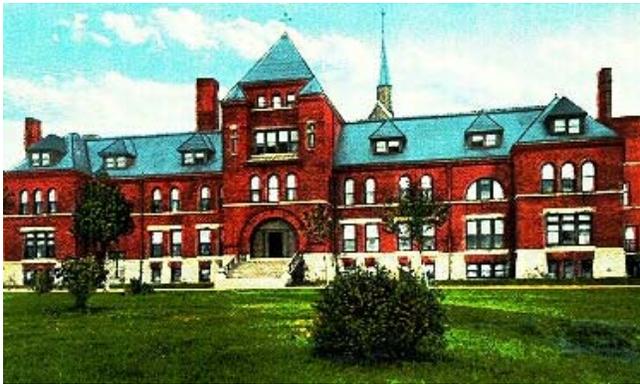


## WEST SHORE MEDICAL CENTER AND AUXILIARY

West Shore Medical Center is a 45-bed acute care hospital located in the Victorian Port City of Manistee, Michigan. The hospital offers a full range of emergency, diagnostic, treatment, and rehabilitation services in an updated facility. A wide variety of primary care practitioners and specialists provide medical care to Manistee County and beyond. An independent affiliate of the Munson Healthcare System, West Shore blends the professionalism, skill, and expertise found in a large medical facility with the personalized, attentive care you'd expect in your hometown hospital. Although a county hospital, West Shore receives no county funds for its operations.



West Shore's history dates back to 1889, when Mercy Hospital was donated to the community by the early pioneers of Manistee. Operations were overseen by the Sisters of Mercy. By 1947, the original building was showing its age and was no longer adequate to meet the medical needs of the area. An advisory board consisting of civic leaders spearheaded a renovation, including an additional 50 beds, the cost of which was divided between the Sisters of Mercy and public subscriptions. The new Mercy-

Community Hospital was built, and the facility opened its doors in May of 1951.

The ground work for what is now the West Shore Medical Center Auxiliary began on April 4, 1950, when Sister Mary Helena, Mother Superior of the Sisters of Mercy, initiated a survey of community interest to support creating an auxiliary. In December 1950, the newly formed Auxiliary extended a public invitation to any organized group wishing to work on behalf of the hospital. Circles were established for a variety of purposes throughout the hospital, including sewing curtains for the rooms and making bandages, aiding patients with reading or writing, helping with newborns, meeting the needs pediatric, teen, and maternity patients, and providing landscaping and gardening services. The Auxiliary's fundraisers, events and donations supported the projects, equipment and supplies needed by the hospital. The purpose of the Auxiliary was to perform services the professional staff was unable to render due to lack of time or obligatory rules. The first meeting of the Manistee Mercy-Community Hospital Auxiliary was held on Tuesday, June 17, 1952.

In October 1970, the hospital was relocated to its present location and renamed West Shore Hospital. It was later renamed West Shore Medical Center. Numerous renovations have been done over the years to ensure the hospital remains at the forefront of service and technology.



West Shore Hospital MANISTEE, MICHIGAN

The involvement of the West Shore Medical Center Auxiliary remains strong. The Auxiliary currently has approximately 100 members who provide services throughout the hospital and are active in fundraising efforts on behalf of the organization.

The primary volunteer areas within the hospital are the Front Desk, where volunteers greet and direct patients and visitors and assist the Registration personnel; Same-Day Surgery, where volunteers provide patient transport and help the staff with cleaning and making beds; and the Bits of Cheer Gift Shop, where a variety of gifts, jewelry, home décor, flowers, and more are sold. Volunteers also sew “hug pillows” given to the patients after surgery and knit hats for newborns.

The Auxiliary hosts several fundraisers throughout the year, including book, purse, and scrubs sales, a bakeless bake sale, garage sale, and bingo. The group’s largest fundraiser is the Sleighbell Craft Show, Bake Sale, Bazaar and Raffle, held annually in conjunction with Manistee’s Sleighbell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend the first weekend in December.

The Auxiliary is one of the West Shore’s largest donors. The group’s generosity greatly benefits patients by supporting hospital services and projects and helping to purchase needed equipment.

