



Turning History's Pages

- 1875** William H. Bennett, MD, founder, enlisted the help of the Children's Seashore House of Atlantic City to establish St. Christopher's Hospital of Philadelphia
- 1875** **(November 30)** St. Christopher's Hospital opened its doors as a charitable ambulatory pediatric clinic located at 552 Dauphin Street
- 1886** St. Christopher's was the first hospital in the region to offer neonatal care to critically ill infants
- 1890** St. Christopher's added a second building to its location, the Huntingdon Building, which housed 43 beds
- 1896** The hospital acquired its first ambulance – a horse-drawn carriage
- 1906** The hospital established a school for cadet nurses offering a one-year course in caring for sick children
- 1910** The hospital acquired a motorized ambulance
- 1937** After growing nearly three-fold, the hospital opened the Bromley Building
- 1940** Established the nation's first child-life/play therapy program housed in a children's medical center
- 1959** Established the largest cystic fibrosis center for children on the East Coast
- 1962** The 146-bed Morris Pavilion, named for C. Christopher Morris who served on the hospital's board from 1915-1971, became the new hospital building
- 1963** The clinical research center opened
- 1968** Its first open heart surgical case was performed
- 1971** Became the first hospital in the US to establish a tracheotomy unit for infants and children. Surgeons also performed the Delaware Valley's first pediatric kidney transplant this year
- 1984** Established the first pediatric burn center between Boston and Washington, DC
- 1984** St. Christopher's outgrew its quarters. New site identified on Erie Avenue at Front Street.
- 1985** Performed the Delaware Valley's first pediatric liver transplant and the first pediatric heart transplant
- 1987** Performed the Delaware Valley's first combined kidney/liver transplant
- 1989** Became the first hospital in the world to use oxygen-rich liquid ventilation to help premature newborns breath
- 1990** Became the first hospital in the Delaware Valley to use electrical mapping to locate and remove a brain tumor in a pediatric patient
- 1990** **(June 23)** Entire hospital operations moved to Erie Avenue at Front Street location, which housed 183 beds
- 1993** Performed the Delaware Valley's first pediatric split-liver transplant and the first living-related donor liver transplant
- 1993** Performed a heart transplant on a the Delaware Valley's youngest patient – a 4-day-old infant
- 1993** Became the first hospital in the Delaware Valley to use cultured epithelial autografting to help stimulate skin growth on children with severe burns and epidermal abnormalities
- 1995** Became the first hospital in the Delaware Valley to offer grief support group to all children from the Delaware Valley
- 1998** St. Christopher's Hospital for Children became part of Tenet Health System and the primary pediatric teaching facility for Drexel University College of Medicine
- 2000** The hospital celebrated its 125th anniversary and implements the Gift of Life program. St. Christopher's Pediatric Associates is also formed
- 2001** Hospital was named one of the best pediatric hospitals in the US according to US News & World Report. The ECMO, Spasticity and Blood Conservation programs were begun
- 2002** Hospital was named for a second year in a row as one of the best pediatric hospitals by *US News & World Report*
- 2003** Hospital received Regional Level 1 Pediatric Trauma center designation. The hospital was named for a third year in a row as one of the best pediatric hospitals by *US News & World Report*
- 2004** In the year since St. Christopher's began to collaborate with The Eagles Youth Partnership, Eagles Eye Mobile, approximately 1200 children were screened, and close to 800 of them required glasses.
- 2005** St. Christopher's Hospital for Children celebrates 130 years of service Philadelphia Mura Arts Program creates 5 panels of history
- 2006** Grand Opening of the Starlight Starbright Children's Foundation and Hollywood Video Home Theater for patients Ground Breaking for the Newest Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children
- 2007** Maria Delivoria-Papadopoulos, MD, Chief, Division of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine received The Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. National Physician of the Year Award for Lifetime Achievement
- 2007** Grand Opening of the new 10 bed continuing care nursery and the new minimally invasive surgical suite
- 2008** Grand opening of the Ronald McDonald House at St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.
- 2009** St. Christopher's Hospital for Children achieved Magnet™ status from the American Nurses Credentialing Center.