In the beginning

1916
Breaking Ground

Serving Southwest Florida

Since its founding more than 100 years ago, Lee Health — then known as Lee Memorial — has been our community's major health provider: Created, built and staffed by Southwest Florida residents.

Early settler William Brown

Lee Memorial Hospital

Lee Memorial Hospital opened on Oct. 3, 1916, at the corner of Victoria and Grand avenues in Fort Myers. A two-story building with screened porches along the front on both floors, it had four rooms for patients and an operating room.

With no elevator, patients were carried by hand from the second floor operating rooms downstairs to their rooms on the first floor.

LEE HEALTH

We celebrate you.

Where is Lee Health today?

Today, Lee Health , a not-for-profit public health system, serves the Southwest Florida community with more than 15,000 employees and volunteers who believe in compassionate care and community service.

1990s
Taking Flight

Community Expansion

HealthPark Medical Center

HPMC opened in 1991 with 220 beds, 75 of which were the Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. Staff delivered services of every kind, including new cardiac features. A beautiful atrium changed patients' ideas of what a hospital should look and feel like.

The groundbreaking. The atrium before and after.

Cape Coral Hospital

Cape Coral Hospital originally opened in 1977. But in 1996, Lee Memorial acquired the hospital for $152 million to provide essential care for Cape Coral residents. Our system then officially rebranded as Lee Memorial Health System.

New or expanded services in the 90s included parkinson's care, diabetes care, heart and pulmonary units, obstetrics, angioplasty suite, and cardiac stent procedures.

LEE HEALTH

Partnerships with you

The Lee Health Foundation

In 1995, we launched the Lee Memorial Health System Foundation, now known as the Lee Health Foundation. The Foundation serves as our chief fundraising entity and relies on community generosity.