

Hometown Healthy



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Centennial Edition 1923-2023

100 Years Of Caring For Our Community

At the start of her workday, Prima Kintana gathers her supplies and stocks her cart. She makes her way to the Emergency Department where she meticulously cleans each room as patients come and go. Prima, like all our environmental services staff, prides herself in ensuring our facility is expertly cleaned for the safety and comfort of our patients and caregivers.

In a recent evaluation of the hospital, surveyors noted how clean and well-kept our 60-year-old facility is—comparing Ketchikan's hospital to other Critical Access Hospitals throughout the country. Similar praise has been extended throughout the 100 years of the hospital's operation in Ketchikan.

The hospital's founders, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, aspired to be good stewards for the health of the community. The Sisters established high standards for the care and maintenance of the facility just as they established high standards for the care of patients in a rural community, continuously advocating for training and technology to improve the care available. The vision of the Sisters inspired caregivers at every level to serve each other and the community with relentless compassion.

The Sisters' stewardship of the health of the community won well-deserved national praise, yet they would be the first to acknowledge that they could not have been successful without the support of the Ketchikan community. When the original hospital building on Bawden Street became unsuitable, the community supported building a new facility. When new medical equipment was needed to ensure quality care locally, the community joined together in raising the funds. And as the late Ken Eichner wrote, *"In typical*

Southeast Alaska style, when serious trouble came up, everyone dropped what they were doing and came to help." Repeatedly, the community has stood alongside the hospital to ensure the best possible care available in the region.

As PeaceHealth Ketchikan celebrates 100 years of service to the community this year, we reflect on the deep connection between the community and hospital – a connection that allows both to thrive. Just as Prima provides care through her attention to the cleanliness of the Emergency Department, caregivers at the hospital and dedicated members of the community work together every day to improve our little piece of southern

Southeast Alaska—making this a great place to live, and to receive care, for the next 100 years.



Photo Key

1. Prima Kintana as she expertly attends to the Emergency Department in 2023.
2. Laundry attendant in the 1970s.
3. Recovered polio patients in the 50s sharing the sign, "We have been helped."

Relationship with the City of Ketchikan

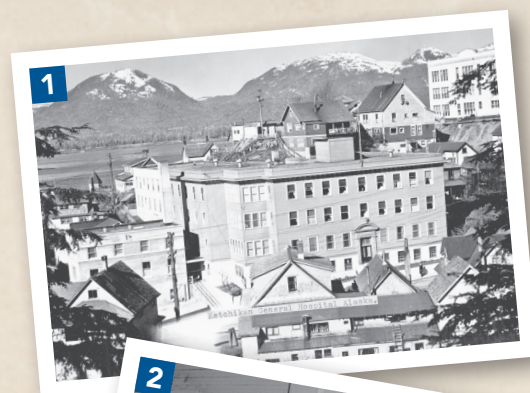
The City of Ketchikan has been an instrumental partner in ensuring safe, compassionate care is available to the local population. In 1959 the original Little Flower Hospital on Bawden Street was determined to be a fire hazard, and a new hospital would need to be built. Because of the large number of free healthcare services extended to the community, the Sisters did not have the funding to construct a new building. The City stepped in by securing local, state and federal funds to construct a new hospital.

However, operation of the new facility in Ketchikan by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace was not a given. The City of Ketchikan hosted numerous meetings and invited several hospital operators to submit proposals—similar to the lease renewal process in 2021. Ultimately, it was determined that the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace were the best equipped to continue providing hospital-based healthcare for the community, and a lease contract was signed between the Sisters and the City of Ketchikan. The new building was opened in 1963.

Over the past 60 years, the City of Ketchikan has remained central to the provision of quality healthcare to Ketchikan through the maintenance and expansion of the hospital and clinics. In 2021, PeaceHealth and the City of Ketchikan signed a new, 20-year lease outlining responsibilities between the entities and solidifying their continued relationship.

Photo Key

1. Early photo of Ketchikan General Hospital on Bawden Street.
2. Inoculation of school children in 1954.
3. Fishing expedition in Loring in the late 50s.



Historical Timeline



1923 - Sisters arrived, New hospital blessed by Bishop Crimont.

1960 - Wooden-framed hospital building considered to be fire hazard after 37 years. City Council votes to build new hospital.



1963 - New City-owned hospital completed. The Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace selected to operate the new facility.

1998 - 75th Anniversary of Ketchikan General Hospital Groundbreaking ceremony for renovation and expansion.

1992 - Wilson Clinic opens.

1966 - Hospital gains new accreditation—one of the first in the state to become accredited.

1941 - Helen Hendricks of Ketchikan became the first licensed nurse in Alaska.



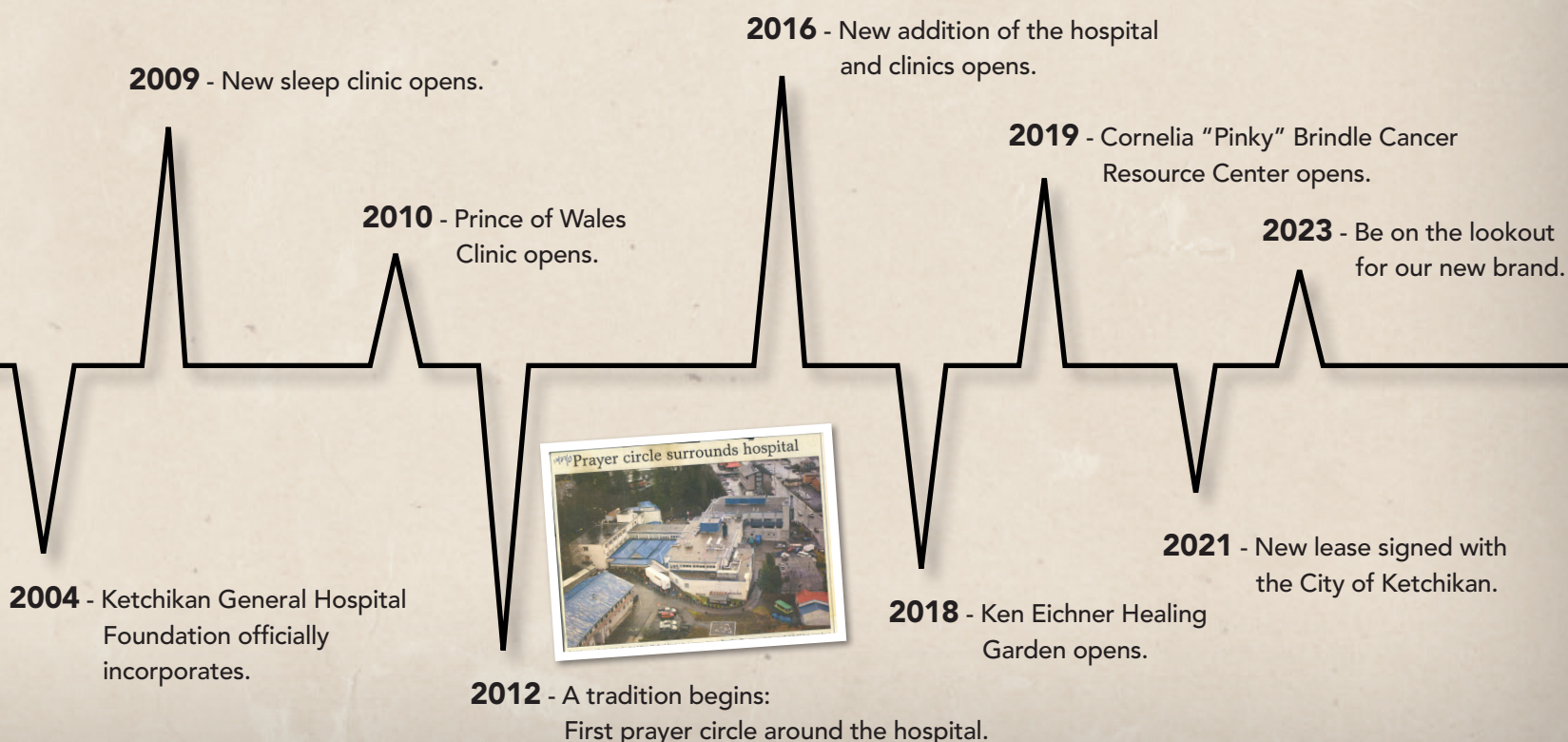
Philanthropic Giving

Throughout the last 100 years, the Ketchikan hospital has been praised for the advanced levels of medical technology available to the people of the region, especially for a facility of its size. These advances in technology were advocated for by the Sisters and funded, in large part, by generous donations from the community. The Sisters understood the necessity of equipping a rural hospital with quality care, and the community has stepped up time after time to ensure that possibility exists.



Photo Key

1. Examples of medical equipment funded by Foundations grants include the Panda baby warmer to support newborns and the 3D mammography machine. These cutting-edge resources were funded through generous community support.
2. The Cornelia "Pinky" Brindle Cancer Resource Center opened in 2019 by a grant from the Brindle family. Former Foundation Manager Matt Eisenhower and the late Congressman Don Young celebrate the Center's opening.
3. An iron lung was purchased for Ketchikan with March of Dimes funds raised by the Mothers March Against Polio and delivered to Ketchikan General Hospital in March 1953 by Coast Guard sailors.
4. In 2010, the Foundation launched the "Charting the Course" campaign to raise funds for a new CT scanner. The community stepped up to raise over \$1 million bringing new technology to the island.
5. Even in the earliest days, the community ensured Ketchikan's hospital had quality medical technology. Here, members of the local chapter of Beta Sigma Phi presented the city with a new incubator in 1953.



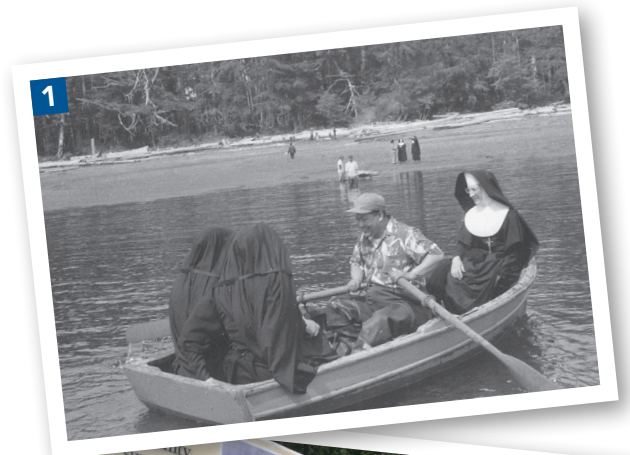
Our Centennial Celebrations

As we recognize our 100 years of caring for the community, we have several events and activities planned to honor our heritage and relationship with the community. Follow us on Facebook to see some historic highlights and stay up to date:

- Watch our documentary premiering on February 22 at 6:00pm on KPUtv channel 611.
- Join us for Ketchikan Museums' Museum Midday on April 6 at Tongass Historical Museum.
- Check out our historic exhibit installation later in the spring, to be located in the corridor between the Emergency Department and clinics.
- Join PeaceHealth's float during the 4th of July Parade.
- Mark your calendars! You're invited to a community BBQ co-hosted with the City of Ketchikan.
 - Friday, August 11 at Ketchikan Medical Center.
 - Watch Facebook for more details.

Photo Key

1. Sisters being rowed at Black Sands Beach in 1959.
2. Caregivers participating in the 2014 4th of July parade as the famous Sisters fishing on the Mañana II in Loring.
3. 2015 ground breaking for the Ken Eichner Healing Garden, which opened to the public in 2018.
4. Clara Diaz, OR manager, shows hospital Auxiliary President Marguerite LaFray new equipment purchased by the Auxiliary's fund raising drive in 1975.



HealthyYou

Get Healthy.
Stay Healthy.

*This edition of the Hometown Healthy newsletter will be our last.
Stay in-the-know with what is happening at PeaceHealth by
signing up for our Healthy You e-newsletter.*



PeaceHealth

Sign up at www.peacehealth.org/healthy-you