

HISTORICAL

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ESTES PARK HEALTH

The availability of health care services is a vital component of a community's quality of life. Estes Park Health has cared for our residents and guests since 1975. As the community's medical needs have changed, the types of care and services offered have grown to meet those needs. Through the continued support of the community, Estes Park Health brings a wide-range of services and continues to be recognized as an example of high-quality, compassionate, and friendly care.



ESTES PARK HEALTH FOUNDATION

Generous community support began long before the doors opened at the Elizabeth Knutsson Memorial Hospital. The first chief of the medical staff noted at the hospital's dedication that there were no federal or state funds used to build the hospital – the resources were derived entirely from within the community. That strong community support carries through to today.

1949

The local chapter of the Quota Club is founded. One of the group's primary functions is to raise money to purchase ambulances for the Medical Center.

1967

Idea for a hospital in Estes Park is conceived at a Chamber of Commerce meeting.

1968

Park Hospital District is formally established.

1969

Roger Knutsson, a long-time summer resident, donates \$100,000 to the newly formed Park Hospital District as a memorial to his late wife Elizabeth.

1972

The Elizabeth Guild Auxiliary is established to raise funds for the hospital district.

1973

Bond issue passes and construction begins on a 16-bed facility.

1975

The Elizabeth Knutsson Memorial Hospital is dedicated and the doors open to the community on April 15, 1975.

1981

Professional life support service staffed by EMTs and paramedics is established.

1984

Prospect Park Living Center (later Estes Park Living Center), a skilled nursing facility, is established.

1985

Estes Park Home Care (now Estes Park Home Health Services) is established. Services include medical and non-medical care.



1986

A group of residents formed the Foundation to formally support the hospital on an ongoing basis. The Foundation Endowment Fund is established with a \$1 Million goal.

1986

The name of the hospital is changed to Estes Park Medical Center to reflect expanded services.

1989

Hospice of the Estes Valley (now Estes Park Health Hospice Care) is established.

1990

Emergency Department wing is added.

1994

Helipad is installed for emergency air transport. The ambulatory medical office building (now EPH Physicians Clinic) opens and the laboratory is expanded.

1998

New Life Center (now Estes Park Health Birth Center) is built.

2000

Radiology Department expands to include a CT scanner, individual ultrasound room, and a mammography room.

2003

Hospital patient rooms refurbished.

2005

Estes Park Medical Center celebrates its 30th anniversary.

The Board of Directors decide to expand the facility through a bond issue by district voters. The voters approve the issue.

2006

The bonds are sold and the building project starts with a ground breaking on April 3, 2006.

2007

Over the course of a 2.5-year capital campaign, the Foundation raises over \$4 Million to fund the hospital's renovation and expansion.

2007

Renovation and expansion complete, including a new front wing, new surgical services department, new inpatient area, new birth center, new outpatient clinic, and new lobby and front entrance.

2008

Park Hospital District Board of Directors vote to approve expansion of emergency department.

2009

The Trail Ridge Quilters begin to raise funds for the Medical Center by hosting sales of their quilted creations.

2009

The emergency department is renovated and expands to nine rooms, including three new trauma rooms and a triage room.

2010

EPMC's first picture archival system (PACS) is installed in the radiology department.

Barcoded medication methods begin for optimal patient safety.

2012

Donors fund the purchase of digital mammography equipment to significantly improve the Medical Center's breast cancer diagnostic services. Donations also fund the purchase of a CT scanner that is four times faster than the previous machine.

2012-2016

Three houses to the north of the medical center are purchased for on-call staff and upper parking lots are added.

2013

Friends of the Foundation meet a short-term, high-intensity challenge to raise \$500,000 in 50 days to fund the final piece of equipment for the new diagnostic imaging suite. Jean Marquart's family provides the lead gift for the project in her honor.

The Elizabeth Guild breaches \$3.5 Million in gifts to the Foundation.

The Foundation Endowment Fund reaches \$3 Million with a goal to reach \$5 Million by 2018.

Quota Club donates its 18th ambulance to the Medical Center.

2013

Jean Marquart Digital Imaging Suite opens with CT, MRI, and digital mammography services.

The Great Flood of 2013 closes off Estes Park, washes away two primary highways, shuts down communications, and damages town infrastructure. EPMC provides services uninterrupted. Specialists are flown in by helicopter.

2014

The Foundation opens a fund specifically to aid Medical Center employees who experienced loss from the September 2013 flood.

The community's first Paint Estes Pink week and Tough Enough to Wear Pink evening at the Rooftop Rodeo raises funds for the Medical Center's Oncology Services.

2016

Generous donors provide more than 90% of the funds needed to upgrade the infant security system in EPH's Birth Center.

2016

Estes Park Health Birth Center becomes a designated Baby Friendly[®] Hospital.

X-ray room #2 is completely rebuilt with new equipment.

A town-wide communication outage gives the town of Estes Park the motivation to create better fiber redundancy by moving forward with a town-owned broadband utility study.

2017

Due to the contribution of major donors, Prospect Park Living Center receives a fully-equipped, elder-friendly exam room to allow residents to receive medical care within the center.

Thanks to gifts from individuals and businesses totaling more than \$75,000, Prospect Park Living Center purchases 35 new beds needed for their residents.

Thanks to the efforts of the Quota Club of Estes Park and other donors, two new ambulances are added to the fleet.

2017

X-ray room #1 is completely refurbished with new components.

Home Health/Hospice department moves to an iPad-based electronic health record system (Brightree) to greatly increase efficiency in documentation.

The town votes to approve the project to study town-owned broadband as a utility.

2018

Funds are raised to upgrade the dining room of Estes Park Health Living Center, along with living room and activities room upgrades.

The Foundation launches and completes an Emergency Capacity Campaign to purchase Cardiac Monitors for the ambulances and Trauma Stretchers for the Emergency Department.

2018

Estes Park Health becomes an Accredited Critical Access Hospital by DNV-GL.

Estes Park Medical Center becomes Estes Park Health to better reflect the continuum of care from the start-of-life to end-of-life.

Estes Park Health performs a major pharmacy remodel/upgrade.

2019

The Foundation launches and completes the Protect Our Women Campaign, raising enough money to bring 3D Mammography capabilities to Estes Park Health.

2019

The Epic Community Connect UHealth-hosted electronic health record launches, combining hospital, emergency department, and ambulatory clinic medical records into a single patient chart.

2020

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation creates the Coronavirus & Subsequent Emergency Response Fund and launches the CovidFreeEV campaign, which funds the retrofit of seven rooms to negative pressure, two direct RT-PCR COVID-19 testing machines, COVID-19 testing for the uninsured, and vaccine administration for the Estes Valley community.

2020

The freestanding Estes Park Health Urgent Care Clinic opens, which is Estes Park's first true urgent care center. Rehabilitative Services and some specialist services are moved to this building on Big Thompson Avenue (Highway 34).

3D mammography (tomography) is installed.

Telehealth is launched for the first time at EPH to provide patients the opportunity to interact with their physicians during the COVID-19 pandemic.

EPH and the entire town of Estes Park are evacuated by mandatory order due to the North Troublesome Creek Fire that breaches the Continental Divide on October 22. Most services at EPH resume about a week later.

2021

The Foundation continues to fund vaccination administration for all and COVID-19 testing for the uninsured.

EPHF embarks on a campaign to help purchase a new MRI machine for EPH Diagnostic Imaging.

Give the Gift of Good Health