A Chronological History of Mercy Medical Center

1891 - 1986

MERCY MEDICAL CENTER
A MEMBER OF MINISTRY CORPORATION
SISTERS OF THE SORROWFUL MOTHER
February 1891: Father Roman Schotter, Pastor of St. Mary’s Church in Oshkosh, met with Mother M. Frances Streitfie, Superior General of the Sisters of the Sorrowsful Mother, to discuss the possibility of the SSM building a hospital in Oshkosh. Mother Frances agrees. The Oshkosh facility would be the Sisters’ fourth health care facility in the United States—others being in Wichita, Kansas, and Marshfield and Menomonie, Wisconsin.

An old, two-story building on the corner of Merritt and Boyd Streets is purchased for $6074.71 and converted into a temporary hospital. The hospital is named St. Mary’s and Sister Mary Scholastica Demer, SSM, serves as the hospital’s first administrator.

February 25, 1891: Ten Sisters arrive from Marshfield to clean, scrub and prepare the two-story building, which will eventually accommodate 15 patients. A hot-air furnace, a water system and bathrooms are installed. Furniture and beds are purchased at a cost of $2,980, paid for with loans and collections.

March 11, 1891: The first patient admitted to St. Mary’s is a tuberculosis patient. People were originally reluctant to use the hospital’s facilities, and the Sisters often nursed patients in the patients’ homes. The Sisters were generally expected to do other work besides nursing, such as the cooking, housework and taking care of children.

October 3, 1892: St. Mary’s Hospital was disregarded by the community for the first few years because many private, doctor-operated clinics were in existence at this time. The Sisters were forced to beg for alms in order to pay for the rapidly accumulating debts. Gradually, Oshkosh and its physicians began to discover the Sisters’ commitment to compassionate caring. The number of patients would soon outnumber the available beds.

September 4, 1894: Ground is broken for the new St. Mary’s Hospital, which would accommodate 25-35 patients. The cost of the project is $24,355. In the basement is the laundry, kitchen, pantry, dining room and the boiler room. The office, large parlors and some patients’ rooms are on the first floor, while the second floor contains the chapel, the minor operating room, the pharmacy and the operating room for more serious operations. The third floor housed private rooms and a maternity ward. The fourth floor was the Sisters’ dormitory. The 10 Sisters who had arrived in Oshkosh four years before were St. Mary’s first nurses.

1894: Dr. Charles W. Oviatt, considered the finest physician and surgeon in Oshkosh, became a member of St. Mary’s Medical Staff. With his outstanding reputation, Dr. Oviatt brought added prestige and other physicians and patients to St. Mary’s from the local clinics as well as from neighboring communities.

July 1, 1895: The new hospital structure is completed and the Sisters move in to finish the interior work.

1900: Dr. Oviatt leaves Oshkosh to practice medicine in Fond du Lac. After Dr. Oviatt’s resignation, the number of patients at St. Mary’s dwindles. Six weeks later, Dr. Oviatt returns to Oshkosh and, for the second time, the hospital is forced to add additional rooms to accommodate the increasing number of new patients. The hospital’s adjoining property is acquired to build a new Chapel and an addition to the hospital.

1903: St. Mary’s second building project begins. Bed capacity is now raised to 85.

1905: The physical structure, which is twice as large as the existing hospital, is completed at a cost of $56,000.

1912: Dr. M. E. Corbett, who had practiced at St. Mary’s for a number of years, leaves to build his own hospital—the Lakeside Hospital—at a cost of $160,000. The new hospital, built on the present site of Mercy Medical Center, has a bed capacity of 45 and attracts doctors and their patients away from St. Mary’s, causing St. Mary’s to suffer financially once again. However, because of St. Mary’s noted care, operations returned to normal and patient’s returned after a short period of time.
1914:
St. Mary's opens a three-year professional school of nursing with an enrollment of 12. The school is short-lived, however, as it is transferred to Marshfield in 1917.

Summer 1917:
Lakeside Hospital proves to be a financial disaster for Dr. Corbett. Dr. Corbett and his partner, H. W. Morgenroth, ask the Sisters to purchase Lakeside Hospital. Both realize a religious community atmosphere is needed at the facility.

1917:
After repeatedly being urged to purchase Lakeside by the two partners and leaders of the community, the Sisters agree—paying half the amount of the building's original cost ($75,000).

Spring 1918:
Members of the Oshkosh community assume administrative positions within the 45-bed facility. At the suggestion of Bishop Paul P. Rhode, the name is changed to Mercy Hospital. The original St. Mary's Hospital gradually becomes St. Mary's Home for the Aged. The last patients, the obstetrical cases, are transferred in 1934. St. Mary's Home for the Aged will be renamed Marian Home on April 28, 1961.

September 8, 1918:
A sun parlor serves as a chapel and is blessed by Father J. M. Wicker, Chaplain of St. Mary's.

1918:
After the Sisters had prepared Mercy Hospital for occupancy, Bishop Rhode blesses the entire hospital.

August 1922:
Four years after the Sisters had taken over Mercy, ground is broken for an expansion project at Mercy Hospital. A chapel and convent are the first units to be completed. The cornerstone is blessed by Father A. Bastian, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul's Parish in Oshkosh. Various medals, a small statue of St. Peter the Apostle, an Agnus Dei, various pieces of money and a list of the original Sisters' names were placed in the cornerstone.

December 1922:
The Chapel is completed and named for the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

1923:
Building continues on a new north wing, which will contain a new powerhouse and laundry. With these additions, the hospital can offer more services; the surgical department will also be transferred from St. Mary's to Mercy.

June 1923:
Sisters move into the new convent.

July 9, 1923:
Bishop Rhode blesses and dedicates the chapel and convent in the presence of 16 priests and 200 townspeople.

November 2, 1924:
Bishop Rhode blesses the new powerhouse and laundry located in the new north wing.

1931:
Construction of a five-story Nursing School and dormitory begins. The new structure will include 80 private rooms for students, lecture and demonstration rooms, a large auditorium, a gymnasium and lobby.

1939:
A new four-story maternity wing is added to Mercy's south side. The new wing increases Mercy's total capacity to 225. The new addition is dedicated by the Most Reverend Paul P. Rhode, Bishop of the Green Bay Diocese.

March 1942:
Red Cross forms a committee to organize and promote the training of volunteers as nurses' aides because of the shortage of nurses due to World War II. Two months later Red Cross volunteers began working at Mercy Hospital.

April 1943:
A sixth-floor addition to the Nursing School provides 30 additional private rooms.
1944-45: New classrooms, a library, a conference room and equipment are added to the School of Nursing.

In addition to the School of Nursing, three training schools are added:
- 1945 X-ray
- 1945 Anesthesia
- 1958 Medical Technology

1956: Mercy's School of Nursing receives full accreditation by the National Nursing Accrediting Program.

Over $1 million is spent remodeling St. Mary's Home for the Aged. The name is changed to Marian Home in 1961 and to Mercy Extended Care Center in 1968. The Mercy Extended Care Center is phased out in 1976 after new and expanded nursing homes in Oshkosh eliminated the serious need for nursing home beds in the area. A new 120-apartment complex for low-income elderly is erected on the site by the Oshkosh Housing Authority. The complex is named Marion Manor, continuing the name identification of the site.

1957: Three new wings are built to eliminate the fire hazards of earlier construction. The expansion includes modern operating rooms, additional patients' rooms (increasing total capacity to 260), an administration facility and a rehabilitation center.

(First Wing): The $500,000 Cleveland Street Wing includes five new operating rooms, a sterilizing room and a scrub-up alcove on the fifth floor. Four other surgery rooms are remodeled and updated. A recovery ward and 24 new rooms are also added. On the first floor, a cafeteria accommodating 90 people, pharmacy, medical library, morgue and central supply room are constructed.

(Second Wing): The $750,000 five-story administration wing replaces the deteriorating two-story entranceway. The wing includes a recessed entrance, information desk, switchboard area, various administrative offices and new elevators.

(Third Wing): This wing, which opened on May 6, 1957, is the Rehabilitation Center. The center serves patients from seven area counties. The physical therapy facilities (on the ground floor) occupy 3,500 square feet and are staffed by three fulltime physical therapists. Limited facilities are also available for speech therapy, and 1,200 square feet are provided for the occupational therapy department.

May 21, 1957: Dedication of the three new additions took place in the hospital chapel by the Auxiliary Bishop of the Green Bay Diocese, the Most Reverend John B. Grellinger, who was assisted by Father Dennis Worzalla, the hospital chaplain. After high Mass, Bishop Grellinger gave a fitting and forceful sermon. Then, accompanied by his assistants, the bishop went through the building to bless the newly expanded facilities of Mercy, which marked the completion of a two-year building program.

March 1958: Mercy initiates a developmental and rehabilitation center for children between ages 5 and 16 struck with cerebral palsy. The center serves Winnebago, Waushara, Fond du Lac and Green Lake Counties.

October 1958: A new manufacturing program is undertaken by Mercy's Pharmacy Department to produce the more commonly used intravenous solutions.

January 29, 1962: Mercy Hospital's new Nuclear Medicine Laboratory, Wisconsin's most complete facility north of Milwaukee, begins serving the community. Dr. H. M. Hillerbrand is named director.

June 1, 1962: Mercy institutes a new retirement pension plan designed to supplement Social Security benefits. The first check was provided to Albert Masloff in September 1962. Masloff retired after a 42-year association with SSM institutions in Oshkosh.
1965: Mercy is again expanded because of the need for additional patient rooms. Funds for the four-story addition above the Rehabilitation Center are raised partially by public subscription of funds. The expansion includes the one-story administration wing on the southeast corner.

April 5, 1968: Mercy Hospital and the Marian Home merge, and become Mercy Medical Center. The home will expand its role from care for the aged to an extended care center for patients. The consolidation will enable Mercy Medical Center to offer a combined total of 500 beds to the Oshkosh area. Sister Mary Callista, Mercy Administrator, introduces Sister Mary Pio as administrator of the Marian Home facility.

October 1968: Continuing Care Program begins at Mercy. The Program helps patients in their transition from hospital care to home care and, when necessary, to locate temporary or permanent home nursing care.

October 6, 1968: The $6.5 million expansion and renovation program is completed and dedicated, including the present south wing. The Most Reverend Aloysius Wycislo, bishop of the Green Bay Diocese, celebrates a special dedication Mass and conducts the cornerstone-laying ceremony.

October 28, 1968: The articles of incorporation and by-laws of Mercy Medical Center are amended to include community representatives on the board of directors and a revised administrative structure. The new board of directors replaces the former advisory board and becomes responsible for making major policy decisions for the hospital and given ultimate responsibility for effective management and the continuity of quality health care. At this time, Mr. Carl Steiger is named chairperson of the new board and the first lay administrator, Mr. James Fitzgerald, is appointed to head Mercy Medical Center.

January 2, 1969: Mercy opens a new 16-bed orthopedic unit. The specially equipped unit is designed for the care and treatment of medical and surgical cases involving skeletal fractures and skeletal and muscular injuries and deformities.

February 1, 1969: Mercy’s speech therapy program moves to fulltime operation. The program had been operating on a part-time basis under speech therapist, W. James Morrison.

August 1969: A $100,000 remodeling project in the outpatient and surgery areas and the radiology department begins.

December 4, 1969: The United Cerebral Palsy unit moves from Mercy to the Mercy Extended Care Center on Boyd Street.

May 27, 1970: Mercy opens 12 beds of its new 25-bed psychiatric unit. According to Administrator James Fitzgerald, the opening of the specialized care unit complements basic services envisioned in a major expansion program.

September 1971: The board of directors establishes the Mercy Medical Center Foundation.

1971: A formal and professional Pastoral Care Department is instituted under its first director, Father David Baeton.

November 22, 1971: The Foundation is incorporated with the purpose of raising, managing and investing money and to assure each donor that contributions are being spent for the purpose it was given. Over the years, the Foundation has raised thousands of dollars to provide medical equipment, health education programs, additions to the Medical Library and to aid in the building programs at Mercy.
September 1973: A new surgical intensive care unit opens at Mercy. The six-bed nursing unit, designed for patients requiring constant observation and monitoring by specially trained nursing personnel, supplements and expands current services available in the ICU.

November 6, 1973: Henry H. Kimberly Jr. is appointed Chairman of the Board. Mr. Kimberly succeeds Carl E. Steiger who was named Honorary Chairman after serving as Chairman of the Board since 1968.

May 28, 1974: Bernard J. Schlueter is named President of Mercy Medical Center and assumes his new responsibilities on July 1.

January 1975: Sensory-motor Stimulation Program for children between the ages of 4 and 12 with perceptual motor dysfunctions begins at Mercy under the direction of Bridget Connolly.

July 6, 1975: Mercy Medical Center received state approval to begin a diagnostic ultrasound service at the hospital. The $60,000 project received approval from the State Division of Health Policy and Planning.

1977: Computerized axial tomography (CAT) body scanner, most modern piece of equipment available, added to Radiology Department.

January 1978: Hospice Program begins at Mercy as a support group within the Pastoral Care Department, called "Make Today Count." Today Mercy has a three-member Hospice Department headed by Diane Tenley.

June 15, 1978: Edwin Marheine, the first patient at Lakeside Hospital, breaks ground for Mercy's $14 million expansion project.

September 1978: In working to keep health care costs down, Mercy begins to expand its outpatient ambulatory surgery program.

September 16, 1978: Mercy's first annual Med-Run (then called Med-A-Thon) attracts more than 500 runners, who participate in either the 5,000 meter, 10,000 meter or 13.1 mile runs. The run is actually a two-day affair: a fitness clinic is held on Friday and the run on Saturday.

1978: Phase I of a proposed three-phase building program, designed by the Green Bay architectural firm of Bemers, Schober and Kilp (general contractor is Gilbayne Construction of Providence, RI) begins at Mercy. Phase I provides an expansive two-story structure on the building's west side which will serve as the foundation for future vertical construction. The addition provides expanded space for the Emergency Room, Outpatients, Laboratory, Medical Records, Radiology, Intensive Care, Business and Admitting Offices. Also included is an entirely new boiler and power plant.

Major additions to the hospital's medical equipment in the past year include a nuclear diagnostic camera system which provides a new view of the physiology and function of the body's internal structures. The "Pro/Gamma LFOV (large field of vision) scintillation system" allows the non-invasive observation of the functions and conditions of the brain, heart, lungs, liver, bones and other structures. The system is the latest addition to Mercy's Radiologic Imaging Center, which also houses the computed tomography x-ray scanner and diagnostic ultrasound operations.

Also new in 1978 was the development of a "birthing room" in the obstetric unit. Resembling homelike surroundings, the facility provides a familiar, relaxing setting for the birth of a child.
February 11, 1979: Mercy begins Glaucoma Alert Program. Nearly 125 employees are tested for symptoms of glaucoma during the program's first month.

Spring 1979: Mercy Medical Center, in cooperation with the Winnebago Department of Social Services, forms the Family Support Team to provide assistance when problems involving families become extremely difficult. Coordinated by Mercy social worker Ann Marshall, the team consists of emergency room personnel, pediatric and obstetric nurses, Mercy social workers and pastoral care representatives, area physicians and members of Winnebago's Social Services Department.

July 6, 1979: A new chapel, not included in the original plans for Phase I, is added. The chapel will accommodate 50 to 60 people.

October 1979: Cardiac Rehabilitation Program is organized at Mercy, utilizing the latest health care technology and a team concept to help heart patients return to their homes—and jobs—with a minimum of pain, anxiety and handicap. Program starts up in September 1980.

October 3, 1979: The first six-week session of pre-natal classes begins at Mercy. Mercy is the first hospital in the valley area to offer a pre-natal program, which is under the direction of Joan Killinger.

1979: Mercy becomes the first hospital in the Fox Valley to provide a patients' concern representative—Sister Josephine Wattner. The patients' concern representative responds personally to any concern a patient may have. This may result in a recommendation for a change in hospital policy or procedure.

January 1980: Oshkosh Rape Crisis Center moves to Mercy's School of Nursing building. The center provides 24-hour counselling and support to rape victims and their families. The space is donated by Mercy Medical Center.

Spring 1980: Fitness Achievement Program (FAP), an in-house employee fitness program, begins at Mercy.

May 17, 1980: The $13.7 million Phase I portion is dedicated by Bishop Wycislo, Bishop of Green Bay. The project is funded through an industrial revenue bond with support of the City of Oshkosh.

Some points of interest concerning the construction are as follows:

- 102,000 square feet of floor space is constructed, doubling the amount of floor space in the Old Chapel/Convent wing.
- More than 200,000 man-hours were spent on the job.

July 1980: A Community Wellness Program begins at Mercy under the direction of Joan Nuttall. The program combines nearly all aspects relating to health care, from self-help clinics to outpatient surgery.

July 23, 1980: The new Emergency/Trauma Center and the new Outpatient/Ambulatory Care facilities are opened. The first patient treated in the new Emergency/Trauma Center is Mr. William Roeder Jr.

Fall 1980: The Hospice Program is officially instituted under direction of Marsha Hughes.

October 1980: A relocation of offices takes place that requires moving most of the offices and departments to the first and second floors.

February 1981: Major remodeling is done to provide space for the new CT Scanner. Mercy's CT Scanner is the only full-body scanner serving the lower Fox Valley residents.
April 1981:
Mercy receives a full two-year accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals (JCAH).

July 1, 1981:
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July 27, 1981:
Cardiac Care Unit established at Mercy as Phase II of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program begins.

August 1981:
August is declared Mercy Medical Center Month by the Oshkosh City Council in helping the hospital celebrate its 90th anniversary. Many activities are planned, and President Bernard J. Schlueter looks to Mercy's future by stating: "We see ourselves as a hospital without walls, providing programs and services that help people stay well."

November 1981:
Mercy's Neurological Rehabilitation Unit opens. The new unit will help patients with neurologic disorders lead as normal a life as possible and uses a team approach which includes physicians, therapists, nurses, family members, pastoral care associates and social workers.

PAL (Protect-a-Life) Program introduced at Mercy. PAL provides car seats for infants to ensure their safety in motor vehicles.

March 1982:
Mercy's Diagnostic Imaging Center (DIC), a specialized radiologic unit encompassing the hospital's x-ray procedures, moves into new expanded quarters and provides facilities for three diagnostic modalities: Computer Tomography (CT); Nuclear Imaging; and Diagnostic Ultrasound. The expanded facilities provide space for Mercy's second full-body CT scanner, the latest ultra-high resolution scanning equipment available. The DIC also houses another recent addition—the Real-Time Ultrasound device.

May 29, 1982:
After 64 graduating classes, Mercy Medical Center's School of Nursing closes. The trends in various nursing programs, the opening of a greater variety of professions for women and increasing costs all contributed to the decision to close the school.

July 1982:
Mercy's first cardiologist, Dr. Mamoun B. Al-Nouri, joins the hospital's medical staff. Also joining the medical staff is Dr. Marc A. Letellier, who establishes microneurosurgery at Mercy.

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Mercy begins Lifeline Program, a personal emergency response system designed to help the elderly and disabled live independently and still maintain access to emergency health care.

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Mercy offers arthroscopic surgery for the first time. The procedure makes it possible to diagnose and treat knee injuries without a major surgical procedure in many cases.

May 1983:
Mercy receives its new Neodymium YAG surgical laser, opening new perspectives in eye microsurgery. Mercy becomes one of the initial group of U.S. medical centers equipped with the YAG laser capacity. It is the first hospital in Wisconsin to feature the equipment. Mercy thus becomes a Regional Eye Clinic, and the focal point for eye surgery in Wisconsin.

Dr. Edwin L. Downing performs Mercy's first cornea transplant on 85-year-old Gertrude Pixley. Dr. Downing is assisted by Dr. Gerald Clarke.

August 1983:
Mercy Medical Center unveils its new logo. The logo combines symbols of healing and caring in a design emphasizing Mercy's Christian atmosphere as well as the hospital's mission of providing compassionate health care.
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A "Wig Bank" is established at Mercy through a cooperative effort with the American Cancer Society for patients throughout the Fox Valley who have lost their hair due to radiation or chemotherapy.

Mercy initiates an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) Program when it names Gerald P. Kratsch Director of AODA Program Development.

Outpatient surgery facilities at Mercy are enhanced with the opening of the MercyCare One Unit of 2 North.

The Mercy Medical Center Foundation sets record for both number of donors (338) and amount donated ($32,631.76) during its annual Solicitation Drive.

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Gregory S. Holub, formerly Senior Vice President for a sister hospital, St. Michael's in Stevens Point, is named Executive Vice President of Mercy.

Mercy receives certification from the state to provide specific alcohol and other drug abuse programs and for community mental health programs.

April 1984:

More than 500 Oshkosh area residents participate in Mercy's first colon-rectal screening program.

May 1984:

Two-day Health Fair, sponsored by Mercy Medical Center, conducted in Oshkosh's Park Plaza Mall.

A telecommunications device for the hearing impaired is donated to Mercy by the American Legion Auxiliary, making improved communications between physicians and staff members and hearing-impaired patients possible.

Mercy initiates the first large-scale immunization program (north of Milwaukee) for its employees to combat hepatitis b.

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The Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program at Mercy receives accreditation from the Commission of Continuing Medical Education of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin.

June 1984:

MercyCare One, Mercy's outpatient surgery unit, expands service from four days per week to five, based on the positive response from the community.

Mercy's Nursing Services initiates program of computer staffing, the first area hospital to incorporate such a program.

In cooperation with St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Mercy offers overnight accommodations in parish homes to families of Mercy patients.

July 1984:

Bernard J. Schlueter celebrates 10th anniversary as President of Mercy Medical Center.

August 1984:

Mercy offers "LifeSystem Plus" to area industries. The program is designed to assist employees with personal problems that need professional help, such as alcohol and drug abuse, stress, divorce, life-threatening illnesses and more. Mercy staff members also go out to the industries to conduct health screenings and lifestyle assessments.

The Morgan-Mercy Charity Open raises $15,000 for Mercy's Hospice Program. More than 120 golfers and 20 tennis players participate in the Open, which was held at the Oshkosh Country Club.

Eating Disorders Program begins at Mercy as part of the hospital's Psychiatric Services. The program utilizes a multi-disciplinary, team approach and is available on both an inpatient and outpatient basis. The program also offers a support group.

September 1984:

Mercy's Cardio-Respiratory Services Center begins operation and holds an Open House. A brief ceremony recognizes the contributions of Mercy's Auxiliary to the new facility.

Mercy's seventh annual Med Run attracts more than 700 runners.

October 1984:

Mercy's AODA Program is now in operation and holds an Open House and Dedication of Facilities on October 10.

Mercy becomes the first hospital in the area—and only the second in the state—to enter the field of health care tele-communications with the installation of a satellite dish system, linking Mercy with the Hospital Satellite Network (HSN).

November 1984:

Mercy absorbs the programs and services of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Oshkosh and enters the field of home health care.

Family Renewal Center initiates an alcohol and drug abuse awareness program for the entire student body of Lourdes Academy. The program will be conducted in four parts, beginning with the senior class in November, the junior class in December, sophomores in January and freshmen in February. Other area schools will be included at a later date.

Mercy's Continuing Medical Education (CME) Program is awarded four-year accreditation from the Commission on Continuing Medical Education of the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, recognizing the program's overall quality and leadership.

Mercy announces the implementation of the Oshkosh Health Protection Plan (HPF) effective January 1, 1985. The move is based on response from Mercy employees.

December 1984:

Work on the expansion of Oak Grove Lecture Room is completed. Total square footage is increased by (approximately) one-third.
An intensive, four-day administrative session involving representatives from all Milwaukee Province Sisters of the Sorrowful Mothers institutions is held in Appleton to discuss the establishment of the SSM Ministry Corporation. Representatives from Mercy include President Bernard J. Schlueter, Executive Vice President Gregory S. Holub, Vice President-Finance Raymond F. O’Connor and Vice President-Nursing Services Linda W. Belton.

Ophthalmologist Gerald P. Clarke, MD, performs the first living lens transplant in the state at Mercy Medical Center. The procedure involves transplanting a donated cornea over the top of the patient’s own cornea.

January 1985:

The Milwaukee Province of the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother establish a parent corporation to manage their health care facilities and related entities. The new organization, which Mercy Medical Center will be part of, will be known as Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother-Ministry Corporation (SSM-MC) and will operate and support the Sisters’ multi-hospital system.

“Nursing: the Colors of a Caring Profession” is the theme of a week-long series of discussions concerning the philosophy of Mercy’s Nursing Services.

February 18, 1985:

The Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary presents two checks totaling $21,500 to Mercy for the purchase of specialized health care equipment. In the past five years alone, the Auxiliary has donated more than $100,000 to Mercy for its programs and services.

Mercy Medical Center and the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Oshkosh formally sign an agreement whereby Mercy absorbs the programs and services of the Oshkosh VNA. The signing takes place in Mercy’s Oak Grove area during a noon luncheon which includes members of the boards of directors of Mercy Medical Center, the Oshkosh VNA and the VNA Foundation. The agreement is signed by Mercy President Bernard J. Schlueter and Jeanne E. Balvire, President of the VNA of Oshkosh’s Board of Directors.

February 1985:

The Division of Nursing (which has been changed from Nursing Services) establishes a Nursing Research Committee to improve the overall practice and profession of nursing at Mercy by promoting changes in health care based on the results of research studies.

Construction in the operating room area is completed for remodeling purposes which include combining two cytology rooms into one urological specialty area. This area utilizes highly specialized radiologic equipment (a Sileman’s table with image intensification capabilities, for example).

March 1985:

Mercy adds second telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD). The device facilitates improved communications between hearing impaired persons and members of Mercy’s staff and the Medical Staff.

The Cardio-Respiratory Services Center at Mercy Medical Center introduces a Metabolic Gas Monitor that helps determine appropriate levels of calorie intake for patients during their stay in the hospital.

Mercy’s digital angiography room (in the Diagnostic Imaging Center) undergoes a “facelift.” New overhead support beams are installed to support the new radiologic “C-arm” in the room. The C-arm is installed to better serve patient needs and provide greater comfort during the radiologic process.

SSM-MC implements a new corporate logo for use by all Ministry Corporation institutions. The new symbol effectively combines a central cross-shape with four encircling hearts. These traditional symbols project a warm, human image.
Family Renewal Center Director Gerald Kratsch returns from a three-week mission to sister hospital St. Jude’s (West Indies) during which he helped establish alcohol and other drug abuse training programs at the hospital and throughout the island.

March 17, 1985:

Mercy Medical Center and the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother are recognized by Lourdes Academy during the school’s annual Civic Recognition Day. Mercy President Bernard J. Schueter and Sister Jeanine Retzer accept the Pope John XXIII Award for “outstanding service to humanity” on behalf of Mercy and the Sisters, respectively. Also receiving awards are Henry H. Kimberly, Jr., and David Leach (both received the Our Lady of Lourdes Award for outstanding civic service) and Dr. Edward Weiss (the Mother Soton Award for outstanding contribution to religious education).

June 1985:

Mercy’s Pediatrics department receives a new educational tool, Organ Annie, made by Jan Roberts, a member of the Winnebago County Medical Auxiliary. Annie teaches basic anatomy; her abdomen opens to show soft, brightly colored cloth organs held in position with velcro.

July 1985:

Level of Rehabilitation Scale II American Data Systems (LADS) determines that Mercy Medical Center’s neurological rehabilitation program exceeded the national norms for the returning disabled or handicapped patients to full-functioning lives.

August 1985:

The Hospice Program at Mercy Medical Center is the beneficiary of funds amounting to $20,000 from the Morgan-Mercy Charity Open II, held at the Oshkosh Country Club.

Mercy’s Division of Nursing has been granted total program approval by the Wisconsin Nurses Association for its continuing education programming for registered nurses.

“A Brighter Tomorrow,” administered through the Hospice program, is established by the William Siebert family to provide funds to grant the special wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

Mercy’s Neuro Rehab department and the Oshkosh Stroke Club offer a new program that teaches adaptive bowling techniques for stroke victims and those with other physical handicaps so they can once again participate in this activity.

September 1985:

Mercy Medical Center becomes the first hospital in the state to establish a Mobile Breast Screening and Education program. The vehicle has a dedicated mammography unit and is staffed by a registered nurse and radiologic technician who perform mammograms and teach breast self examination.

October 1985:

Patient transportation service is offered to area residents to get to and from Mercy for one-day surgery procedures, therapy treatments or diagnostic services.

December 1985:

A total of 20 units at Mercy give 30 families an opportunity to have a joyful holiday season by donating food, clothing and presents for the children.

January 1986:

Mercy acquires state-of-the-art computer equipment for Body Composition Analysis. By measuring electrical impedance, the analyzer determines an individual’s percentage of body fat.

Osteoporosis Diagnosis Program starts operations at Mercy. A dual photon scanner is purchased to measure actual bone mineral content.
Mercy adds a phako-emulsification device that dissolves cataracts by high-speed sound waves. Dr. Gerald P. Clarke performs the first procedures the following month.

The patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) system is a computerized pump which infuses pain-relieving medication directly into the bloodstream through an intravenous line. The patient administers his own pain medication by pushing a button. Dosage strength and interval is pre-determined by a physician. Mercy is the first hospital in the Fox Valley area to use the pump.

An Occupational Health and Safety program is added to Mercy’s LifeSystem Plus, which brings wellness programs and employee assistance programs to industry and business. The goal of Occupational Health and Safety is to help reduce health care costs, as well as the time lost to job-related illnesses and injuries. Mercy’s program is unique in that it offers a mobile unit which takes the service to the work site.

Mercy Medical Center agrees to begin providing the meals for the Oshkosh Meals-on-Wheels program, which brings hot lunches to the homebound elderly.

The American Hospital Association commends Mercy for its continuing efforts to control costs and increase productivity.
Following is a list of Administrators at St. Mary's Hospital and Mercy Hospital/Medical Center:

**St. Mary's Hospital**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1891-1892</td>
<td>Sister M. Scholastica Demer</td>
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<td>1893-1903</td>
<td>Sister M. Boniface Goetz</td>
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<td>Sister M. Seraphina Lberth</td>
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<td>1907-1910</td>
<td>Sister M. Clotildis Paul</td>
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<td>1911-1913</td>
<td>Sister M. Cornelia Springob</td>
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<td>1914-1915</td>
<td>Sister M. Rita Wehner</td>
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<td>1915-1918</td>
<td>Sister M. Cornelia Springob</td>
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**Mercy Hospital/Medical Center**

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<tr>
<td>1918-1919</td>
<td>Sister M. Cornelia Springob</td>
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<td>1920-1924</td>
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<td>1925-1929</td>
<td>Sister M. Remigia Sontag</td>
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<td>1930-1934</td>
<td>Sister M. Rosalinda Schreiber</td>
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<td>Sister M. Meinrada Gehring</td>
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<td>1941-1943</td>
<td>Sister M. Olga Christoph</td>
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<td>1944</td>
<td>Sister M. Laurentina Thimm</td>
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<td>1945-1951</td>
<td>Sister M. Aurelia Kuerzinger</td>
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<td>1952-1957</td>
<td>Sister M. Laurentina Thimm</td>
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<td>1958-1961</td>
<td>Sister M. Oswaldina Nutz</td>
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<td>1961-1965</td>
<td>Sister M. Regina Bruen</td>
</tr>
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<td>1965-1968</td>
<td>Sister M. Callista Quast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968-1974</td>
<td>Mr. James P. Fitzgerald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974-1986</td>
<td>Mr. Bernard J. Schlueter</td>
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