

Phases of Building Construction for Riley Hospital for Children at Indiana University Health

Phase I

The James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children opens on November 19, 1924.

Dr. Samuel E. Smith, Indiana University School of Medicine Provost, serves as general Superintendent in charge of the hospital and Drs. John Finch Barnhill, Lafayette Page, and John H. Oliver supervise medical services. Most medical staff work part time and have active pediatric practices outside the hospital.

There are six wards in Riley Hospital for Children – Ward A with 25 beds for infants; Ward B with 25 beds for general surgery, appendectomies, T&As, hernias and burn patients; Ward C with 25 beds for boys and Ward D with 25 beds for girls ages 2-16 where care is provided for infants and children with (such conditions as) diarrhea, heart disease, kidney disease, pneumonia, croup, whooping cough; Ward E is set up for ears, nose and throat problems, and the Isolation Ward with 35 beds for communicable diseases for a total of 160 beds.

The Hospital's Kiwanis Unit (K-Wing) was dedicated and opens on January 7, 1930. The Kiwanis unit "K" Wing offers orthopedic care and provides space for an occupational therapy program that was supported by the Junior League of Indianapolis from 1924-1948. The League still maintains a trust fund that supports efforts in the interests of children with disabilities.

The Rotary Building opens as a convalescent center for patients of Riley Hospital for Children in 1931. The cornerstone for the Rotary Building was laid on April 28, 1931. Riley Hospital's hydrotherapy pool is built and opens in 1935. President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits the pool facility in September 1936.

The cornerstone of the hospital's Research Wing is dedicated on October 7, 1949 and the Research Wing opens in 1950. The Kiwanis Diagnostic and Outpatient Center opens in July 1958. In a single year, the new facility attracts 38,160 patient visits to the thirty specialized children's clinics.

A new addition to the hospital opens in 1965 and houses new radiology facilities, a new surgical facility, and space for rehabilitation services.

- Elizabeth J. Van Allen and Omer H. Foust (eds.), Keeping the Dream: 1921-1996— Commemorating 75 Years Of Caring For Indiana's Children: The James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association, (James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association: Indianapolis, 1996), pp. 17-19, 22-23, 25-26, accessed through James Whitcomb Riley Collection IUPUI University Library Digital Collections, available at: IUI ScholarWorks, Riley Hospital Collection, Riley Hospital Histories: <https://scholarworks.indianapolis.iu.edu/collections/bc36740b-d733-4d02-8813-a491e835bb86>
- *Also see:* "\$5,000 Scholarship given to I.U. School," and "Mrs. Kahmann, League worked hand in hand," Indianapolis News, April 18, 1959, p. 3. Winifred Conrick Kahmann was the first Director of Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy at Riley Hospital for Children, serving from 1924 until her retirement in 1959.

- History of the Department of Pediatrics: Notes prepared by Mary Ann Underwood, Assistant to Dr. Morris Green, pp. 1-2. Notes provided courtesy Mary Ann Underwood.

Phase 2

Groundbreaking for the first major addition to Riley Hospital for Children (Phase II) takes place on June 19, 1967 and the building is dedicated and opens on April 27-28, 1971. The new addition features 133 new beds and includes 24 rooms in the Baxter Parent Care unit; a comprehensive newborn special care unit; enlarged ambulatory care facilities; new departments of occupational and physical therapy; a child development section with staff offices, testing and observation rooms, and classrooms. Other major services provided by the new wing addition include another intensive care unit and a special eight-bed unit for children with burns, the first in Indiana. Kappa Kappa Kappa, Inc. provides a major contribution for the burn unit. The new addition also includes comprehensive clinical laboratories for prenatal genetic diagnosis and the management of inborn, biochemical genetic disorders.

- Riley Hospital Master Plan, Minutes of the IU Board of Trustees, July 25-28, 1969, available at: <http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/iubot/view?docId=1969-07-25&chunk.id=d1e2488&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d1e2488&brand=iubot&text1=master%20plan&field1=text#1>
- *Also see:* Riley Hospital Ten-Year Building Plan, Minutes of the IU Board of Trustees, May 23, 1970, available at: <http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/iubot/view?docId=1970-05-23.xml&chunk.id=d1e1812&toc.depth=1&toc.id=d1e1812&brand=iubot&text1=Phase%20IV%20Riley%20Hospital&op1=and&op2=and&field1=text&field2=text&field3=text&startDoc=1#>
- Keeping the Dream, p. 27. *Also see:* "Tri Kappa Burn Center: Riley's Hospital within a Hospital," Riley Times, January/February 1981, (Indianapolis: James Whitcomb Riley Memorial Association), p. 3.

Phase 3

New Riley Hospital inpatient building (**Phase III**, 250,000 sq. ft.) is dedicated on October 7, 1986 and opens and includes a model Infant Intensive Care Unit (the Nurture Center), expanded inpatient and intensive care units, 14 operating rooms, state-of-the-art imaging facilities and, for the first time, a cafeteria.

In 1994, Indiana's first and only pediatric cancer center, including the state's only pediatric stem cell transplant unit, opens on the 5th floor added to Phase III of Riley Hospital.

- Riley Memorial Association commemorative publication to mark the occasion of the new wing to the hospital, October 7, 1986.
- History of the Department of Pediatrics. Notes prepared by Mary Ann Underwood, Assistant to Dr. Morris Green, p. 18. Notes provided courtesy of Mary Ann Underwood.
- Keeping the Dream, p. 32.

Phase 4

The Riley Hospital for Children Outpatient Center (**Phase IV**) opens in 2000 as the nation's largest ambulatory care center for children. The Frank and Marian Snyder Family Resource Center opens in January 2004 and includes: the Edward A. Block Family Library, the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana, Chapel, and a Riley Family Education Center.

- A Brief Artifacts Inventory and History of the Site currently occupied by the Edward A. Block Family Library, James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, available at IUI eArchives: <https://archives.indianapolis.iu.edu/items/51802671-1d07-49c1-8616-16240c8078e6>
- “New Riley center helps families feel a bit more at home,” Indianapolis Star, February 27, 2004, B-4, accessed through Indianapolis Public Library.

Phase 5

The first phase of the Simon Family Tower (**Phase V**) opens in January 2011 with patients moving into rooms on the 7th, 8th, and 9th floors. All phases of the Simon Family Tower are completed by 2013.

- “Celebration of Children honors impact of Simon Family Tower,” August 29, 2012, Riley Children’s Foundation.

Riley Hospital Historic Preservation Committee

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3.1.25 updated