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FEB 13 2013

**HEALTH FACILITIES &
SERVICES REVIEW BOARD**

Mike & Sara Thoms
4205 14th Street
Rock Island, IL 61201

Feb. 11, 2013

Ms. Courtney Avery
Administrator
Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, Second Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

Ms. Avery:

Members of my family are long-time Rock Island citizens. Over the years Trinity Rock Island has always been the hometown hospital we turn to in times of need. Recently I was with a family member who needed emergency care in the ER there. While the staff provided us with great care, it was very obvious how they have outgrown their space.

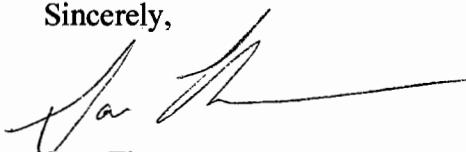
Some rooms contained more than one patient. Their families were not only crammed into the space, there was only a thin curtain separating the groups. I could only imagine what it would be like to talk with the doctor with other ears around to hear the news – even if they were unintended. There is definitely no opportunity for privacy, especially at such a vulnerable time.

I am enclosing the following editorial that appeared in the Sunday, Jan. 27, edition of *The Rock Island Argus*, our community's daily newspaper that covers news in Rock Island, Henry, and Mercer Counties. The editorial appeared a few days after Trinity announced its intention to expand pending state approval. Please include it in Trinity's application file as yet another testament of community support for this project.

In the editorial the Mayor of Rock Island, Dennis Pauley, is quoted as saying, "I'm probably overly excited because it's a great thing for Rock Island," and that the decision shows that the leaders at Trinity "... believe in the community and want to help the community."

As someone who has witnessed the need firsthand, I was very excited by the news. Just as we have placed great belief in Trinity over the years, it is gratifying to hear that they believe in our community too.

Sincerely,



Sara Thoms
Rock Island, Ill.

The Rock Island Argus

Sunday, January 27, 2013
Rock Island, Illinois

ON THE WEB: QCOnline.com

Welcome investment in vibrant, healthy Q-C

As if Rock Island Mayor Dennis Pauley didn't have enough to crow about in his recent state of the city address, along comes more.

On Thursday, Trinity Regional Health Systems unveiled plans for its biggest building project ever at its Rock Island campus and the largest in the system's 40 year history: a \$61.3 million, 90,000 square-foot expansion that

► The Issue

► What will be the impact of Trinity's \$6.3 million investment in its Rock Island campus.

will transform the hospital's front door.

The project is just the latest on the horizon for a city on the rise. It caps a busy couple of months that saw announcement of a new

Wal-Mart set to bring \$1.4 million in sales tax revenues and a new Fareway Store expected to generate \$50,000 more. Among those who will contribute to that total are likely to be the patients and their families who will come to reap the benefits of a three-story annex to the emergency room and cardiac departments at Trinity Rock Island, 270117th St.

"I'm probably overly excited because it's a great thing for Rock Island," Mr. Pauley told us Friday. "I really want to thank Trinity for making their expansion in Rock Island."

Such contributions add to the vitality of the community. Mayor Pauley said the decision also shows that the leaders at Trinity "believe in the community and want to help the community."

The project will not only mean construction and other jobs locally, it will contribute to the health, and thus, the quality of life of the entire Quad-Cities.

In announcing the expansion Thursday, Trinity President and CEO Rick Seidler said the need for the new space is clear and the expansion overdue.

Emergency Room patient visits were up 7 percent — to 35,676 — in 2012 from 2011, he said, and demand for cardiac, emergency and psychiatric patient services is expected to soar an additional 8 percent by 2014.

The current cramped quarters makes it difficult to deliver the quality care Trinity patients need and have come to expect. "Our facilities are so small, staff are jumping over cables to work on patients," Dr. Sanjeev Puri, a cardiologist with Trinity said Thursday. "I think there is a great need."

Of course, the quality of the service provided by Trinity Rock Island already is first-rate. Indeed, the health system recently announced the Rock Island campus was named one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for Cardiac Care and Coronary Interventional Procedures. That American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2013: Health-grades Report to the Nation, evaluated the performance of about 4,500 hospitals nationwide.

"We'd like to give the best treatment we can in a state-of-the-art facility," said Mr. Seidler. The expansion should help to do that. We welcome the contribution.

Jobs, a better quality of life and a heart healthier community: That's a wonderful combination.

Thanks to Trinity Health Systems for making such a major investment to make the Q-C a more vibrant, healthy Quad-Cities.