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What Philanthropy Makes Possible:
Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock
Celebrates 125 Years Of Caring For The Community

As Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock marks its 125th year, we take a look at how this vital community resource came to be – starting with an exceptional gift that established a tradition of charitable giving.

In March 1892, John Henry Elliott, Esq., president of Cheshire Bank and a Cheshire railroad trustee, donated his family's Main Street home to the City of Keene for use as a public hospital. The city gratefully accepted, naming it Elliott City Hospital.

That same year, more than 200 local residents formed the Hospital Aid Society and raised funds to buy furnishings and medical supplies. Over time, they also modernized the facility with such newfangled amenities as running hot water, long-distance phone service and an elevator. "Free bed funds" ensured care for those who couldn't afford it; early contributions approached \$50,000 – \$1.2 million in today's dollars.

In 1895, the city released its claim on the 18-bed hospital and it was renamed Elliott Community Hospital. There were 12 physicians on the medical staff.

The community's philanthropic support of local healthcare continued, enabling such early milestones as establishing The Joslin Home for Nurses in 1903.

As medical officers returned from World War II in the mid-1940s, local physicians formed a private group practice – the Keene Clinic – mirroring a nationwide trend. The doors to the 331 Main Street clinic opened on November 1, 1948, with doctors foregoing salaries for several months as the practice gained traction. Demand for medical and surgical services grew rapidly, and new specialists were hired.

Decades of expansion and upgrades to the Main Street hospital followed – fueled in part by philanthropic support – but by the 1960s the facility was bursting at the seams, straining to meet the community's growing health needs.

Again, a generous citizen stepped up: businessman Edward J. Kingsbury donated his family's land on upper Court Street for a new hospital.

Thousands of citizens stepped up, too, pledging nearly \$2.3 million of the \$10 million building project. The new Cheshire Hospital was dedicated in February 1973. The Keene Clinic purchased and developed adjoining land and moved to Court Street later that year.

In 1993, the Keene Clinic joined Dartmouth-Hitchcock as a multi-specialty group practice and became Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene. In 1998, the hospital and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene forged a joint operating agreement, enabling the two organizations to operate as a single nonprofit entity: Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene (CMC/DHK).

Notably, in 2007 an advisory committee composed of CMC/DHK staff and community volunteers helped spark and implement Healthy Monadnock 2020, a health initiative to engage the citizens of Cheshire County to become the nation's healthiest community.

In 2015 Cheshire Medical Center affiliated with Dartmouth-Hitchcock in Lebanon, based on a shared mission to improve the health and wellness of the communities they serve. Today, the organization is now known as Cheshire Medical Center/Dartmouth-Hitchcock with 129 physicians and 74 associate providers caring for this community.

Charitable giving to Cheshire Medical Center has been ongoing, including through estate gifts, memorial gifts, fund raising event support, and volunteerism. As the healthcare landscape continues to change dramatically, charitable giving is as important as ever to the ongoing health of our region.

HOSPITAL, page 21

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Noteworthy In 1900

A Hungarian immigrant with few resources, Joseph Pulitzer rose to purchase the struggling *New York World* newspaper in 1883 after many successes with a St. Louis newspaper. Pulitzer used his newspapers to crusade for the rights of immigrants, the poor, and the working class.

A pseudonym for Elizabeth Cochrane, Nelly Bly is known for numerous journalistic and business accomplishments. As a reporter, she pioneered techniques in investigative journalism by faking her own insanity in order to go undercover in New York's insane asylum on Blackwell's Island.

1920s Trends, Sports, And Silver

Flapper dresses and short hair were very popular in ladies fashion, and men mainly wore suits. A popular type of pants back then were called knickers.

Babe Ruth was bought for \$125,000 from the Red Sox. The first broadcast radio sporting event was a boxing event. Silver went for \$1.37 per ounce.

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