was transferred to the Sisters of St. Joseph in Wichita in 1985 and then transferred to Salina Regional Health Center in 1995. In 2003, the hospital became a stand-alone non-profit facility.

1995 - The Sisters of St. Joseph of Wichita transferred ownership of St. Joseph hospital to Salina Regional Health Center. The name was then changed to Cloud County Health Center.

2001 – Third Floor remodeled as a physician clinic to accommodate merge of Cloud County Medical/Surgical Associates and Medico Associates. New name was The Family Care Center.

Oct. 1, 2002 Cloud County Health Center became a Critical Access Hospital.

Oct. 1, 2003 Cloud County Health Center became a stand-alone not-for-profit 501(c)3 with no outside ownership.

May 2006 – ICU remodeled and moved to 2nd Floor, East Wing.