

Botsford Hospital marks silver anniversary

Hospital has seen much expansion in its 25 years

Botsford General Hospital in Farmington Hills celebrated its 25th anniversary with a reception Friday featuring a one-of-a-kind cake, a replica of the main hospital building.

The first patient was admitted to Botsford 25 years ago, on Jan. 19, 1965.

More than 150 local dignitaries, hospital administrators, board members and employees gathered for a brief ceremony, to enjoy the cake and to kick off the yearlong observance of the silver anniversary of the hospital's founding.

A total of 800 pieces of cake were served at the reception and to employees on the various shifts at the hospital. A number of additional activities are planned to celebrate Botsford's anniversary throughout the year.

Dr. Allen Zieger, the founder of Botsford General Hospital, was very proud when the hospital opened 25 years ago," said Gerson Cooper, Botsford president. "Botsford was, and continues to be, a fully equipped hospital with very high standards of service. I know he would be pleased with the continued progress that has been made through the years expanding upon his dream."

Originally, Botsford was a 200-bed hospital serving the growing Farmington/Farmington Hills area and neighboring communities.

Today, in addition to the main 336-bed hospital, the facility's campus consists of three additional administrative and medical office buildings.

Botsford is a nationally recognized osteopathic teaching facility, affiliated with the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine. More than 30 interns and 60 residents are trained in 14 different specialties and subspecialties each year at the hospital.

On Jan. 19, 1965, newly opened Botsford General Hospital admitted its first patient to the 200-bed hospital.

'I know (founder Allen Zieger) would be pleased with the continued progress that has been made through the years expanding upon his dream.'

— Gerson Cooper
Botsford president

In 1965 at Botsford there were 211 employees, 2,926 surgeries performed, 47,958 patient days and 8,519 emergency room visits.

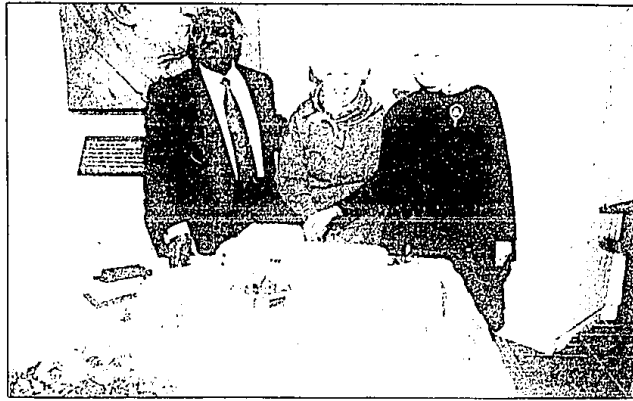
Today, Botsford Hospital is a 336-bed osteopathic health care facility serving Farmington Hills and the surrounding communities.

In 1989, Botsford employed a work force of 1,650 employees, performed 7,094 surgeries, recorded 82,840 patient days and attended to 27,234 emergency department cases.

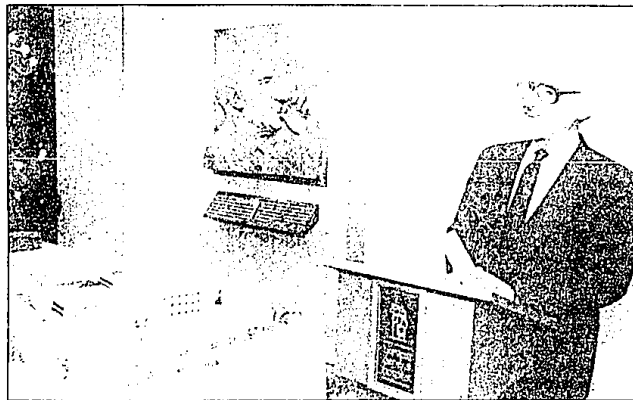
Dr. Allen Zieger founded Zieger Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit in 1944. Throughout the 1950s and '60s, that hospital grew from its original 19 beds to a 155-bed hospital. Foreseeing growth and new opportunities, the hospital corporation decided to expand operations with a second location.

In 1977, Zieger Osteopathic Hospital was merged with another osteopathic hospital in Detroit. These two hospitals formed what is now known as Michigan Osteopathic Medical Center. Dr. Zieger died in 1984.

Botsford General Hospital is an affiliate of the non-profit Zieger Health Care Corp. Other affiliates include Northwest General Hospital in Detroit, Farmington Nursing Home and Community Emergency Medical Services.



Botsford General Hospital Board Chairman Edward H. Hodges III, left, Farmington Hills Mayor Jean Fox and Carol Zieger Cooper, daughter of Botsford founder Dr. Allen Zieger, cut the cake at the reception celebrating the hospital's first patient admission 25 years ago.



Botsford General Hospital President Gerson Cooper spoke to the guests and hospital employees present at the anniversary celebration. Behind the cake is the bas relief of Botsford founder Dr. Allen Zieger, which was dedicated in late September.

Botsford has expanded on its founder's dream

It was January 1965.

Robert Lindert was the mayor of Farmington. The minimum wage in Michigan was \$1 an hour. A three-bedroom brick home in Farmington sold for \$16,900. And a 200-bed hospital called Botsford General Hospital opened its doors to Farmington and surrounding communities.

For Dr. Allen Zieger, Botsford meant the realization of his dream of 20 years: to build a new, fully equipped hospital that would set a high standard of service for the community.

And as Botsford celebrates its 25th anniversary, the physicians, employees and patients of the hospital share in Dr. Zieger's dream.

Dr. David Sussner, Dr. Harris Mainster and Dr. Lyle Fettig are three physicians on staff who have been with Botsford since its beginning. Like many others, they have seen the hospital grow and expand from its 200 beds to a 336-bed osteopathic teaching hospital.

SUSSNER CAME to Botsford from Zieger Osteopathic Hospital in Detroit, where he trained in internal medicine and practiced for three years. Twenty-five years ago, he was appointed chair of the medicine department. He still holds that position.

Compared to the 150-bed Zieger Hospital, Botsford was a large, modern hospital, according to Sussner. "Coming to Botsford felt very luxurious. It was new and it was modern. I thought it was quite beautiful."

For Mainster, Botsford provided an opportunity to grow and learn. Fresh out of residency, he was the youngest surgeon on staff. Now 25 years later, he is the chair of Botsford's Department of Surgery.

"I remember the first week the hospital was open," Mainster said. "We had just opened a beautiful, state-of-the-art, contemporary hospital. Every new technological device was put into it. And each new patient brought a new experience."

WHEN FETTIG started his general practice in Novi in 1967, the closest hospital was "Pinnacle Osteopathic," a 25-mile drive over back roads. Fettig, now practicing in Northville and president-elect of the hospital's professional staff, was excited at the prospect of having a modern hospital much closer to his practice.

"I applied for hospital privileges almost immediately," he said. "I lit-

'Coming to Botsford felt very luxurious. It was new and it was modern. I thought it was quite beautiful.'

— Dr. David Sussner.

erally couldn't wait for the hospital to open."

Besides a shorter drive, Botsford represented modern technology. "I had new, modern equipment right at hand. The hospital functioned smoothly and efficiently without any of the glitches you'd expect to occur in a new hospital."

For the community, Botsford meant convenient, high-quality medical care. Within one month of operation, the hospital was filled to capacity. Patients came from as far away as Brighton and Milford. "We were greeted with open arms," Mainster remembered. "We were needed, wanted and accepted."

CHANGE CAME gradually for the hospital, the physicians recalled. As medicine became more specialized, so did the hospital.

"Medicine was relatively primitive (when the hospital opened) compared to now," Sussner said. "That was before coronary care units and cardiac monitoring and so many of the procedures we now do routinely."

"Our sick patients are in specialized units such as intensive care units, acute care units and cardiac care units," Mainster added. "These are specialized units that we didn't have when the hospital first opened."

Fettig has seen the addition of more specialty care. "In the beginning we provided all general hospital services such as general medicine, surgery and maternity. We still do. But we quickly acquired the services of most specialties, and we've developed specialized treatment centers like the substance abuse treatment center."

The demand for medical services also caused Botsford to expand its physical facilities. "The first few years the hospital was open, it was difficult to get a bed for a patient, especially in the winter," Fettig said.

Sussner remembers waiting lists of

up to three months to get a patient admitted to the hospital.

IN 1977, Botsford added a professional building, which also houses ambulatory surgery and outpatient X-ray units. In 1987, the hospital added two new patient care areas, renovated two nursing units to include rehabilitation facilities and a geropsychiatric unit and opened the South Professional Office Building.

More changes followed in 1988 with expansion of the emergency department and addition of an urgent care track to better accommodate patients and improve efficiency.

Along with the addition of new beds and specialized services, Fettig sees the biggest change in the hospital's administrative staff. "A larger administrative staff is required to run the hospital efficiently. There's much more record keeping and paperwork. And the hospital has become more automated. I see computers at every work station in the hospital."

SUSSNER BELIEVES the growth of the hospital is a direct result of the advancements made in medicine and technology. "Changes in the hospital represent dramatic technological changes in medicine," he said. "Many more services can be offered and the intensity of treatment has changed quite a bit."

Despite the growth and technology, Botsford General Hospital has always stood for the family. Dr. Zieger implanted that feeling of family from the very start.

"Botsford is still a family," Mainster said. "The hospital passes that feeling on to its patients, employees and physicians. That concept has remained, developed and is forever encouraged."

"Much of the success of this hospital is due to the fact that we've never lost sight of the patient," he added. "We're not so specialized that we can't take time for the family."



GOLDEN BEAR

A champion all the way...here or away.

any time of the year. It's our crisp

wrinkle-resistant and lightweight

Jack Nicklaus Golden Bear® blazer

tailored by Hart Schaffner & Marx.

Navy, grey, blue, teal, burgundy or

tan polyester/wool blend for top

performance you can count on. \$215.

Jacobson's

We welcome Jacobson's Charge, MasterCard, VISA® and American Express®.
Shop until 9 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. Until 6 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday.