

Foundation to fund Marietta health center

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has announced the selection of St. Joseph Hospital as one of about 60 hospitals in the United States to receive a major grant to develop a primary medical care group practice.

Only one other Pennsylvania hospital, located in Pittsburgh, was named.

The grant to St. Joseph Hospital totals \$497,620 and is intended to assist the hospital and its medical staff to improve people's access to medical services by establishing and sponsoring a primary care group medical practice.

Over 900 community hospitals were invited to submit applications for the four-year, non-renewable grants.

According to Dr. Kenneth M. Carroll, Medical Director at St. Joseph Hospital, "The hospital will be expected to develop and provide around-the-clock primary medical care, ultimately for at least 15,000 people, with full time physicians who are members of the active staff of St. Joseph Hospital, and appropriate technical support services. We need this kind of service because many people who do not have family physicians are seeking general medical care in emergency rooms or out-patient departments which were not really designed for that purpose."

At present, St. Joseph Hospital has two delivery sites for primary care. One is located in the hospital and the other in a temporary satellite facility known as the Marietta-Maytown Family Health Center and operating in the former offices of Dr. Michael Gratch, 23 South River Street, in Maytown.

St. Joseph Hospital plans a permanent primary care facility in Marietta at the corner of Route 441 and Bank Street. This proposal has been endorsed by the Project Review Committee

of the Health Resources Planning and Development, Inc. which is the Health Systems Agency of South Central Pennsylvania.

The proposal must be approved by the full Board of this organization which meets September 9 in Harrisburg. Final approval rests with the Secretary of Health of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Thomas B. Gibble, vice-president of St. Joseph Hospital, indicated that the hospital's architect is already preparing the design development of the new facility.

"This design will be presented to Hospital Authorities during the early part of September. Assuming this proposal is approved and providing approval is obtained from the Secretary of Health during September, it is possible that construction could start in October with an occupancy in late winter or early spring 1977. The structure is anticipated to be built primarily of brick and will consist of approximately 4000 square feet with four professional suites plus x-ray, laboratory, and clerical space in the ground or upper level. A lower level will be provided for storage, perhaps a community health education center, and even some expansion if the need arises. Cost of the structure plus equipment and fee is expected to be about \$240,000."

The Foundation program does not include support for construction. As a condition of receiving a grant, participating institutions are required to assure the availability of appropriate facilities to house the primary care group practice.

Construction funds will be derived from liquidation of assets already owned by the Hospital. Hospital authorities also pointed out that funds from the recently completed successful Capitol Fund Drive are



Dr. Frank M. Krakowski-Director, Ambulatory Services, St. Joseph Hospital, Lancaster.

totally committed to the main Hospital project and will not be used for this endeavor.

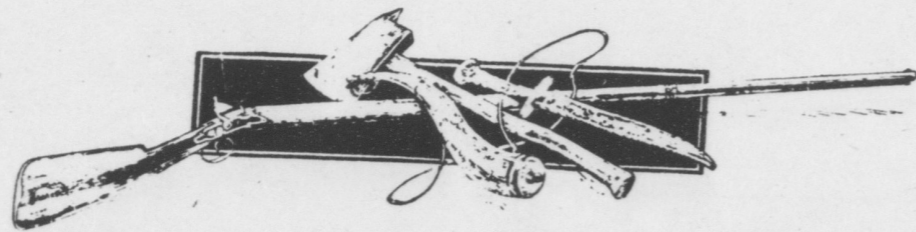
The Foundation does provide support for two purposes; the costs of program planning for the practice and the costs of the development of the practice.

The kinds of health care services to be available through St. Joseph Hospital at both locations were described by Dr. Frank M. Krakowski, Director, Ambulatory Services. "The hospital-based center will provide four basic areas of access to health services. One will be the Family Health Center where three to five physicians will maintain practices, seeing a pediatric to geriatric spectrum of patients. The Walk-in Center will function daily with appointments and handle minor complaints for which the patient could not schedule a visit to the main Center. The Emergency Room will see patients with major complaints or patients with catastrophic illnesses. The fourth component will be one designed to deal with patient education and health maintenance. Personnel will be available to

provide counselling related to a broad range of social and medical problems such as dieting, smoking, marital difficulties, family planning, drug addiction and others. The Hospital intends to expand and extend these services into other communities where easy access to medical care has been difficult or disappointing."

Sister Joan Dreisbach, president of St. Joseph Hospital, commented on the value of this kind of service to the community. "The reception of this grant allows the Lancaster community to benefit from the philanthropy and vision of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Health care, and particularly the process of obtaining health care, is changing rapidly and we deem it important that the health care professionals and institutions of this community continue to address the need and alternative methods for improving both the access and quality of health care."

"We hope that the development of our primary medical care group practice will become one of the more important events in the history of the healing arts of this community."



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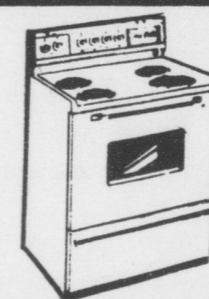
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