



Community Memorial Health System

The Evolution of Community Memorial Hospital ~ 1902-2018



1902: The county's first 24-bed hospital, the Elizabeth Bard Memorial Hospital, opened at Poli and Fir streets. It was named after the late mother of Dr. Cephas L. Bard, a Civil War veteran and country doctor who moved to San Buenaventura in 1868, organized the Ventura County Medical Society and became its first president.

1923: Bard Hospital was renamed Big Sisters Hospital; a six-room annex was built to keep up with patient demand.

1925: A second story was built on and a laboratory was completed in the hospital.



1929-1931: With the hospital overcrowded, plans were made to build a new hospital. Wealthy Ventura banker and businessman

Eugene (E.P.) Foster was the main benefactor. The cornerstone of the new Hospital de Buena Ventura was laid on June 2, 1930, and it opened in 1931 at Loma Vista Road and Brent Street.

1932-1933: The board changed the hospital's financial structure from privately owned to a

nonprofit corporation. E.P. Foster passed away, and in 1933 the new hospital was renamed E.P. Foster Memorial Hospital.

1951: A "baby boom" was underway. The first baby was born at the hospital's new Goodyear Maternity Pavilion.



1961: With a 150 percent increase in patient load over the previous decade straining the hospital, plans to build a new five-floor hospital advanced. In 1962, the hospital submitted plans for a new wing with 146 beds, new administration offices, a new pharmacy, X-ray and laboratory departments, surgical suites and intensive care unit.



1962: The board decided to change the hospital's name to Community Memorial Hospital of San Buenaventura.

1966: A new building, the E.P. Foster Wing, was dedicated, adding 101 beds and six operating rooms to CMH.



1968: A Nuclear Medicine Department was established; the board decided to demolish the old building.



1971: Three new floors and a new wing were added to the five-story hospital, including a coronary care unit, intensive care unit, laboratories, occupational therapy space and medical administrative offices.

1984: Two new wings were built with areas for physical and occupational therapy; speech pathology; classrooms; a gym; same-day surgical suites; a gastroenterology lab; new obstetrics, gynecology and cardiac rehabilitation departments; a larger pharmacy; laundry; and nuclear medicine, physiology and respiratory therapy additions.



1985: The hospital's first emergency room opened and a fitness center opened on-site.

1986: Ground was broken for a new three-story parking structure with 482 parking spaces.

1989-1990: Two emergency room expansion projects doubled the ER's size compared to five years previously.

1991: The medical office building and medical center campus were established.



1994: The first Centers for Family Health location opened on Gonzales Road in Oxnard.

1996: The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit opened and was expanded a year later to treat sick and premature babies.

1999: CMH opened the county's first Breast Center, offering women mammograms and other medical services.

2005: CMH and Ojai Valley Community Hospital merged and the Community Memorial Health System formed.

2011: Ground was broken to build the new 250-bed CMH adjacent to the existing hospital on Brent Street.

