

# MTMC takes the keys

## New facility built for \$267M, opening ahead of schedule

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Remember how you felt when your dad handed over the keys to his shiny Chevy for the first time?

The staff of Middle Tennessee Medical Center experi-

enced those feelings tenfold Tuesday, as Turner Universal presented the keys to the \$267 million hospital during an evening ceremony.

Those involved with the project said they felt more like family than associates, sharing

inside jokes and hugs rather than small talk and handshakes.

"This is no ordinary project, this is an extraordinary project. And this is no ordinary team. What an incredible collaboration," said Scott Seaman, an executive vice president with Lawler-Wood, a Knoxville-based real estate and development company working with MTMC on the new hospital.

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Exchanging keys Tuesday are, from left, Andy Davis, and Randy Keiser of Turner Universal and MTMC's Gordon Ferguson and Jennifer Garland.

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Two months ahead of schedule and on budget, the hospital is slated to open its doors Oct. 2.

MTMC President and CEO Gordon Ferguson recounted the project and its beginnings back to 1998, when his staff proposed adding a fifth floor to the current hospital at 400 N. Highland Ave. When the bids came in much higher than expected, they opted for plan B.

"We took on the mission of feasibly walking away from Highland Avenue to somewhere else," he told a crowd of about

200 in attendance.

During the 12 years that would pass, MTMC would commit to the quickly-growing area that would become Medical Center Parkway, apply for the single largest permit the city of Murfreesboro ever issued, break ground on the new facility and ultimately complete construction.

"I believe that when you take on a project like this, it's all about relationships," Ferguson said.

To commemorate the heard work of every project leader, MTMC unveiled a plaque as "a thank you gift to you for making the project such a success."

Andy Davis, senior project manager with Turner Universal, the main contractor for the project, also pointed to the exceptional level of safety that resulted.

"We've had everybody that has worked on this project go home to their families at night," he said, adding it's important to work with teammates and not against them.

By accepting the keys from Turner Universal, MTMC also accepted responsibility for and upkeep of the 556,000-square-foot building.

"It's such a huge milestone that Turner is officially handing over the

keys to us," said Jennifer Garland, project director with MTMC.

From this point, MTMC leaders will take on the task of orienting its staff with the new facility, moving in furniture and modern equipment and preparing for its grand opening.

Garland added that now the hospital is responsible for maintaining the facility in every aspect, from landscaping to electricity — much the same way that you were in charge of filling up the Chevy's tank and making sure it stayed clean.

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