

## **HISTORY**

Catholic Health Initiatives, the nation's second-largest faith-based health system, was formed through the alliance of four national Catholic health care systems. Planning for the consolidation dates back to 1995, when a group of Catholic health care leaders began to explore ways to strengthen the health ministry for the future.

The goal: Develop and nurture a national health ministry, sponsored and governed by an equal religious-lay partnership, which would transform health care delivery and create vibrant new ministries across the nation to build healthy communities.

The new organization, which at the time included 61 hospitals, began operations on July 1, 1996. It was the first Catholic health system to give lay people a sponsorship role in its facilities. The system is sponsored and governed by a 15-member Board of Stewardship Trustees.

Today, Catholic Health Initiatives, which includes the health care ministries of 12 congregations of sisters, is guided by the same pioneer spirit that led women religious to carry out their healing ministry hundreds of years ago. Along with its focus on helping to build healthier communities, the system is committed to reaching new milestones of clinical quality and to pursue an agenda of social justice.

Committed to serving the poor and uninsured, Catholic Health Initiatives provides health care in Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Washington and Wisconsin. Twenty-six of the 28 rural hospitals operated by Catholic Health Initiatives are the sole providers of health care in their communities, highlighting the system's mission to serve those most in need. Twenty-two of those facilities are critical-access hospitals.

The system is led by President and Chief Executive Officer Kevin E. Lofton, who was appointed to the position in August 2003 upon the retirement of the system's first leader, Patricia A. Cahill. Lofton, a longtime hospital executive, was promoted from his post as the system's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

With its steadfast commitment to serving those in need, Catholic Health Initiatives seeks to leverage its size, diversity, geographic coverage and overall resources on behalf of the most vulnerable members of society.

In 2001, Catholic Health Initiatives received the National Quality Health Care Award from the National Committee for Quality Health Care and *Modern Healthcare*, a weekly national business magazine. It was the first national healthcare system to win the honor.

Two of the system's hallmarks are the Direct Community Investment Program and the Mission and Ministry Fund. The community investment program, created in 1998, has provided more than \$31 million in low or zero-interest loans to organizations that promote access to jobs, housing, education and health care for the needy. As part of this effort, Catholic Health Initiatives adopted a Social Responsibility Investment Policy to steward financial resources in a way that is consistent with the



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*A spirit of innovation, a legacy of care.*

system's mission, vision and core values of reverence, integrity, compassion and excellence. Since 1996, the mission and ministry fund has provided generous financial support throughout the nation and around the world to help build healthier communities. The fund has awarded grants in excess of \$26 million.

Catholic Health Initiatives and its predecessor systems have a long history of providing significant community benefit and charity care to their communities. In fiscal 2008, Catholic Health Initiatives provided approximately \$536 million in total community benefit, including services for the poor, free clinics, education and research.

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