

1906

1956

50th

A N N I V E R S A R Y

AUGUSTANA HOSPITAL AUXILIARY



Augustana Hospital

“At the Fiftieth Gateway”

This anniversary booklet is gratefully dedicated to the faithful and devoted members of the Augustana Hospital Auxiliary, commemorating fifty years of Christian life and growth.

Standing at the gateway, the entrance to a new epoch of reaching-out to greater fields of service in Christ's Kingdom here on earth, we pause here to lift our hearts in songs of praise for what “His hand has wrought.” These fifty years have proved His faithfulness. As we look back to years of problems, financial chaos and depression and struggles, it becomes increasingly clear that the Founders regarded a sound faith in God and a corresponding Christian behaviour as basic. The same high purpose has influenced the organization down through the years. We are confident that it will continue to do so in the years that lie ahead, if we are willing to be “rooted and grounded” in love. To love is to give. Faith in the future is our sacred heritage and according to the exercise thereof lies our forward movement and progress. “Into the future with faith” is our watch-word then, as we take up our responsibilities, secure in the knowledge that there is an unfailing Source from which we may draw strength and courage for each day in this important field of opportunity and service.

Viewing in retrospect these golden years there are many names and faces that loom up and shine as stars in the firmament of consecrated and loyal endeavor. Would that we could mention all the faithful who have now received their “well-done.” Our page of memory is filled with the names of these consecrated women who have translated their faith in God

into action. Their example will ever remain an inspiration and a testimony of Christian dedication. The thirteenth chapter of Corinthians became their road map as they traveled on their journey of love down through the years of sacrifice and labor for the extension of His Kingdom. Peace be to their sacred memory!

At the turn of this century there came from a small midwestern town, a college President to serve as Superintendent of Augustana Hospital. In Dr. Matthias Wahlstrom was found a man dedicated to the needs of his fellowman. Living in the large metropolis of Chicago “where cross the crowded ways of life,” he early sensed the value of the human individual as a child of God and the sacred trust entrusted to the women of the Church. In Dr. Wahlstrom's heart there lived the intangibles of life, such as dreams. Overwhelmed by the needs of the poor about him in the hospital, his dream of the part women could play in the drama of life in alleviating the suffering of the sick and needy became a reality, the inspiration of which prompted the inception of the organization of the so-called Augustana Hospital Society of the Messiah Church. In 1910 it was known as the Augustana Hospital Society. The organization grew in activity and membership to include all the churches in metropolitan Chicago. In 1937 the name was again changed to the Augustana Hospital Auxiliary, as it is now known. The purpose of the Auxiliary is to promote cooperation and good will toward the Augustana Hospital, to give assistance to the hospital in purchasing needed equipment and furnishings, and to assist the financially needy patients. Sometimes dreams grow stronger than the idea that prompted them. Little did Dr. Wahlstrom realize how great and how good a thing his dream has become as it has fulfilled many of its highest purposes and aims. We feel honored and blessed to follow the inspiration of this dream. May our lives today reflect the ideals he so nobly sought to foster. In 1926 the furnishings of the Lobby in the new Hospital in his memory was a fitting tribute and memorial to this noble man.

Many forward steps have been taken since the humble beginning. Several years ago the Free-Bed Endowment Fund was sponsored, to which a considerable sum has been contributed. Volunteer service given by members and friends to the Surgical Department has proven a considerable saving to the hospital. The serving of coffee in the lobby of the hospital every Thursday afternoon for several years, increased the fund for special projects and proved to be a pleasant innovation in fellowship. We are all familiar with the new successful venture in 1951, that of establishing the Coffee and Gift Shop, the income of which has been used to redecorate and refurnish many hospital rooms, solariums, and elevator halls. The hope of the Auxiliary is to have this major undertaking completed in the near future. Patients, nurses, and doctors, have much appreciated the cheerful atmosphere of these rooms as well as the modern equipment.

In 1940 the Life Membership and In Memoriam were created. All money received from In Memoriam and the Life Memberships, is placed in the Free Bed Endowment Fund.

For the past three seasons the Auxiliary has had the rare privilege of sponsoring the opening performance of the Shipstad and Johnson Ice Follies held in the Chicago Stadium, as a benefit for the Free Care Fund. The proceeds of the benefit have greatly increased the Auxiliary's ability to swell the income for this worthy cause.

We have briefly surveyed the road behind us. We are now at the Gateway as we envision the future with bright hopes and high courage. A new volunteer service has been planned, as a new project for the near future. Volunteers orientated into this service will act as hostesses in the hospital lobby to aid the new incoming patients to become comfortably situated in their rooms and to help them feel more at ease. These are little "plus" services which the nurses and the nurses' aides cannot be expected to do. In short, they are to practice

hospital-ity. We also look forward to an increase in membership of our Auxiliary through the enthusiasm we hope will be created in this Anniversary year. We believe that investing funds, time, and talent, in these branches of hospital work is the fulfillment of the divine command of Christ.

To Chairman of boards and committees, volunteers in the Surgical Dressing Department, Gift and Coffee Shop and to all who have so graciously accepted responsibilities of important positions, we express sincere gratitude. The Auxiliary is indeed fortunate to have the interest of these talented and dedicated women. We wish to pay tribute to Mr. E. I. Erickson, the Augustana Hospital Superintendent, who has been a real friend and advisor in all the activities. His complete devotion to the total cause of the hospital down through the years has proved to be of invaluable worth. We are grateful to the Hospital Board, the Medical Staff, the Chaplains and their staff, the Nursing Staff, and others connected with the personnel.

As broader views and more challenging vistas beckon us, we go forward into the future with more faith and greater courage. "We know not what the years hold, but we know Who holds the years."

Now in this year of Jubilee we pray that His presence will go with us, as we dedicate ourselves anew to the Master's service in this important ministry of mercy.

A. B.

CHARTER MEMBERS

Mrs. A. L. Anderson	Mrs. Theodore Freeman, Sr.	Mrs. N. P. Lindgren
Mrs. Solomon Anderson	Mrs. Victor E. Freeman	Mrs. G. Lindstrom
Miss Natalie Blomgren	Mrs. Chas. M. Hegberg, Sr.	Mrs. C. J. Olson
Mrs. Oscar Blomgren	Rev. and Mrs. Adolph Hult	Mrs. David Segersten
Mrs. Richard Blomgren	Mrs. Edward Johnson	Dr. and Mrs. M. Wahlstrom
Mrs. C. A. Carlson	Mrs. Emma Johnson	
Mrs. Ernest E. Freeman	Mrs. Frank Johnson	

AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Dr. Matthias Wahlstrom.....1906-1923	Mrs. G. E. Lavine.....1944-1947
Rev. Alfred Nelson.....1923-1927	Mrs. Oscar A. Benson1947-1948
Mrs. John A. Christenson.....1927-1934	Mrs. Nels Lundgren.....1949-1952
Mrs. G. E. Lavine.....1934-1941	Mrs. Emmer Engberg1952-1955
Mrs. C. Elmer Swanson.....1941-1944	Miss Ellen Olson.....1955-

Program . . .

INVOCATIONREV. DANIEL SANDSTEDT
Chaplain, Augustana Hospital

GREETINGSMISS ELLEN OLSON
President, Augustana Hospital Auxiliary

MUSICAL SELECTION
 CONCERTO No. 1.....Mozart
 MISS JUDITH BOND, *Flutist*

GREETINGS:
 MR. E. I. ERICKSON.....*Superintendent, Augustana Hospital*
 DR. DAVID S. BEILIN.....*Medical Staff*
 MR. E. G. ERICKSON.....*Treasurer, Board of Directors*
 MRS. FRANK SHRADER.....*President, Nurses' Alumni*
 DR. O. V. ANDERSON.....*President, Augustana Lutheran Illinois Conference*

MUSICAL SELECTION—Duet
 “HE LEADETH ME”.....Bradbury
 MISS ALICE LATOLA, *Organ*, MISS MARILYN JOHNSON, *Piano*

ADDRESSDR. GRANGER WESTBERG
 “Recapturing the Spirit of the Pioneers”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFRESHMENTSNurses' Lounge

*“Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
for you from the foundation of the world.—I was sick and
ye visited me.—Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of
the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”*

MATTHEW 25: 34,36,40



997.44.67