More Than Just A Hospital: Community Hospital and Health Inequality in Evanston, Illinois

By George Krupkin
Mentors: Dr. Waseem Bin-Kasim and Dr. Amanda Kleintop
A nurse tends to two patients a few years after the name "Community Hospital" was first adopted. (c. 1935)
Research!
Community Hospital Timeline

1940

POPULATION INCREASE, HEALTHCARE GAP

Between 1910 and 1940 Evanston's Black population grew from 1,160 to 6,026. There were 2 hospital beds available to every 1,500 Black Evanstonians, compared to 8 for every 1,000 available for white Evanstonians.

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Evanston Sanitarium and Training School for Colored Nurses

Evanston Sanitarium, the home-turned-hospital

Dr. Arthur Butler

Dr. Isabella Garnett
Perseverance and Growth

Dr. Rudolph Penn’s House, the first location of Community Hospital (c. 1940)

Basement Surgery in Community Hospital (c. 1945)
Dr. Hill (second from left) accepts a donation for the construction of the new Community Hospital at a fundraising event. A sketch of the proposed hospital can be seen behind her. (c. 1949)
The New Community Hospital

Thousands attend the new hospital dedication, the crowd overflowing into the parking lot. (1952)
Community Hospital patient receives treatment in the hospital's Physical Therapy department. (1959)
Dr. Hill and a medical staff member in the midst of daily hospital routines. (c. 1960’s)
Community Hospital Closes

Diagram of a proposed $2.1 million, 33,000 square-foot expansion to the hospital that would increase ambulatory services, medical care and treatments not requiring overnight stays. The proposed expansion never came to fruition. (c. 1975)
The Hill Arboretum Apartments, which provides affordable housing for adults with physical and mental disabilities and is named for the late Dr. Hill. The apartments facade still mirrors that of Community Hospital. (2023)
A nurse checks in on two children in Community Hospital's pediatric unit. (1965)
Thank you!

Dr. Kasim

Dr. Kleintop