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UnityPoint Health – Trinity Heart Center/Emergency Dept. construction completed

Hospital moves into activation phase for April opening

Officials from UnityPoint Health -- Trinity today received the keys to its new Heart Center/Emergency Department project during a brief morning ceremony that officially signaled the end of construction at the site. Trinity now moves into its activation phase of the project to ready the hospital for opening in April 2015.

Representatives from Russell/Pepper, the general contractor for the project, handed over a large, ceremonial gold key to Rick Seidler, UnityPoint Health -- Trinity President and CEO; Jay Willsher, Trinity Chief Operations Officer; and Marika Jones, Trinity Health Foundation. Local builder Russell Construction and Pepper Construction, a national firm, formed a joint venture to become the general contractor for the project.

In reality, the key turnover represents the issuance of Trinity's certificate of occupancy by the City of Rock Island. A certificate of occupancy means that a facility meets all city standards, regulations or codes for its intended purpose, and the owner may now occupy the space.

"This is a big day for Trinity, as we move one step closer toward taking this dream from concept to reality," Seidler said. "Our work isn't over yet, but we can see the finish line in sight. When we cross it, our entire community will win."

The new Heart Center/Emergency Dept. will fully open its doors to patients on Monday, April 19. Before that date arrives, the activation phase of Trinity's efforts involves furniture and equipment moving, facility cleaning and staff orientation and training, all within a three-month time period.

Originally announced on Jan. 24, 2013, Trinity officials formally broke ground on the 90,000 square-foot, three-story expansion in June 2013. Located at the front of the hospital the \$61.3 million construction expansion – the largest in the facility's history – is designed to improve patient safety and privacy, better coordinate care, reduce operational costs and accommodate increased demand.

When open, the space will include an all-new state-of-the-art emergency department (ED), a comprehensive Heart Center adjacent to the ED that will provide all cardiac services on one campus (cath lab, surgery, cardiac rehab and education), and a Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) with six psych patient safe rooms, interview rooms, and a "living room" area that would provide a higher quality of care to behavioral health patients while assisting in the staff's ability to quickly consult and treat a diverse set of patients entering the ED.

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“There is so much behind-the-scenes work that goes into the planning of a project like this,” said Willsher. “Teams have been meeting for over a year to coordinate even the smallest details so that when opening day comes, the transition will be seamless.”

Navigant Healthcare, one of the country’s top-ranked healthcare management consulting firms, assisted Trinity in retaining the design services of Cannon Design, a nationally recognized healthcare design firm, who worked in partnership with Gere Dismer Architects of Rock Island and Paragon Commercial Interiors of Davenport. Additionally, the engineering for the project was provided by Rock Island firms KJWW Engineering and Missman Engineering. Pepper Construction, a national builder, along with Russell Construction, a local Quad-Cities construction firm, formed a joint venture and were chosen as the general contractor for constructing the expansion in partnership with local trade contractors.

The project was funded through a combination of internal reserves and borrowing through Trinity’s parent company, UnityPoint Health.

During the news conference, officials also announced that over the course of two years, the Trinity Health Foundation successfully raised \$6.2 million in cash gifts to support the new Emergency Department and Heart Center. Support for the campaign was strong, coming from a wide cross-section of donors including physicians, staff, board members, corporations, foundations, and community leaders. Of the \$6.2 million raised, Trinity physicians alone donated \$1.7 million and Trinity staff donated \$1.2 million.

A lead gift of \$1 million to the Emergency Department and Heart Center was provided by local couple, Lawrence and Marilyn Matteson, who hoped to inspire many others to give. Also instrumental in the success of the campaign was a \$25,000 matching challenge issued by Trinity Chief Medical Officer Dr. Paul McLoone and his wife, Susan. Their gift helped to raise more than \$57,000 from the community in the final months of the campaign.

“To say that our community has rallied around this project is an understatement,” said Jones. “Trinity has seen unprecedented support from all parts of our community, anywhere from million-dollar gifts to two single dollar bills in an envelope from an elderly person on a fixed income. They all simply wanted to help their community. We are so grateful for their support.”

SIDEBAR:

Trinity Rock Island hosts HC/ED public open house

Trinity will host a public open house of the new Heart Center/Emergency Dept. from noon to 5 p.m., Sunday, March 29, at Trinity Rock Island. Community members are invited to tour the new space that day before it opens for patient care the following month.

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