



PROGRESS

Hartford Hospital's 150th Anniversary: A Celebration of a Community Putting the "Care" Into Health Care

Poised to celebrate 150 years of service to the region in 2004, in this edition of *Hartford Hospital Progress*, we reflect on the power of philanthropy throughout the hospital's history from its first days to the present.

The word "philanthropy" derives from the Greek "philanthropia," meaning, "love for mankind." It is, indeed, a love for mankind that has characterized the close relationship between Hartford Hospital and its community since this institution was founded.

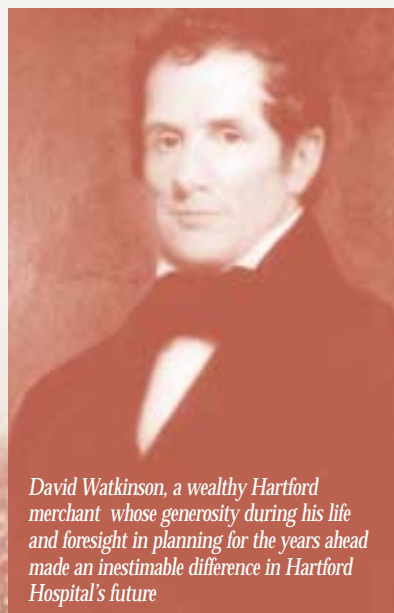
The history began on March 2, 1854 when a steam boiler at the Fales and Gray Car Manufactory in Hartford exploded. The ensuing scene was horrifying: one hundred workers were trapped under the collapsed roof; the boiler, itself, shredded into flying pieces of shrapnel; people jumped from windows to escape the disaster. Nineteen people died and twenty-three were seriously injured. In a city of only 15,000 people, this was an enormous catastrophe. Many Hartford citizens saw this terrible event as a wake-up call, a clear signal to create a hospital to cope

The original hospital trustees, including Dr. Hawley, were the first donors to the facility. The hospital was initially based in the Home for the Sick, whose staff, in a remarkably philanthropic gesture, chose to close, turning over all its assets to the new hospital. Two of the Board's first major efforts were the selection of property on which to construct a building and the inauguration of a subscription campaign to raise funds for the new hospital. In the summer of 1855, a site was selected; however, the hospital did not have the money to purchase the property. Board Director David Watkinson loaned \$16,739 to buy the land, which even now remains part of Hartford Hospital's campus. The fund-raising campaign was equally successful, receiving support from virtually all the economic tiers in Hartford. At the hospital's formal dedication ceremony on

So the monies needed to build the hospital were raised; however, its construction consumed virtually all funds, leaving little for operational costs: *this problem was greatly alleviated when, again, David Watkinson stepped in to save the day. This time posthumously, however. In his will, David Watkinson left the hospital its first bequest: \$40,000.*

While the Watkinson bequest was an extraordinary windfall, additional space and monies were required to serve a growing population. By the Civil War, Hartford's population had tripled in size and records of the hospital's admissions indicate a concomitant increase. The hospital's early directors were extremely astute in some of their fund-raising efforts. As early as 1862, the hospital published a bequest form in its annual report, urged citizens to visit the hospital to see the good work being done and to remember the hospital either during their life or in their wills. *By the end of the 1860s, Hartford Hospital's endowment included 17 major trusts, totaling \$143,500. Citizens were also very generous with gifts-in-kind, donating food, clothing and furniture.*

(continued on page 2)



David Watkinson, a wealthy Hartford merchant whose generosity during his life and foresight in planning for the years ahead made an inestimable difference in Hartford Hospital's future



The Home for the Sick, the hospital's first "home" while its doctors and the Hartford citizenry awaited the construction of a new facility

with crises, more commonplace injuries and contagions. Although the editors knew it would be a costly endeavor (c. \$50,000), the *Hartford Courant* ran an editorial emphasizing the critical need for a local hospital. The Hartford Medical Society immediately supported this effort. Dr. George Hawley led the drive to publicize this cause. A public meeting was soon held and it was agreed that a hospital would be built.

April 18, 1859, Dr. Hawley paid homage to the many who donated to ensure that the hospital would be a reality: "Not only have the rich, from their abundance, opened the benevolence of their Hearts, but the poor have cast their mite into the treasury. Most of our citizens of every class and condition in society have responded to this call of charity in a manner which does honor to their benevolence."

Dr. George Hawley, one of the founders of Hartford Hospital. A plaque commissioned in his honor reads, "In memory of George Benjamin Hawley, M.D., whose untiring zeal and wonderful perseverance during a period of twenty-eight years, active service, was crowned by the successful establishment of this hospital."

When Dr. Samuel Beresford, one of the hospital's first physicians, died in 1873, his wife donated his surgical equipment and extensive medical library to the Hospital. Two building "campaigns" were held in the second half of the 19th century and the citizens of Hartford responded as generously as they had in the 1850s.

There are some exceptional examples of philanthropy during the earlier years of the 20th century, too. *In 1919, a hospital drive for \$500,000 was oversubscribed in ten days.*

A "wall of recognition" recognizing the Hospital's most generous early donors can be found behind the Cheney building

The Campaign That Couldn't be Done

In the late 1930s, it became increasingly obvious that the Hospital desperately needed more and better organized space. Board member George Mead was one of the major proponents of a new building drive. In 1935, his infant son Charlie was a patient at the Hospital. George Mead and his wife Cary were greatly appreciative of the excellent care Charlie received but George clearly recognized the need to improve the hospital's layout for the benefit of the hard-working doctors and nurses. In 1937, he was elected to the Hospital's Board and forcefully advocated for a campaign for a "new" hospital. To add weight to his words, he immediately made his own pledge to a campaign and urged the other directors to name their pledges. In a letter dated December 22, 1937, he wrote, *"There can be no question as to the importance of the hospital to the*

community nor its urgent need. It is evident from the increase in admissions and the resulting shortage of beds that our facilities will soon be unable to meet all the demands made upon them... We have good reasons, therefore, to start the building fund regardless of the times. I am convinced that this community can and will furnish the necessary money. It can hardly do otherwise if the hospital is to stand ready to render to each and every one of us the service

that we expect in time of need." The Board agreed and, under the leadership of James B. Slimmon, Sr. and Barclay Robinson, Sr., Chair and Associate Chair of the Fund-Raising

Committee, construction and fund-raising got underway. If the late 1930s did not seem a propitious time for philanthropy, there were many who believed that the period immediately after Pearl Harbor was significantly worse. Yet, in January 1942, Jim Slimmon and the Board announced a \$5 million building fund drive for the "new" Hartford Hospital. It was believed to have been the largest voluntary hospital building campaign in the nation's history.

The South Building, which housed the new maternity wing and the hospital's main outpatient area, was the first



One of the first South Building patients - on the patient's immediate left are Director of Nursing Ethel Brooks, Hospital Director Dr. Wilmer Allen and Dr. James Raglan Miller. On her far left is Dr. Howard Brayton, President of the Medical Staff.



George Mead, Chairman of the Hospital's Executive Committee

facility completed. Wilmar Allen, M.D., Director of Hartford Hospital, wrote in the 1943 annual report, *"To Mr. James B. Slimmon and Mr. Barclay Robinson, the hospital and the community are forever indebted."* Dr. Allen's words were unusually prophetic as the post-war baby boom and the Circus Fire of 1944 put unforeseen demands on the maternity and outpatient units.

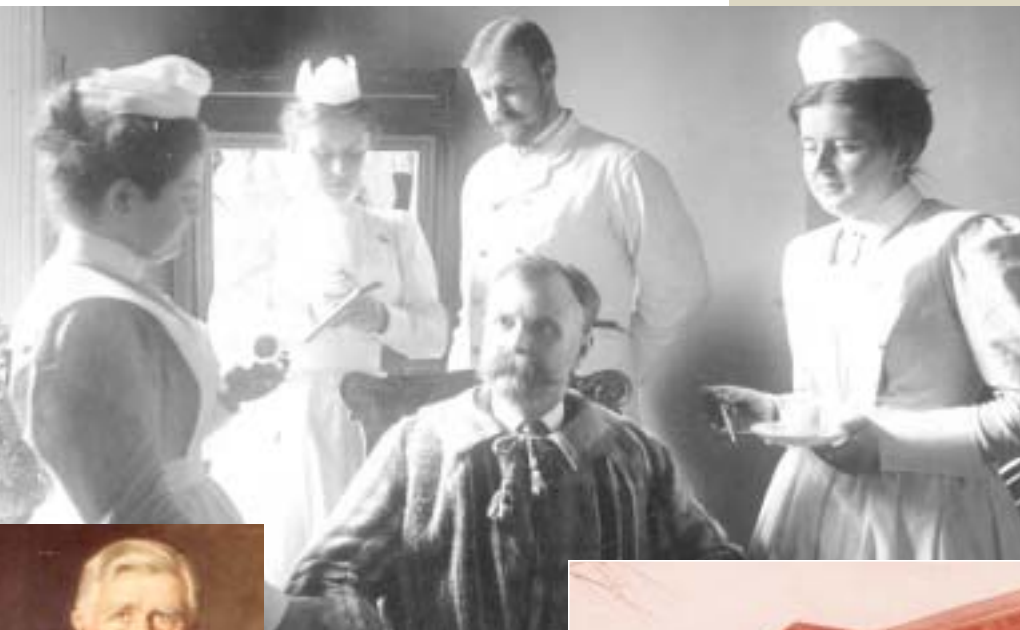
The prologue to the 1945 Annual Report states, *"It took courage and vision to inaugurate a drive directly after Pearl Harbor. Less brave souls considered it a foolhardy venture. They were wrong. The public rallied to the campaign's support and its successful completion with oversubscriptions was announced on January 9, 1943."* The success of this drive was made possible by the hard work of volunteers and numerous large gifts from individuals and corporations. Immediately following the war, the hospital began the High Building. Material costs, unfortunately, had greatly increased, necessitating an additional \$3 million and the community rallied to meet this unanticipated goal. The efforts on behalf of the citizenry during the war years were not only financial. With so many men, including physicians, sent off to war, residents of the Greater Hartford area pulled together in a show of unprecedented unity. The Women's Auxiliary opened the Auxiliary Store in 1943; its profits earmarked for the hospital and, a year earlier, they organized the "Bluebirds," a group of volunteers who helped in the hospital. According to Dr. Wilmar Allen, *"Only an unprecedented mobilization of volunteers kept war-time labor shortages from crippling the hospital's operation... Without the volunteers, one-third of the hospital would have to have been closed."*

The High Building was designed to be a "model of patient-care efficiency." Groundbreaking occurred on September 12, 1945 and Board Directors wrote, *"Our new building [the High Building], reaching up in sunlight and in shadow, is a symbol of far more than stone and steel and glass. To us, it is a symbol of the constant aim of Hartford Hospital to provide the best possible medical and surgical care for the people in the large community we serve."*



(above) The "Easter Parade": The High Building was dedicated on March 14, 1948. Patients were moved to the new facility over Easter weekend.

(left) The completed building, 1948



(above) Lyman Brainard, c. 1900, an early donor whose gifts helped the poor receive care at the hospital.

(right) The Florence Crane Building: monies were donated for its construction by a grateful family.

(left) A portrait of Colonel Louis R. Cheney



Dr. Arthur Heublein, one of the Hartford Hospital's first radiologists, purchased and donated leading X-ray equipment for the hospital and, in 1914, a group of local women approached the hospital's Executive Committee of the Board with a proposal: they would pay for a social worker's salary (a new field at that time) if the hospital would provide appropriate work space. The hospital was able to construct two new facilities – the Cheney and Crane buildings – through the generosity of these two families. Colonel Louis R. Cheney served on the hospital's Board for more than 40 years. He and his daughter, Mrs. John T. Roberts, donated in memory of Colonel Cheney's wife, Mary Robinson Cheney, who was, herself, a major donor to the hospital and the first President of the Hartford Hospital Women's Auxiliary when it started in 1921. Mr. R. T. Crane, Jr., a leading local manufacturer, donated \$100,000 for a new eye, ear, nose and throat facility in recognition of the excellent care his daughter, Florence, a student at Miss Porter's School, received at Hartford Hospital. *The Crane gift is an early example of philanthropy by a grateful patient or family member.*

We thank Steven R. Lytle, Archivist, The Hamilton Archives at Hartford Hospital and The Institute of Living Archives, for his help with this and other issues of PROGRESS.





The Building Fund Campaign of the 1960's

Twenty years later, Hartford Hospital again embarked upon a major building drive; this time for over \$11 million for the construction of the Conklin Building and the Education & Resource Center (as they are presently known). The drive was again championed by several remarkable leaders: Dr. T. Stewart Hamilton, the Hospital's President, and Board members Ed Bates, William Cole, William Conklin, and Barclay Robinson, Sr. The leaders extended their efforts to a variety of potential donors: businesses, individuals, town leaders, hospital volunteers, Medical Staff, and employees. According to Ed Bates, Chairman of the Capital Fund Program, "Only by obtaining new levels of giving can we achieve the goal of continuing excellent medical care for our citizens...I can think of no better example of new level giving than the fact that initial commitments from members of the Board of Directors and Medical and administrative staff of the hospital indicate that total gifts from these sources will approach \$2 million. This is an example of the hospital's family's conviction concerning the necessity of this program to help maintain the health and life of Connecticut's people." By the end of this campaign, corporators alone gave more than \$3.6 million. The Auxiliary, among the most dedicated of Hartford Hospital volunteers, gave \$150,000 for the campaign, and employees \$100,000. The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving gave a grant of \$100,000, the largest grant at that point in the foundation's history.

(below) Barclay Robinson, Sr., Bill Cole, Dr. T. Stewart Hamilton and Bill Conklin on top of the High Building perusing plans for the new facilities.



Building Fund Steering Committee from left to right: (seated) Barclay Robinson, Sr., Bill Conklin, Pomeroy Day, Ostrom Enders, Frank O. H. Williams, Jim Slimmon, Austin Barney; (standing) Ed Bates and Dr. T. Stewart Hamilton



Dr. T. Stewart Hamilton thanking campaign volunteers.

The Campaign for Hartford Hospital

By the 1980s, the Hospital reached out anew for contributions from the community. This time the goal was an unprecedented \$25 million and, again, the support of the community carried us over the top. Under the leadership of Hartford Hospital President and CEO John Springer, Director of Development Jo Champlin Casey, Campaign Chair Pete Thomas and Co-Chair Bob Lazear, The Campaign for Hartford Hospital combined the generosity and expertise of past campaign chairs, such as Bill Conklin, Jim Slimmon, Dr. Stewart Hamilton, and Ed Bates with the energy and interest of new major donors. Both groups gave more than generously of their time, talent and treasure.

The groundbreaking for the Cancer Center: Dr. Monroe Himmelstein, Helen and Harry Gray, Joe Calhoun, and John Springer



R. C. Knox and Company was a major corporate donor and Bob Knox, its president, and his wife gave an immensely generous individual gift. Jane Hamilton, an indefatigable advocate for causes in which she believes, led a \$1 million drive to endow the hospital's first teaching chair, The Ludwig J. Pyrtek, M.D. Chair in Surgery. Many of Dr. Pyrtek's grateful patients made contributions, both large and small, for this drive. The Campaign for Hartford Hospital was greatly assisted through an estate gift from George H. Gilman, Jr. Mr. Gilman, a Hartford native and lawyer, had been a Corporator since 1942 and a consistent donor to the hospital's Annual Fund. The most recognizable symbol from The Campaign for Hartford Hospital is the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center. Harry Gray has spoken eloquently about his and Helen's reasons for making such a sizable contribution. At the dedication of the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, he stated, "We simply made a decision to act before it [cancer] touched another single person we love...Let us work together to replace fear with hope, suffering with comfort, and death with survival. Together, we can make the difference for cancer patients today and tomorrow." He then invited everyone in attendance at the dedication ceremony to join them by making generous donations, volunteering and networking with other organizations to fight the war on cancer.



Robert C. Knox



Jane Hamilton



Dr. Ludwig ("Joe") Pyrtek



Portrait of George H. Gilman, Jr., courtesy of the Connecticut Historical Society

The 150th Anniversary Campaign

The CORE Building going up

The Grays' gift did, indeed, inspire others to give to Hartford Hospital and the presence of the Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center serves as an icon of the community's commitment to health care, a commitment that has now spanned three centuries. The 21st century brings new challenges and the Hospital embarked on its 150th Anniversary Campaign, the first major fund drive of the century, to not only meet these challenges but to constantly exceed everyone's expectations for health care. The Artist's rendering of the new entryway to The Institute of Living CORE Building is providing improved surgical and radiology services to an untold number of people. The Emergency Department has been enlarged and services enhanced. The Institute of



Artist's rendering of the new entryway to The Institute of Living CORE Building is



Roger Klene, Chairman of the Development Committee, Don Frahm, Chairman of the 150th Anniversary Campaign, and Marty Becker, Vice Chairman of the Anniversary Campaign

Living's entryway has been completely remodeled and the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center is able to offer state-of-the-art research and programs to ultimately benefit people with schizophrenia and other mental illnesses.

These and many other new programs and facilities would not have been possible without gifts from thousands of members of our community. Physicians, like Dr. Henry B. C. Low, have given exceptional support to the Anniversary Campaign. In recognition of exceptional care, former patients have donated generously to ensure that future generations will receive the high quality of care to which many of us are now accustomed. Joan Kohn, a member of the Sesquicentennial Circle, has attributed her and her late husband's support for this institution to their doctors' solicitousness and expertise. Members of the Olin family have emphasized their appreciation of the support given by staff. All of the contributors, whether or not they have been patients here, understand the ties that bind the community to the hospital and the hospital to the community.

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A Celebration of Philanthropy

PROGRESS

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Hartford Hospital realizes that individuals would like to learn more about our programs, services or developments. However, we fully respect the privacy of our patients. Therefore, if you do not wish to receive fund-raising requests such as this in the future, please write to the Fund Development Department at our address.

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In this age of uncertainty, Hartford Hospital serves as a stabilizing, yet inspirational, force in the region. In turn, we remain dependent upon and grateful for the 150 years of support we have garnered from our neighbors. Think: without our community, there would be no CORE Building, no Helen & Harry Gray Cancer Center, no High Building, no Crane Building; indeed, the hospital would be a much different place. Think, too, of all the future challenges for which donors can still make an enormous difference. The 150th Anniversary Campaign is not yet completed. Through the

generosity of many donors and the commitment of many volunteers, the Anniversary Campaign continues to progress well. Yet, given the breadth and depth of the hospital's services, pressing needs remain and, in the coming months, we hope to continue to gain the same inspirational support that has been a hallmark of this historic fund-raising effort since its inception. On May 25, 2004, Hartford Hospital will be pleased and privileged to celebrate the conclusion of the 150th Anniversary Campaign with its volunteers and donors who, through their philanthropy, show and share their love of mankind.

Auxiliary officers Marianne Roesner, Hillary Pease, Jeanne Conrad and Marilyn Rettig. The Auxiliary has donated \$500,000 to the 150th Anniversary Campaign.



John Meehan, Don Frahm, and Marcia Hincks cutting the cake at the official opening of the 150th Anniversary Campaign



Members of the Sesquicentennial Circle, highest giving group of the Anniversary Campaign:

(above) Bernhard and Joan Kohn: the Kohns made a leadership commitment to the Anniversary Campaign prior to Bernhard's passing in 2002.

(right) Edith and John Davis Murphy
(above right) Dr. Henry B. C. Low

