

Charity Hospital Timeline

1736 – 2022

The location, the structure, and the name may have changed but the mission has remained the same, supporting and facilitating healthcare for the people of New Orleans when they need it the most.

May 10, 1736 - Charity Hospital was founded by a grant from Jean Louis, a French sailor and shipbuilder, who died in New Orleans the year before. His last will and testament was to finance a hospital for the indigent in the colony of New Orleans from his estate. Hospital of Saint John or L'Hôpital des Pauvres de la Charité (Hospital for the Poor) opened at Chartres and Bienville Streets beginning the 2nd oldest continuing public hospital in the United States.

1743 – The hospital quickly outgrew its original facility and was moved to the edge of the Colony to Basin Street. This building was nearly destroyed by a hurricane. Only the kitchen and storehouse were left standing to serve as a six-bed hospital.

1785 – The San Carlos Hospital was built in the same location in honor of King Charles III of Spain. Fire destroyed the 24-bed hospital twenty-four years later. Patients were moved to the City Hall, the Cabildo; then a residence in the Faubourg – Marigny and later to the De La Vergne Plantation until a new hospital was built.

1815 – Five years after fire destroyed San Carlos Hospital, a fourth Charity Hospital was built on Canal Street where The Roosevelt New Orleans Hotel is currently located.

1832 – The fifth building was built on Common Street (Tulane Avenue) between Howard Street (LaSalle Street) on the edge of the Faubourg St. Marie. The Daughters of Charity assumed control, then later named it Hotel Dieu in 1859. They would run the hospital for the next century.

1939 – By the 20th century, the demand for indigent medical services exceeded capacity and a sixth Charity Hospital was built at Tulane Avenue becoming the second largest hospital in the United States at the time with 2,680 beds.

1970 - The Louisiana Department of Health and Human Resources (DHH) took control of Charity.

1972 – Interim LSU Public Hospital, built by the Daughters of Charity under the name of Hotel Dieu was renamed, University Hospital in 1992 when the building was sold to the State and became part of the Medical Center of Louisiana New Orleans system.

1991 - The hospital was transferred to the Louisiana Health Care Authority (LHCA)

1993 – The Spirit of Charity Foundation was established.

1997 – The hospital was transferred to the Louisiana State University system.

2005 – Hurricane Katrina forces Charity Hospital to close its doors after sustaining severe flood damage. A temporary clinic named the Spirit of Charity was established at the New Orleans Convention Center. It was later relocated to the New Orleans Centre adjacent to the Super Dome.

2006 – University Hospital re-opened after Hurricane Katrina as Interim LSU Public Hospital with 156 beds.

2013 – Interim LSU Hospital joined the LCMC Health System in June 2013 after a public-private partnership reached with the State of Louisiana.

2015 – University Medical Center New Orleans opens and LCMC Health expands to include them in their medical system providing a complete continuum of care from birth to geriatrics.

2018 – The Spirit of Charity Innovation District strategic plan was created by the Greater New Orleans Foundation and partners. University Medical Center New Orleans is a cornerstone of the new top-tier healthcare district for the region.

2022 – Proud to be the 2nd oldest continuously operating hospital in the United States of America.