

A Century OF CARE

On May 30, 1920, construction crews broke ground on what would become Boone County Hospital. The April 19, 1920 *Columbia Daily Tribune* had reported, "It will be the hospital of all the people. And to it, from every section of the county, they may come, regardless of race, sex, religion, or color." While much has changed in the last century, our commitment to the people of mid-Missouri remains strong. Here are just a few highlights from the last 100 years of Boone!

◀ DECEMBER 10, 1921

Boone County Hospital hosts a grand opening with refreshments and live music. On Dec. 14, Ella Hickam is the first patient admitted to the 40-bed hospital. The next day, Drs. Frank Nifong and Andrew McAlester jointly perform the hospital's first surgery — a hernia repair — in the new operating bay.

DECEMBER 24, 1921

Fannie and William Etheridge welcome David, their third son and the first-ever Boone Baby.

1930s

Boone County Hospital weathers both the Depression and a tuberculosis epidemic.

1953

The Pink Ladies of Boone County Hospital Auxiliary form the hospital's first volunteer services program.

1954

The hospital opens a new wing named after Dr. Frank Nifong. Further expansion includes additional wings in 1959, 1973 and 1979.

1964

Boone County Hospital treats its 100,000th patient.

1967

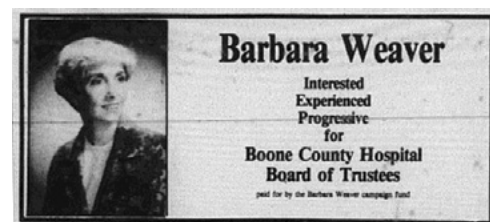
Boone County Hospital begins its own ambulance service.

1973

The hospital enters the computer age, modernizing its billing and records department.

1980

The Board of Trustees renames Boone County Hospital to Boone Hospital Center to reflect the hospital's growth and expanding service area.



▲ 1981

Barbara Weaver is the first woman elected to the Boone Board of Trustees. She served as a trustee for over 30 years until her retirement in 2015.



▲ 1981

For its 60th anniversary, the hospital unveils a 22-foot-tall aluminum sculpture of Boone Hospital Center's new logo, affectionately called the Spoonheads, created by artist Kathy Montie. The Spoonheads moved to the South tower in 2011.

1982

The first life flight helicopter touches down on Boone's new landing pad.

1990

Boone goes 100% smoke-free.

1993

Boone Hospital Center starts its first lease with Christian Health Services. In 1993, Christian Health Services merges with Barnes Hospital and Jewish Hospital in St. Louis to form BJC HealthCare.



▲ 1996

The hospital's 75th anniversary is commemorated by "Nexus," a sculpture by Larry Young, enhancing a newly expanded campus that includes the Broadway Medical Plaza buildings.

1996

Our Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit provides specialized care for Boone babies born before 35 weeks.

2005

Boone Hospital Center earns its first Magnet® designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center's (ANCC) Magnet Recognition Program® — the highest honor a hospital can receive for nursing. BHC earns Magnet designation again in 2009, 2014 and 2019.

2006

BHC's 80,000-square-foot Outpatient Services tower adds room for more diagnostic screenings and minimally invasive procedures.



▲ 2011

The hospital's new eight-story patient bed tower provides private rooms for more patients. Opening celebrations include a public event that gives community members a chance to tour their hospital. Boone also takes health screenings on the road with the launch of its Mobile Health Unit.



▲ 2012

A new Healing Garden provides a calm environment for patients, visitors and employees. The garden includes bricks and pavers honoring donations from the community, medical staff, employees and patient families. In 2016, the garden is dedicated to Barbara Weaver.

2014

The Norm and Virginia Stewart Cancer Center at Boone Hospital Center opens.

2016

Nifong Medical Plaza offers more convenient access to primary care, imaging and lab services, and physical therapy to the growing community in south Columbia.

AUGUST 2019

The Trustees announce their decision to transition Boone Hospital Center to an independent community hospital in 2021.



▲ JANUARY 2020

Boone Hospital Center CEO Jim Sinek and Stephens College President Dianne Lynch announce the joint development of a new nursing school program. The first class starts in fall 2020.



▲ APRIL 1, 2021

Boone Hospital Center will enter its next phase as an independent community hospital. *By Jessica Park*