

Let the Sun Shine In

New tower at Glendale Adventist Medical Center is a breathtaking beacon for patients, Pasadenians and passersby alike.

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▶ **SUNLIGHT STREAMS THROUGH IMMENSE WINDOWS** ONTO GOLDEN TRAVERTINE TILES. A WATER FEATURE EXTENDS FROM THE TWO-STORY-HIGH CEILING TO THE FLOOR. WHITE IRISES IN A VASE SIT ATOP A GLASS TABLE SURROUNDED BY SLEEK, MODERN, WHITE LEATHER SEATING. THIS TRANQUIL SETTING ISN'T A SPA; IT'S THE MAIN LOBBY OF GLENDALE ADVENTIST MEDICAL CENTER'S NEW 190,000-SQUARE-FOOT PATIENT CARE TOWER, HARDLY THE AUSTERE ATMOSPHERE MANY HAVE COME TO THINK OF AS PART OF THE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE.

"Our architects very carefully took our thought of being a pillar of light for the community," said Warren Tetz, GAMC's senior vice president of operations and chief operations officer.

From monetary donations to inspirational art contributed by local artists to the Rotary Club of Glendale's gift of a water fountain for one of the patios, this project has been a true community effort.

The hospital expansion has not only been helped by the community, but built with the community in mind. The emphasis for the project's design has been on blending state-of-the-art technology with easy access, capacity and family, according to Tetz. Also apparent is the hospital's mission statement, "To share God's love with our community by promoting healing and wellness for the whole person." The hospital believes in treating not only the body, but the mind and the spirit.

"Healthcare is not a comfortable situation, let's face it," Tetz said. "So we try to make people feel as comfortable as possible."

From the slightly diffused light sources placed on the walls—so patients lying on gurneys don't have to look directly into glaring lights on the ceilings—to the rounded corners on all cabinetry, every comforting detail was considered.

Each floor has an inspirational and calming theme for easing the mind and removing the stress of getting lost. A person may forget that the Neurological Telemetry Unit is on the fourth floor, but will probably remember the light purple paint and the pressed lavender petals framed in glass on the wall. The theme of this floor: "Renewal."

Standing in the 12-bed Surgical Intensive Care Unit, where the theme is "Hope," Tetz said, "You will see a tremendous investment in family you've probably never seen before. We firmly

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believe that the population now wants family to be with the patient, and that's not been encouraged in hospitals in the past."

In every room—most with views—there is a couch that turns into a bed, so a family member is able to stay with the patient. There is also a family room, which has facilities for food preparation, a bathroom with a shower and areas for socializing or private time. Just beyond the

room, is an expansive outdoor patio with tables, chairs and views of the Glendale Hills.

Another comfort for the family and patients is access to the Internet in every room. Computers and software were donated by IBM and Novell, so patients and their families can create CarePages Web sites to keep in touch with loved ones about their progress.

Addressing the need for capacity, Tetz said,

AN URBAN OASIS: LUMINOUS NEW GLENDALE LANDMARK QUENCHES PATIENTS' THIRST FOR QUALITY CARE IN COMFORTING QUARTERS.

"The number of patients has grown about 40 percent in the last five years." One of the reasons, he explained, is because, "We do more complex services than typical hospitals do. The technology here is very rare. We do some very

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high-end work not typical to major teaching facilities.”

GAMC has five out of the 200 doctors in the entire nation who are board certified to perform the most advanced neurological procedures. And while the hospital has earned many awards, recently GAMC received the American Stroke Association's Initial Achievement Award for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke

patients admitted to the Emergency Department. GAMC was also the first in California to perform a brain stent procedure, which is a less invasive way to open tiny vessels in the brain.

As for state-of-the-art technologies, Robert Marchuk, associate vice president of GAMC, says they are very proud to have, as of this month, the Innova BiPlane Imaging system. GAMC will be one of only about five hospitals

A HALL ALL AGLOW: A VISIT TO RESPLENDENT GLENDALE ADVENTIST IS AN ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCE.

in the nation to have such a setup. With the BiPlane's high resolution, physicians will be able to see three-dimensional images of the vascular system, bone and soft tissue from two different angles. Since physicians will have better

visibility of the small blood vessels in the brain, the BiPlane is ideal for advanced neurological procedures.

Because their hospital offers such high-quality healthcare and due to the growing, aging community, GAMC's expansion was vital.

With the completion of the seven-floor Patient Care Tower, the first part of the three-phase expansion, GAMC has 60 new patient beds, giving the entire hospital a total of 457 beds; new state-of-the-art technology dedicated to treatment and prevention of cardiac and neurological diseases; outpatient radiology services with MRI machines, two CT scanners and other radiological equipment conveniently located in one area; a much larger and improved Emergency Department, with an elevator dedicated to the sole purpose of transporting patients from Emergency directly to the Surgical and Cardiac units; double the capacity of the previous Intensive Care Unit and six new spacious operating rooms for cardiac and neurological procedures. Also, there is now an easy-to-find entrance off of Chevy Chase Drive and 499 new parking spaces.

As noted previously, none of this would have been possible without the community. Andrei Nikitin, philanthropy officer for the Healthcare Foundation at GAMC, said that the foundation board—comprised of people from the community—ran a capital campaign for two years. The foundation received \$10 million in donations and pledges from individuals, businesses and groups. Those contributions have helped supplement the funds GAMC received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) after the 1994 earthquake and finances obtained by the hospital.

As hospital spokesperson Alicia Gonzalez said, "This hospital would not be if it wasn't for the community support and the donors. They've been very generous." Even the theme of the serene lobby with the water feature, where many donors' names are displayed, is named "Community."

For over 100 years, Glendale Advertiser has been at the forefront of healthcare. With this new expansion, the hospital will be able to continue serving Glendale and the surrounding areas with top-notch care, today and for many years to come. ✓