

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2015

CONTACT: Dwight Angell
Dwight.Angell@hfhs.org
313.876.8709

Henry Ford Hospital Celebrates a ‘Century of Life’ in Exhibit at Detroit Historical Museum

DETROIT – Less than two years ago, Henry Ford Hospital was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

It took nearly a century to get there.

Now a special exhibit, “Henry Ford Health System: 100 Years Measured in Life,” has opened at the Detroit Historical Museum, chronicling the birth and development of one of Detroit’s best-known and one of the nation’s most-respected healthcare institutions.

The exhibit, on display in the museum’s Community Gallery through Jan. 3, 2016, begins in 1915 with auto pioneer Henry Ford taking control of the stalled 48-bed Detroit General Hospital project (today’s Henry Ford Hospital), and tracks the health system’s century of growth with 100 stories of transforming health and life through medical innovation and unwavering dedication to quality and community.

“After 100 years, Henry Ford Hospital and Henry Ford Health System remain as committed to the community – and the City of Detroit - as from the start,” says Nancy Schlichting, CEO of Henry Ford Health System.

“Our exhibit at the Detroit Historical Museum offers an incredible view of this venerable institution’s driving, sustaining force in clinical care, research, medical education and innovation.”

Today’s Henry Ford Health System, still anchored by Henry Ford Hospital at its original location on West Grand Boulevard in Detroit, serves a five-county area admitting 89,000 patients a year to hospitals with more than 3.2 million clinic visits.

The museum exhibit features 10 categories, beginning with an introduction that states:

“Throughout the years, as Detroit’s popularity rose and fell through world wars, unrest and financial crises, Henry Ford Hospital stood strong,” says John Popovich Jr., M.D., President and CEO of Henry Ford Hospital.

“The team of doctors, nurses, scientists, and all the health care employees made sure the care of the patients always came first.”

The exhibit’s other nine categories include:

- **Founding of Henry Ford Hospital.** Showcases the Ford family’s lasting legacy; the first patients; a culture of camaraderie.
- **Education & Research.** From the Henry Ford Innovation Institute to the Ford Foundation’s \$100 million grant.

- **Henry Ford Medical Group.** Highlights the physician practice's national influence on health care; teamwork to develop specialty and multidisciplinary care; formation of the group practice model.
- **Nursing.** The opening in 1925 of the Henry Ford School of Nursing
- **Creating the Henry Ford Health System.** Tracking the growth of the System and its commitment to the community through its hospitals in Wyandotte, West Bloomfield and Macomb, and Health Alliance Plan.
- **Embracing Diversity.** A look at the first female physicians and scientists; research that put Henry Ford at forefront of AIDS treatment; and focus on healthcare disparities and healthcare equity.
- **Our People, Our Communities.** Focused on care and education in the community through the Cabrini Clinic, Henry Ford Early College and CHASS.
- **Innovations in Medical Care.** Features the innovative work of the Center for Structured Heart Disease, and the work to find new treatments for neurological diseases.
- **Innovations in Health Care Delivery.** Work to design a hospital for the 21st century; and save lives through emergency care.

Some noteworthy notes on Detroit's new centenarian:

- Auto pioneer Henry Ford never intended to open a hospital, merely to invest in one. But when construction of the facility came to a standstill soon after groundbreaking, a disgusted Ford bought out all his fellow investors and finished the job himself, with wife Clara. Their descendants have been active supporters of the hospital ever since.
- Clara Ford not only contributed personal wealth and talent to the support of the fledgling Henry Ford Hospital, she went on to push for the creation of its first psychiatric unit, the Henry Ford School of Nursing and Hygiene, and the Clara Ford Nurses Home.
- Henry Ford Hospital was the first in the country to use purified heparin to treat blood clots, and one of only a few U.S. hospitals chosen as a national test location for penicillin. Among its other innovations: it developed the first liquid oxygen tent, was the first to use the multiple-lead electrocardiogram and was one of the first in Michigan and one of the first globally to perform a graft to correct an abdominal aortic aneurysm, and set up the state's first blood vessel bank.
- Michigan's first successful open heart surgery using the heart-lung bypass machine was performed at Henry Ford Hospital.

- Henry Ford purchased Health Alliance Plan, the state's first non-profit, prepaid group practice health plan.
- As Michigan's sixth largest employer, Henry Ford Health System is one of the region's economic engines, with 23,000 employees and direct and indirect economic impact totaling nearly \$6 billion annually.
- Henry Ford Health System is one of DiversityInc.'s Top Ten Hospital Systems, and recognized as a Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality by the Human Rights Campaign, the educational arm of the country's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organization.
- Henry Ford Health System is a recipient of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, one of the most prestigious national honors for performance excellence.

The Detroit Historical Museum is located at 5401 Woodward Ave. in the city's Midtown District. The Museum is open 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuesday – Friday; and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The Museum is closed on Mondays. Admission is free for all, all the time. Parking in the Museum's lot is \$6 at all times. Group tour pricing and information is available by calling 313.833.7979. Permanent exhibits include the famous Streets of Old Detroit, the Allesee Gallery of Culture, Kid Rock Music Lab, Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad, Detroit: The "Arsenal of Democracy," the Gallery of Innovation, Frontiers to Factories, America's Motor City, and The Glancy Trains. For more information, call the Museum at 313.833.1805 or check out their website at detroithistorical.org.

Learn more about Henry Ford's 100-year history at www.HenryFord100.com.