



CELEBRATING

150 YEARS
as Yankton.

114 YEARS
as Partners.

The city of Yankton was founded 150 years ago. In 1897 — 114 years ago — the original Sacred Heart Hospital opened its doors. We began with six Benedictine Sisters in a building with no electricity and a horse and buggy ambulance.

Today, we lead the way as a regional medical center with state-of-the-art technology that's used by over 1,200 highly skilled employees and physicians.

Over the past 150 years, one thing has stayed the same: our commitment to the community.

Join us in celebrating Yankton's 150-year presence — we're proud to have been a part of that history for 114 years.

- Transportation to and from Sacred Heart Hospital was done by horse (Old Dobbin) and buggy, which also served as the ambulance on a dirt street that was muddy and dusty much of the time.
- The original Sacred Heart Hospital was established as an academy building and once used as Bishop Mary's short-lived Indian school before it was hastily converted to a hospital in 1897.
- Without electricity, lighting was done by kerosene lamps. Instruments were sterilized on the kitchen stove and dressings were 'baked' in the oven. Heating was by coal-burning stoves in each room.
- Sister Flavia Degelo from Switzerland became the first administrator of Sacred Heart Hospital in 1897. Six Benedictine Sisters, educated as teachers, were hastily sent to various locations to 'get as much nursing training as possible' during the summer months. Four days after the hospital opened (Nov. 4, 1897) the first patient was admitted by Dr. Gross.

Avera 
Sacred Heart Hospital

Look no further.