

The Knothole

MUNSON MEDICAL CENTER
TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN

A publication dedicated to our sidewalk superintendents

Weather hasn't stopped us



In spite of this year's unusually cold and snowy winter, work continues on Munson's addition. The project is, however, about three weeks behind schedule because of the weather. Foundation work is set to be finished soon. Meanwhile, work on the final phase of construction has already begun in the basement areas. The addition is still expected to be ready for occupancy in the spring of 1978.

Patients, visitors, hospital staff and local citizens are eagerly watching the progress of Munson's addition. What was a dream has become reality in the last few months.

The addition will mean an end to crowded conditions at the hospital, as well as improved facilities to better serve modern health care needs. Bed capacity will be increased from 259 to 325. The addition will house 134 new beds, however, 66 of these will be to replace beds in the old structure which no longer meet state codes.

The addition will be approximately 130,000 square feet and in addition to three new

nursing units, will include new emergency treatment facilities, intensive and coronary care units and administrative and admitting offices.

Once the new portion of Munson is open, the present building will be renovated. Renovation plans include enlarging the Radiology Department, a new in-patient rehabilitation unit, and a psychiatric unit.

Cost of the entire building and renovation project is expected to be approximately \$11 million.

When it's over... what will it mean?

Built into Munson's expansion project are a number of benefits to the 15 to 20 county area served by this medical center.

First of all, the new 16-bed in-patient rehabilitation unit will make a comprehensive physical rehabilitation program available to this region. Instead of having to transfer patients to Ann Arbor, Detroit, or Grand Rapids, Munson will be able to provide a total rehabilitation program for victims of stroke, spinal cord injuries, and other accident patients.

The new emergency facilities will enable us to better fulfill our role as a regional trauma center. Indications are that Munson may also become a major neurological center for the northern part of Michigan. This growth will affect other departments such as Radiology and the operating rooms.

Munson is also moving toward a more comprehensive cancer treatment center and this summer hopes to add one or two oncologists to the staff.

A certificate of need for a CAT (computerized axial tomography unit) has been filed for approval from the state. If approved, this revolutionary diagnostic equipment should be in operation early in 1978. This equipment will be a real asset to the neurosurgeons and other physicians in diagnosing tumors and providing treatment.

Another service which has grown tremendously is the Neonatal Intensive Care unit for high-risk infants. Plans are to enlarge the unit by six additional beds bringing it to a total of 12 beds. A four-bed step down unit will also be provided. Although Munson's infant transport team has been very successful in bringing high risk infants to the unit from other hospitals in northern Michigan, the trend is going to be toward bringing expectant mothers who are judged to be high risk to Munson before delivery.

Munson's Board of Trustees and medical staff is actively concerned with recruitment of doctors to fill needs for general practitioners and other specialists as mentioned above.

Munson, as well as all hospitals in the state, is faced with some serious financial

constraints in spite of the need in our area to grow. The rate of increase in costs of hospital care has been high due to the change in intensity of care and the types of services and facilities needed to provide modern care. Nevertheless, the public and the government is going to require constraints on future spending.

Blue Cross and Medicaid last year imposed caps on reimbursements to hospitals for services rendered. Blue Cross imposed a 10% limit on cost increases as they related to the 1975 base year. This was in spite of increases in hospital expenditures over which the hospital has no control such as a 25% increase in utilities and malpractice insurance rates which stood at \$12,000 in 1970 and this year rose to \$332,000. Supply costs rose from 15-17%.

Munson's challenge will be to meet the needs of the area for improved patient care without sacrificing quality of care within the financial pressures of the government.

We're halfway there

Munson's Development Council is now halfway to their \$2.575 million goal. To date, \$1,136,968 has been raised.

The Development Council hopes to realize the remainder of the amount by February, 1978, in order to qualify for the Kresge Foundation's challenge grant of \$250,000.

Because of the Kresge deadline, the original period set by the council in which to raise the funds has been shortened by one year.

By raising this \$2.575 million, the Council will relieve a cost increase to the patient once the building program is completed. The remainder of the \$11 million program will be financed through a bond issue and accumulated investment funds.

Munson Centurions, those who contribute \$100 or more annually, now number 388. These contributors are honored each year at an annual dinner in November and each receives a plaque in recognition.

The Council issued its appreciation last month to the Traverse City K-Mart and Kresge stores for their \$5,000 pledge which was made to show local support for the Kresge Foundation's grant.