

Surgeon-in-chief

The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

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*see 6/27/01/11*  
*Dedication Speech*  
*CH/eg*

WHEN THE FIRST CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL IN THE ENGLISH  
SPEAKING WORLD WAS IN THE PLANNING STAGE, THE INSTITUTION  
WHICH WE REFER TO WITH GREAT FAMILIARITY AS G.O.S. OR  
GREAT ORMOND STREET, HAD THE REMARKABLE GOOD FORTUNE TO  
HAVE A POPULAR AUTHOR OF THE DAY AS A FUND RAISER - CHARLES  
DICKENS.

THE CHILDHOOD OF CHARLES DICKENS HAD MANY PITIFUL EPI-  
SODES. HIS WHOLE FAMILY WAS AT ONE TIME IMPRISONED IN  
MARSHALSEA FOR DEBT AND DICKENS, THE BOY, BECAME HEAD OF  
THE FAMILY. HIS BOOK, "DAVID COPPERFIELD" TELLS US OF SOME  
EPISODES WHICH WERE INDEED AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL OF THESE DREADFUL  
DAYS. OF HIMSELF AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME, DICKENS WRITES THIS  
"I KNOW I DO NOT EXAGGERATE UNCONSCIOUSLY OR UNINTENTIONALLY  
THE SCANTINESS OF MY RESOURCES AND THE DIFFICULTIES OF MY  
LIFE. I KNOW THAT I WORKED FROM MORNING UNTIL NIGHT WITH  
COMMEN MEN AND BOYS, A SHABBY CHILD. I KNOW THAT I TRIED,  
BUT INEFFECTUALLY, NOT TO ANTICIPATE MY MONEY AND TO MAKE IT  
LAST THROUGH THE WEEK BY PUTTING IT AWAY IN A DRAWER I HAD

AS AN ACCOUNTING HOUSE, WRAPPED IN SIX LITTLE PARCELS, EACH CONTAINING THE SAME AMOUNT AND LABELLED WITH A DIFFERENT DAY. I KNOW THAT I LOUNGED ABOUT THE STREETS INSUFFICIENTLY AND UNSATISFACTORILY FED. I KNOW THAT, BUT FOR THE MERCY OF GOD, I MIGHT EASILY HAVE BEEN FOR ANY CARE THAT WAS TAKEN OF ME, A LITTLE ROBBER OR A LITTLE VAGABOND. I AM SOLEMNLY CONVINCED THAT NEVER FOR ONE HOUR WAS I RECONCILED TO IT, OR WAS OTHERWISE THAN MISERABLY UNHAPPY."

IS IT ANY WONDER THAT DICKENS, THE BOY, GREW INTO DICKENS, THE MAN, TO CHAMPION THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN?

COINCIDENT WITH MARITAL TROUBLES, CHARLES DICKENS ASSUMED THE ROLE OF A READER. IN ONE TWO YEAR PERIOD, READING TO LARGE AUDIENCES 125 TIMES HE COLLECTED IN EXCESS OF 500 POUNDS A WEEK FOR HIS EFFORTS - A STAGGERING SUM FOR THE 1850'S. HE EVENTUALLY CAME TO AMERICA WHERE 34 PUBLIC APPEARANCES NETTED HIM 10,000 POUNDS, DICKENS WROTE IN A LETTER TO FRIENDS AT HOME: "MY MANAGER IS ALWAYS GOING ABOUT WITH AN

IMMENSE BUNDLE THAT LOOKS LIKE A SOFA CUSHION, BUT WHICH IS IN REALITY PAPER MONEY; AND IT HAD RISEN TO THE PROPORTIONS OF A SOFA WITH THE MONEY THAT HE HAD WHEN HE LEFT FOR PHILADELPHIA."

I LIKE TO THINK THAT SOME PHILADELPHIA MONEY FOUND ITS WAY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN IN GREAT ORMOND STREET, LONDON.

IN A VERY REAL WAY THE OPENING LINES OF CHARLES DICKENS' "TALE OF TWO CITIES" IS APROPOS AS WE COME TO THE RELIZATION OF A LONG DREAM IN THE OPENING OF THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AND CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER : "IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE AGE OF WISDOM, IT WAS THE AGE OF FOOLISHNESS, IT WAS THE EPIC OF BELIEF, IT WAS THE EPIC OF INCONGRUITY, IT WAS THE SEASON OF LIGHT, IT WAS THE SEASON OF DARKNESS, IT WAS THE SPRING OF HOPE, IT WAS THE WINTER OF DESPAIR, WE HAD EVERYTHING BEFORE US, WE HAD NOTHING BEFORE US, WE WERE ALL GOING DIRECT TO HEAVEN, WE WERE ALL

GOING DIRECT THE OTHER WAY," AND SO ON.

DICKENS WAS WRITING OF THE STATE OF THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH WORLD IN 1775. BUT THESE WORDS APPLY TO THE NEAR AND DISTANT ENVIRONMENT, BOTH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC, IN WHICH THIS GREAT INSTITUTION BEGINS A NEW ERA.

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES BECAUSE WE ARE TECHNOLOGICALLY FURTHER ADVANCED THAN ANY PREDECESSOR COULD CLAIM. WE HAVE A PHYSICAL PLANT SECOND TO NONE. WE HAVE THE ENGINEERING SKILLS AND THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AND PHARMACOLOGICAL EXPERTISE TO UNDERSTAND, INVESTIAGE, AND SIGNIFICANLY ALTER THE DISEASE PROCESSES AND ANOMALOUS SITUATIONS THAT ARE BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION.

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES BECAUSE THE PRESSURES OF GOVERNMENT, PEDIATRIC SOCIETIES, AND A CONCERNED PUBLIC ARE SUGGESTING THAT THE TYPE OF CARE AN INSTITUTION LIKE THIS CAN PROVIDE SO WELL BE CONCENTRATED HERE TO THE GREAT BENEFIT OF CHILDREN AND THE LOWERING OF THE COST OF MEDICAL CARE ACROSS THE BROAD BASE OF THE COMMUNITY.

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES BECAUSE THE PROXIMITY OF THIS CENTER TO THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, TO THE LABORATORIES OF OUR COLLEAGUES IN RESEARCH, TO THE SURROUNDING HOSPITALS WHICH PROVIDE ADULT CARE, AND TO THE ALLIED HEALTH SCHOOLS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA AND TO THE SCIENCE CENTER OF UNIVERSITY CITY, ALL THESE WILL PROVIDE AN EASY INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AND PLACE THE PRACTICAL TRIAL OF CLINICAL MEDICINE CLOSE TO THE CRUCIBLE OF RESEARCH.

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES BECAUSE ALL THAT I HAVE SAID THUS FAR CAN BE INTEGRATED TO PRODUCE AN UNPARALLELED OPPORTUNITY FOR TEACHING AT EVERY LEVEL IN THE HEALTH FIELD FROM MEDICAL STUDENT TO RESIDENT, FROM THE SPECIALIST'S SPECIALIST TO PARA-MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

IT IS THE BEST OF TIMES BECAUSE THERE IS AN ENTHUSIASM BORN OF EXPECTANCY BUT NURTURED BY THE KNOWLEDGE OF PROVEN EXPERIENCE THAT A COMPETENT MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND PSYCHIATRIC STAFF CAN WORK IN CONCERT WITH AN EFFICIENT ADMINISTRATION AND

A PRACTICAL YET VISIONARY BOARD OF MANAGERS TO THE END OF IMPROVING CHILD HEALTH.

BUT IT IS ALSO THE WORST OF TIMES. IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES BECAUSE THIS BUILDING WAS A VICTIM OF ECONOMIC INFLATIONARY TRENDS UNPRECEDENTED IN HISTORY AS REFLECTED IN THE EXORBITANT COST OF LABOR AND MATERIALS. THE STRIKES WITH WHICH WE WERE PLAGUED WERE PART OF THE ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES AND FEARS OF THE TIMES.

IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES BECAUSE IN THE SHORT SPAN FROM THE PLANNING STAGE FOR THE CENTER TO THE BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION A NUMBER OF THINGS CHANGED IN THE MIX OF THE PATIENTS WE SAW, AND IN THE METHODS AVAILABLE FOR THEIR TREATMENT, AS WELL AS IN THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TECHNIQUES FOR DIAGNOSIS, MONITORING, AND THERAPY. THE NECESSARY CHANGES IN ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING TO KEEP PACE WITH A HEALTH CARE SYSTEM THAT DEMANDED OF US AN INCREASING ROLE IN INTENSIVE CARE, ADOLESCENT MEDICINE, AND NEONATOLOGY WERE COSTLY INDEED - NOT ONLY IN

MONEY BUT IN TIME NECESSARY FOR COMPLETION.

IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES, TOO, BECAUSE THERE ARE NOT NEARLY THE SAME NUMBER OF CHILDREN REQUIRING CARE OR GUIDANCE AS THERE WERE WHEN WE BEGAN, AND AN EVEN WIDER DISPARITY EXISTS BETWEEN THE THEN PREDICTED POPULATION GROWTH AND THE REALITY OF THE BIRTH RATE TODAY. EASY CONTRACEPTION EMBODIED IN "THE PILL" WAS SUDDENLY FELT IN THE FORM OF A DECLINING BIRTH RATE. THE SUPREME COURT DECISION IN FAVOR OF ABORTION ON DEMAND ADDED ANOTHER ACCELERATION AND THE RESULT IS A BIRTH RATE OF ABOUT ONE HALF OF THAT OF FIVE YEARS AGO.

IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES, THEREFORE, AS WE FACE THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF MAINTAINING A PATIENT CENSUS SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO MEET OPERATING EXPENSES LET ALONE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY NEW SERVICES, THE REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE EQUIPMENT, AND THE PURCHASE OF NEW MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT AS TECHNOLOGY MAKES THEM AVAILAABLE.

IT IS THE WORST OF TIMES BECAUSE THE GENEROUS FUNDING OF RESEARCH BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN REPLACED BY

SHORTSIGHTED PENNY PINCHING THAT WILL BE REFLECTED FOR YEARS NOT ONLY IN THE LACK OF ADVANCES MADE THROUGH RESEARCH BUT ALSO IN A PAUCITY OF TRAINEES TO FILL THE SHOES OF THE EXPERTS WHO DISAPPEAR WITH THE ATTRITION OF DEATH AND RETIREMENT. THE RESEARCH PROBLEM IS COMPOUNDED BY THE FACT THAT THE GENEROSITY OF PRIVATE DONORS IS CURTAILED BY INFLATION, ECONOMIC RECESSION, AND UNCERTAINTY CONCERNING THE FUTURE.

NOW LEST YOU THINK THAT I AM RETREATING TO THE POSITION OF A PROPHET OF GLOOM AND DOOM, LET ME SAY THAT THESE ARE ALSO TIMES THAT PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATNESS.

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER. IT IS A FACT THAT LARGE, COMPETENT, PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS THIS DEVELOP A CREDIBILITY GAP IN THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY. I SAY TO THE PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY OF PHILADELPHIA, AND OF DELAWARE VALLEY THAT IT IS THE EXPRESSED GOAL OF THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER TO SERVE IN AN EXPANDED ROLE. WE NEED YOUR



HELP. WE NEED YOUR HELP NOT ONLY TO PERFORM, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP IN SHOWING US WHEN GAPS EXIST BETWEEN THE GOAL AND THE REALITY. WE WANT TO DEMONSTRATE TO YOU OUR UNSELFISH DESIRE TO PROVIDE CARE FOR YOUR PATIENTS AND TO PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT PLEASING IN EVERY WAY WHERE YOU CAN PRACTICE YOUR ART AND SCIENCE. WE WANT TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE COMMUNITY HOSPITAL AN ABILITY TO HELP WITH THE PEDIATRIC PROBLEMS THEY CARE FOR, AN ABILITY TO PROVIDE THE TERTIARY CARE FOR PATIENTS THEY REFER, AND A DESIRE TO TEACH AT ANY LEVEL FROM BASICS FOR THE HOUSE OFFICER TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR STAFF, NOW A NECESSITY FOR RECERTIFICATION AND CONTINUING LICENSURE.

THIS CENTER HAS FURTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREATNESS IN LOCAL AND REGIONAL PROGRAMATIC PLANNING. WE SHOULD NOT SEEK TO DUPLICATE PROGRAMS ALREADY FUNCTIONING ADEQUATELY BUT RATHER SHOULD SEEK TO COOPERATE WITH HOSPITALS, CLINICS, AND HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS TO BOLSTER THEIR EFFORTS TO THE END THAT TOTAL CARE IS AVAILABLE TO THE PATIENT BY THIS

COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR. THESE COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITIES EXIST NOT ONLY IN PATIENT CARE, BUT ESPECIALLY IN TEACHING AS WELL AS RESEARCH.

THIS CENTER COULD BE TO THE CHILDREN OF THE COMMUNITY IN UNDERSTANDING HEALTH AND DISEASE WHAT THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE IS TO THEM IN SCIENCE OR THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IS IN ITS FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE.

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS ON THE PART OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA. PROBABLY NO WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD DOES A UNIVERSITY HAVE IN SO CONFINED AN AREA A SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, A SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY, A SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE, A SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS, NOT TO MENTION THE CLINICAL HOSPITAL FACILITIES OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, OF THE HUGE CITY HOSPITAL WITH ITS SPECIAL MIX OF CHRONIC DISEASE AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS, A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND A CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER. ASSOCIATED FIELDS OF ARCHITECTURE, FORENSIC MEDICINE

AND THE LIKE LEND THEMSELVES TO REMARKABLE COOPERATIVE OPPORTUNITIES.

THE UNIVERSITY MUST CEASE TO THINK OF ITS ROLE IN MEDICINE PERTAINING TO CHILDREN AS THE NARROW FIELD OF MEDICAL PEDIATRICS. HALF OF CHILDREN'S DIAGNOSES FALL IN SURGICAL DISCIPLINES. INDEED THE THREE MAJOR KILLERS OF CHILDREN, - TRAUMA, CANCER AND CONGENITAL HEART DISEASE ARE, IN REFERENCE TO THERAPY AT THE MOMENT, IN THE SURGEON'S PROVINCE. THIS UNIVERSITY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE CHILD HEALTH AS THE PARENT DISCIPLINE WITH MEDICAL PEDIATRICS AND ITS SUB-SPECIALTIES, SURGERY AND ITS SUB-SPECIALTIES, AND PSYCHIATRY AS WELL AS ALL OF THE ASSOCIATED AFOREMENTIONED FIELDS CONTRIBUTING NOT ONLY TO THE TREATMENT OF CHILDREN, BUT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF HEALTH AND PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HAS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS. ITS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CAN SERVE AS GUIDE AND COUNSELLOR IN THE TRANSITION TO COOPERATIVE CARE. WHO BETTER CAN EMPHASIZE NOT ONLY THE EXPENSIVE LUXURY OF A SMALL PEDIATRIC UNIT IN THE

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL BUT ITS INCAPABILITY TO PROVIDE THE  
ULTIMATE CARE BECAUSE OF LACK OF EXPERT PERSONNEL AND/OR  
EQUIPMENT.

A SECOND OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS LIES IN A REALISTIC  
ASSESSMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF THIS NEW CENTER TO THE  
PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL. AT A RECENT MEETING AT THE  
HIGHEST ECHELON OF BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, AND STAFF OF THESE  
TWO GREAT INSTITUTIONS IT WAS AGREED THAT WITH THE PASSAGE  
OF TIME THE CENTER WOULD BE TREATING THOSE PATIENTS OF PEDIATRIC  
AGE NOW CARED FOR AS IN-PATIENTS OR AMBULATORY PATIENTS AT  
PHILADELPHIA GENERAL HOSPITAL. THE VERY SPECIAL PROBLEMS  
THAT GRAVITATE TO A GREAT CITY INSTITUTION LIKE PGH - SUCH  
AS CHILD ABUSE, TRAUMA WITH SOCIAL AND SEXUAL CONNOTATIONS,  
INFANTS BORN TO DRUG ADDICTED MOTHERS MUST REMAIN THE FINANCIAL  
CONCERN AND OBLIGATION OF THE CITY, NO MATTER IN WHAT FACILITY  
THESE PATIENTS ARE CARED FOR.

THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREATNESS FOR THE CITIZENS

OF THIS COMMUNITY AND INDEED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE AND APPRECIATE CHILDREN ANYWHERE. THE GIFTS, LARGE AND SMALL, THAT HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THIS MAGNIFICENT BUILDING WILL NEVER PAY DIVIDENDS IN CASH BUT WILL DO SO IN THE BENEFITS TO CHILDREN, THE ONLY ASSET WE CAN COUNT ON FOR TOMORROW. NOW, EVERYONE PROTECTS HIS INVESTMENT WHEN HE CAN, AND I CALL UPON YOU AS INDIVIDUALS, AS FRIENDS OF THIS INSTITUTION, AND AS MEMBERS OF THE 10 AUXILIARIES, LEAGUES, SOCIETIES AND CLUBS THAT SUPPORT THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL WITH YOUR FUND RAISING EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN YOUR ENTHUSIASM. LET NOT YOUR PACE SLACKEN; WE NEED YOU MORE THAN EVER BEFORE. YOUR REWARDS WILL NOT BE MATERIAL BUT WILL BE FOUND IN THE RESTORED LIVES OF COUNTLESS CHILDREN YOU WILL NEVER KNOW BUT WHOSE PARENTS' GRATITUDE WILL BE IMMEASURABLE.

I HAVE TOLD YOU SOME OF THE REASONS WHY THESE ARE THE BEST OF TIMES FOR US TO BE WHERE WE ARE. I HAVE ALSO TEMPERED THESE REMARKS WITH THE FRANK APPRAISAL OF WHY WE COULD ALSO

CALL THESE THE WORST OF TIMES. IN RECOUNTING THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST FOR GREATNESS, I HAVE REALLY TRIED TO CHALLENGE THE HOSPITAL, THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, AND YOU FOLKS AS INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE THESE CONCERNS YOUR OWN. AS I HAVE SPOKEN OF ALLIANCES, OF KNOWLEDGE, OF TEACHING, AND OF RESEARCH, I HOPE YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN THE WHOLE FOCUS OF THIS DAY IS ON CHILDREN. WITHOUT THEM TO CARE FOR, EVERYTHING I HAVE SAID WOULD BE UNNECESSARY AS WELL AS INAPPROPRIATE. CHILDREN ARE THIS NATION'S ONLY PRICELESS POSSESSION AND WE SEEK TO MAKE CHILDREN INTO WHOLE MEN AND WOMEN NOT ONLY BY TREATING THEIR ACUTE PROBLEMS BUT, THROUGH RESEARCH AND TEACHING, TO ELIMINATE THEIR PROBLEMS IN FUTURE GENERATIONS.

IN A SENSE THE GOAL OF THIS INSTITUTION IS TO WORK ITSELF OUT OF A JOB. IF WE COULD DO ALL WE SEEK TO DO WITH 100 PERCENT EFFICIENCY, IT WOULD BE ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE WE COULD RETREAT TO MUCH SMALLER QUARTERS. ALTHOUGH THAT DAY MAY

NEVER COME, GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE IN THAT DIRECTION AS ONE CONTEMPLATES THE EVER CHANGING COUNTENANCE OF MEDICINE.

WHEN I WENT TO MEDICAL SCHOOL THERE WAS NOT EVEN A SULFA DRUG TO COMBAT INFECTION AND I WAS A RESIDENT IN SURGERY WHEN PENICILLIN BECAME AVAILABLE. MY EARLIEST CONTACTS WITH SICK CHILDREN WERE IN HUGE WARDS POPULATED WITH CHRONICALLY ILL YOUNGSTERS SUFFERING FROM INFECTIONS SUCH AS MASTOIDITIS, NECK ABSCESSSES, AND OSTEOMYELITIS. OTHER WARDS HOUSED PATIENTS WITH TUBERCULOSIS, WITH THE AFTERMATH OF CRIPPLING POLIO-MYELITIS, OR THE COMPLICATIONS OF CHILDHOOD EXANTHEMATAS SUCH AS MEASLES AND SCARLET FEVER AND DIPHTHERIA.

AT THIS TIME THE MOST COMMON SURGICAL PROBLEM I SEE IN NEWBORN BABIES IS A DISEASE PROCESS KNOWN AS ENTEROCOLITIS. WE NEVER USED TO SEE THIS PROBLEM BECAUSE NEWBORNS DID NOT SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO BE TREATED BY THE SOPHISTICATED METHODS NOW AVAILABLE - WHICH SURVIVAL AND WHICH TREATMENT ENABLES THEM TO UNDERGO THE STRESSFUL SITUATIONS THAT PRODUCE OR

PERMIT ENTEROCOLITIS, - A STILL POORLY UNDERSTOOD ENTITY.

WHEN YOUR SPEAKER ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS DAY  
REMINISCES HE MAY BE INVOLVED WITH A NEW SYNDROME AND ENTERO-  
COLITIS MAY HAVE TAKEN ITS PLACE WITH DIPHTHERIA.

WE ARE GATHERED TOGETHER TODAY TO DEDICATE THE CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER. THE FIRST DEFINITION OF THE  
WORD DEDICATE IN MOST DICTIONARIES SAYS SOMETHING LIKE THIS:  
"TO SET APART AND CONSECRATE TO A SACRED PURPOSE." THERE IS  
NO DOUBT IN THE MINDS OF THOSE OF US WHO HAVE BEEN PART OF  
THE YEARS OF PLANNING THAT WE DO DEDICATE THIS BUILDING TO  
THE SACRED PURPOSE OF THE CARE OF CHILDREN.

THE WORD "DEDICATE" ALSO CAN MEAN: "TO DEVOTE WHOLELY  
AND EARNESTLY AS TO SOME PERSON OR PURPOSE." WERE IT NOT FOR  
THE DEDICATION OF A NUMBER OF GROUPS OF PEOPLE AND A NUMBER  
OF INDIVIDUALS, IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE THIS DAY TO CELEBRATE  
IN A LARGER SENSE THE DEDICATION OF THIS BUILDING TO THE  
SACRED TRUST OF CARING FOR CHILDREN. I WOULD BE REMISS



INDEED IF I DID NOT TAKE A FEW MINUTES ON THIS OCCASION TO  
ACKNOWLEDGE THE FORESIGHT, THE ENTHUSIASM, THE PERSERVERANCE,  
AND THE GENEROSITY OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS IN BRINGING  
THESE PLANS TO FRUITION. TO THE WOMENS COMMITTEE, ALL THE  
OTHER COMMITTEES, AUXILIARIES, LEAGUES, OLD AND NEW, LARGE  
AND SMALL, I WOULD ALSO EXPRESS APPRECTION FOR THEIR DEDICATION  
TO THE NEEDS OF CHILDREN.

MANY PARENTS GAVE AS THEY WERE ABLE TO THE BUILDING OF  
THIS EDIFICE AND WE ARE NATURALLY GRATEFUL TO THEM. BUT  
THERE IS ONE UNIQUE GROUP OF PARENTS TO WHOM A SPECIAL KIND  
OF THANKS MUST GO. THESE ARE PARENTS WHO BROUGHT US THEIR  
CHILDREN AND IN SPITE OF OUR VERY BEST EFFORTS WE LOST THOSE  
CHILDREN TO THE RAVAGES OF THEIR DISEASES. TO THESE SPECIAL  
PARENTS WHO SUFFERED PERSONAL LOSS AND YET HAVE DEDICATED  
THEMSELVES TO THE BUILDING OF A FACILITY WHERE TRAGEDY MIGHT  
BE TURNED TO TRIUMPH, OUR VERY SPECIAL RECOGNITION.

A SCHOOL TEACHER IN MILWAUKEE SEVERAL YEARS AGO ASSIGNED

HER FOURTH OR FIFTH GRADE CLASS THE PROJECT OF WRITING AN  
ESSAY APROPOS THE CELBRATION OF FATHER'S DAY. ONE BRIGHT  
YOUNG LADY EXTOLLED THE VIRTUES OF FATHERS FROM TIME IMMEMORIAL  
AND THE LIST OF THEIR GRACES AND TALENTS WAS AS IMAGINATIVE  
AS IT WAS LONG. HER FINAL SENTENCE WAS A CLASSIC: " IF IT  
WERE NOT FOR FATHERS, THERE WOULD BE PRACTICALLY NO CHILDREN  
IN MILWAUKEE. "

WERE IT NOT FOR CHILDREN, THERE WOULD BE PRACTICALLY NO  
CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS AND WERE IT NOT FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITALS,  
THERE WOULD BE PRACTICALLY NO NEED FOR THIS LONG AWAITED AND  
MOST HAPPY OCCASION. MAY WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO THE DAY  
WHEN CHILDREN WILL HAVE PRACTICALLY NO NEED FOR US AT ALL: