



During 2005, Unity lowered its mortality rate to 17 percent below the national average, an effort that saved lives and brought national recognition from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement. Efforts have been successful to minimize, if not eliminate, the incidence of ventilator-associated pneumonia. The work of nurses, respiratory therapists, lab staff, on-site physicians (hospitalists) and fast-acting medical response teams have also been successful. Unity's intensive care team played a big role in this work, including registered nurses Natasha Edberg; Andrea Halter; Linda Benz; Jenny Slipy; Patrice Dahl; and Jason Hoskins. Mercy has implemented several of these actions as well.

For the third consecutive year, Mercy Hospital was named one of the nation's 100 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by Solucient. Mercy and Unity also received the Quality Respiratory Care Recognition, an award that recognizes the hospitals' exceptional patient safety in respiratory care.



40 YEARS AT UNITY

	1966 ¹	2005
Admissions (inpatient and outpatient)	1,447	81,510
Emergency visits	3,236	38,616
Births	220	1,786
Surgeries	438	8,568
Employees	165	1,511
Medical staff	52	875 ²

¹ open seven months in 1966

² combined Mercy and Unity Medical staff

Although Unity sees patients from throughout the Midwest, most come from the north metro communities of Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley, New Brighton, St. Anthony, Lino Lakes, East Bethel, Spring Lake Park, Moundsview, Shoreview, Brooklyn Center, Circle Pines, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Champlin, Anoka, Andover, Cedar, Ramsey, Elk River, New Hope and Crystal.

40 YEARS AT MERCY

	1965-66	2005
Admissions (inpatient and outpatient)	8,710	114,901
Emergency visits	14,531	50,983
Births	1,255	2,540
Surgeries	2,336	14,687
Employees	400	2,270
Medical staff	35	875 ²

² combined Mercy and Unity Medical staff

Although Mercy sees patients from throughout the Midwest, most come from the north metro communities of Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Fridley, New Brighton, Brooklyn Park, Circle Pines, Blaine, Maple Grove, Coon Rapids, Champlin, Anoka, Andover, Cedar, St. Francis, Isanti, Zimmerman, Big Lake, Albertville, Osseo, Ramsey, Elk River and Rogers.



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Mercy and Unity Hospitals

2005 Year in Review

Forty years after the North Metro established its own, much-needed hospitals, Mercy and Unity continue to be essential to the life of these communities. Lights beckoning no matter the weather or time of day, Unity and Mercy are ready to help neighbors and friends face many of life's most joyful, vulnerable and challenging moments.

The communities served by these hospitals continue to change. Changing communities mean changing health care needs, and Mercy and Unity are ready. At Unity specifically, plans for everything from new public spaces to new nursing units are on the drawing board. The hospitals and their medical staff have a growing presence in every north metro community, including Blaine, Elk River and Maple Grove. We are focusing on the future of all of our services, with an emphasis on cardiovascular services, oncology, surgery, orthopedics, women's and children's services, general medicine, and emergency services. We work continually to improve how we take care of our patients, how we treat their loved ones, and how we invest our resources.

How are we doing? You tell us every day by trusting us with your care, and many of you have shared your experiences with us. A few examples are here. Then turn this page and catch up on the year at Mercy and Unity.

"I just want to say how impressed I was with EVERY aspect of my [4 year old] son's care at Mercy, from the registration staff to the nurses and doctors to the x-ray and respiratory staff to the cleaning and dietary personnel. People were poking and prodding all over the place, but everyone explained EVERYTHING to him and made it easy for him to understand. [His nurse] heard that he was going to be a doctor for Halloween and had a mask and hat for his costume, which he did wear." -Grateful Mom



"A note of thanks for the beautiful care I received while at Unity. The nurses and staff were all caring and friendly. A special note of thanks to nurse J.D.; his way of caring was a real comfort; listening and answering questions, always with a smile." -Unity patient.

"To all the nurses, assistants and servers who cared for me, I cannot say thank you enough. I believe that one of the reasons it was worth getting sick was so I was able to meet each of you. You are all my heroes and I will try to live up to the example you set for me. You truly are angels from heaven above and in each of you; beauty and love can be seen." -Grateful patient



Unity Hospital 2005 Year in Review



CREDIT: STAR TRIBUNE

Unity welcomed 1,786 newborns into the world during 2005, some with the help of Lynn Rydberg, RN. Lynn, a Unity labor and delivery nurse, is also a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve. She returned last year after an 18-month tour of duty in Iraq and helped victims of Hurricane Katrina in September.

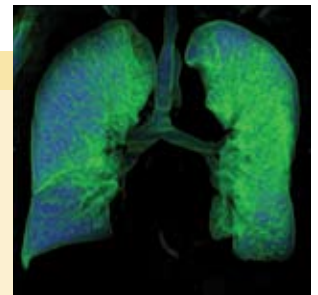


Jim McDonald, an 83-year old Brooklyn Park man, became the first patient at Unity to have a carotid artery stenting procedure. The procedure removes plaque that

diminishes the blood flow in the carotid artery (which brings blood to the brain); a stent is placed in the artery to maintain improved blood flow.

Providing life-saving help for obese individuals, Unity's Bariatric Center received the "Center of Excellence" designation from the American Society for Bariatric Surgery. The Bariatric Center was recognized for how well its patients do in the short term – more than 700 underwent surgery in 2005 – as well as for the program's extensive services for patients over a lifetime.

A new, 16-slice CT scanner at Unity provides greater detail of the body's structures and organs. This new technology is just one of many important services available at Unity, eliminating the travel and wait times faced when technologies are not available right in the community.



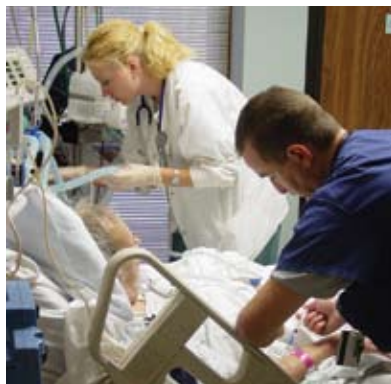
Unity's 40th birthday is marked by extensive renovation plans, thanks to funding from the North Suburban Hospital District. In 2005, the bariatric surgery and inpatient areas, the newborn nursery and the solarium all were remodeled or refreshed. The Hospital District, which founded Unity, represents Fridley, Hilltop, Blaine, Spring Lake Park and Mounds View. An additional \$1.5 million from the Hospital District will fund major renovations at Unity in 2006.



Julius Edlavitch, M.D., founder of Fridley Children's and Teenagers' Medical Center, received recognition from WCCO Radio as a "Good Neighbor" and a lifetime achievement award from the state of Minnesota.

The award recognized his 28 years as a volunteer medical advisor of Head Start of Anoka and Washington Counties. Dr. Edlavitch's efforts to improve the health of children spans the globe, and he is known by his peers internationally through his live internet site for pediatricians.

Mercy Hospital 2005 Year in Review



Mercy's intensive care unit received a national award for nursing excellence, the 2005 Beacon Award for Critical

Care Excellence from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Mercy's is the first critical care unit in the Upper Midwest to be awarded the Beacon.

The first heart ventricular restoration surgery in the Twin Cities was performed at Mercy Hospital. Ventricular restoration restores an enlarged left ventricle – the heart's pumping chamber – to a more normal size and shape.

Cancer patients have a new weapon in the fight against cancer. The PET/CT, here with radiologist Mark Wilson, MD, offers exceptional imaging when determining the stage and development of tumors, as well as the effectiveness of cancer treatment. The PET/CT is among several high-tech imaging systems reflecting a partnership between Mercy, Unity and Suburban Radiologic Consultants. The partnership – Suburban Imaging – has neighborhood locations in Maple Grove and Coon Rapids.



Blama Massaquoi, a young Liberian suffering from the aftermath of torture, was unable to eat and in serious need of surgery to reconstruct his esophagus. Mercy's physicians and employees responded to an international plea for help and volunteered to do what they could; Blama was hospitalized for 22 days and has experienced a satisfactory recovery.



Pediatricians on site around the clock make a big difference in the care children receive in the

hospital, and in a parent's peace of mind. In 2005, Mercy Hospital added round-the-clock pediatric hospitalists (pediatricians who care for hospitalized children). Mercy is the only Twin Cities community hospital to offer this exceptional service; the number of children served since adding the on-site pediatricians has grown 70 percent.

Elk Ridge Health in Elk River continues to provide specialty as well as primary care for that northwestern community. The medical center includes modern surgery suites and a range of high-tech diagnostic equipment, including MRI and colonoscopy.