

HEALTHCARE IN ELIZABETH

A Brief History

In what is recognized as one of the most courageous acts in healthcare in the State of New Jersey, Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital – for the benefit of its community - set aside over a century of history and tradition to form Trinitas Health and Trinitas Regional Medical Center in January 2000.

Trinitas is the result of a shared vision by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth – sponsors of St. Elizabeth Hospital, and Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation – parent of Elizabeth General Medical Center. Today these two entities continue to have an important role in the governance of Trinitas Regional Medical Center.

Seeing a need for a healthcare facility in the Greater Elizabeth Area, four local physicians pooled their time, talent and resources to establish a two-room surgical clinic in 1877. That humanitarian effort flourished, leading to the founding of Elizabeth General Hospital and Dispensary two years later on May 9, 1879. Later renamed Elizabeth General Medical Center, its provision of community healthcare expanded greatly over the following 120 years, and took a great leap forward when it acquired Alexian Brothers Hospital in 1991 following the decision by the Alexian Brothers to discontinue providing healthcare services in Elizabeth. During a century of service beginning in 1892, the Alexian Brothers established a number of vital services that continue to this day, including a comprehensive renal program and the Brother Bonaventure Extended Care Center. The former Alexian hospital facility, located at 655 East Jersey Street, now serves as Trinitas Regional Medical Center’s New Point Campus.

In August of 1904, the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, by approval of Bishop John J. O’Connor of Newark, took on the responsibility of planning and organizing a new hospital in the City of Elizabeth. They purchased the property and home, located at 204 South Broad Street, that had once been the residence of Dr. Moore. The brownstone structure, on the corner of Pearl Street, was renovated to care for 25 patients and opened as St. Elizabeth Hospital on May 30, 1905.

Friendly rivals, the three hospitals spurred each other to greater achievements while sharing a common mission: to provide the most advanced healthcare with an extra measure of compassionate concern for every patient. Hundreds of thousands of local residents were touched and healed by the skilled hands and tender hearts at work in these three outstanding institutions.

As the 20th Century neared its end, an exciting vision began to emerge ... a dynamic new organization that could adapt to changing realities and expand its ability to serve the community.

In January, 2000, after agreeing on a vision for the future of healthcare in the region, Elizabeth General Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Hospital joined as equal partners to form Trinitas Regional Medical Center. The consolidation is one that has been hailed as a model for the effective unification of a broad spectrum of healthcare services for the benefit of the community, and a monument to forward thinking and bold leadership.

Reflecting a Shared Vision and Governance

The Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation and the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth continue to have a major role in the high-level governance of Trinitas.

Trinitas Health – the parent of Trinitas Regional Medical Center – is a Membership corporation with eight Members. Four of these Members are appointed by Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation, and four are appointed by the Sisters of Charity. These eight Members then appoint most of the Trustees of Trinitas Health, and are responsible for acting on various major decisions affecting Trinitas.

The Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation’s relationship to Trinitas Regional Medical Center and Trinitas Health does not end with its role in governance. It also provides substantial financial support, including a \$1 million pledge to the Trinitas Health Foundation’s capital campaign.

The Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth, through action of its designated leadership, exercises its responsibility for the ministry which, in turn, carries out the Congregation’s mission. This sponsorship relationship with Trinitas Health & Regional Medical Center ensures organizational fidelity to mission, values, and Catholic identity.

The caring work that was initiated long ago by Elizabeth General Medical Center, St. Elizabeth Hospital and Alexian Brothers Hospital is carried forward by Trinitas, which proudly offers high quality care and services through Centers of Excellence that include: Maternal/Child Health, Renal, Cardiac, Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, Senior Services, Women’s Services, Diabetes Management, The Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center, the Center for Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Medicine, the Sleep Disorders Center and the Trinitas School of Nursing.

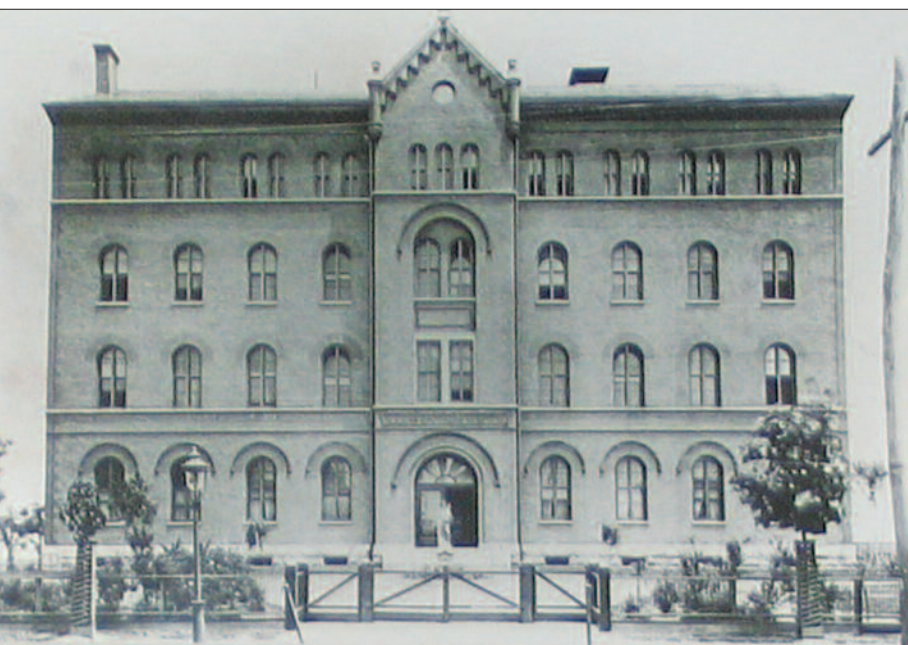


This 1950’s view of St. Elizabeth Hospital shows the old entrance on South Broad Street.



A horse-drawn ambulance is pictured in front of the Elizabeth General Hospital & Dispensary in this 1890’s photo.

For over 700 years, the Alexian Brothers have had a world-wide ministry of caring for the sick, elderly, poor and dying. In Elizabeth, the Alexian Brothers Hospital cared for the community for nearly 100 years, beginning in 1892. This photo from the early 1900’s shows the main hospital building on Livingston Street.



Although we have left our humble beginnings behind and moved into a new era of high-tech medicine and state-of-the-art programs and services, we have not forgotten our roots of small-touch healing. We know that’s what makes Trinitas special for patients is the humanity they find here – the face-to-face contact with physicians, nurses, technicians, volunteers, students and staff from every discipline.

