

Can-do spirit made hospital a reality in 1984

It's hard to imagine that the area around McCormick Ranch was considered "north Scottsdale" some 25 years ago. Aerial photos from 1984



JOHN
FERREE

show vast swatches of open desert, with one exception: The city's second hospital, now known as Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center, stood as a sentinel of caring for a growing community.

What began as a vision of creating a community-based hospital has grown into a world-class medical center marking its 25th birthday this year, thanks in large part to generous support from community philanthropists, local citizens and physicians.

In 1982, a fundraising campaign was launched to support the new hospital. Co-chairmen were philanthropist Kenneth Piper and actor Dick Van Dyke. These and other community leaders

had the foresight to see that a hospital was needed in what was going to become a thriving area.

MY TURN

The outpouring of support was phenomenal. More than \$5 million was raised, making it one of the Valley's largest fundraising efforts at the time.

Building on the community's enthusiasm for world-class medical care, Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation was formed.

Its board of trustees, made up of outstanding community leaders with a keen philanthropic interest in Scottsdale Healthcare, held its first meeting in early 1985. Herbert K. Cummings was the first chairman of Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation's board.

The legacy of this original group of philanthropists continues today. Donations large and small from our community have helped the little hospital in "north Scottsdale" grow into today's Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical

Center — ironically in what is now the heart of the city at Loop 101 and Shea Boulevard.

We are truly fortunate to live in a community that values excellence in personalized health care. Philanthropic support enables Scottsdale Healthcare to be a leader in bringing world-class medical talent and technology to Arizona. It was through this generosity that the state's first da Vinci surgical robot was installed at the Shea medical center, making it a regional leader in minimally invasive surgery.

Donations helped fund the Virginia G. Piper Cancer Center at Scottsdale Healthcare Shea, which in addition to local patients attracts others from throughout the United States and other countries seeking the latest advancements in cancer care.

World-renowned physician-researchers are developing new treatments for disease through the Scottsdale Clinical Research Institute at the Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center. The

institute also was founded through philanthropic support.

Patients benefit from philanthropic support of other areas including the Shea women's center, neonatal and inpatient intensive care units, pediatric unit, new surgical technology and even donated original art. Many nursing scholarships are funded through donations. Our elite magnet nurses place Shea in the top echelon of hospitals.

I am reminded that when the fundraising drive for Scottsdale Healthcare Shea Medical Center began in 1982, our country was emerging from a prolonged recession.

But that didn't slow the can-do spirit of our community. The similarities with today's economy are striking.

More than ever, philanthropy can help ensure our community continues to be a leader in providing world-class medical care.

John Ferree is president of Scottsdale Healthcare Foundation.