



ROME MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

NEWS RELEASE

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Rome Memorial Hospital celebrates 125 years

ROME – Rome Memorial Hospital will commemorate 125 years of service to the community as part of its many health, wellness and fund-raising events throughout 2012.

Before there was a hospital in Rome, Dr. Thomas M. Flandrau, and his wife, Clarissa Foote Flandrau opened their home to care for victims of a train accident in 1883 because there was no other place. That response to people in need of medical care spurred efforts to establish the city's first "cottage hospital" in a vacant church rectory on Ridge Street.

But, it wasn't long before the Flaundraus took up the crusade to rouse public sentiment and funding to build a new hospital away from the web of rails and rumble of heavy train traffic in South Rome. Mrs. Flaundrau's "example lent encouragement to others and the hospital movement became the most popular public charity that this city ever knew," according to newspaper accounts.

On Sept. 27, 1887, Dr. Flandrau laid the cornerstone of Rome Hospital at 117 E. Garden St. From that day 125 years ago, Rome's community hospital has evolved to meet the health and wellness needs of Rome and surrounding communities.

"We are proud to carry on the tradition of compassion and servitude exemplified by the Flaundraus," said Rome Memorial Hospital's President/Chief Executive Officer Basil J. Ariglio. "They saw a need and responded to it. Today, we continue to do just that."

"From 24-hour emergency care to routine testing for early detection, Rome Memorial Hospital provides a broad range of services to meet the community's healthcare needs," Ariglio said. "As a not-for-profit facility, we provide approximately \$7.4 million in uncompensated care a year to those who are unable to pay, while delivering exceptional quality and service."

Ariglio encouraged residents to participate in the hospital's health fairs, lectures and special events throughout the year as an opportunity to learn ways to live a healthier lifestyle.

"Our events also give residents an opportunity to learn more about the hospital," Ariglio said. "People are often surprised by our growth and technological advances. We've really become a community hospital that thinks like a major medical center."

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