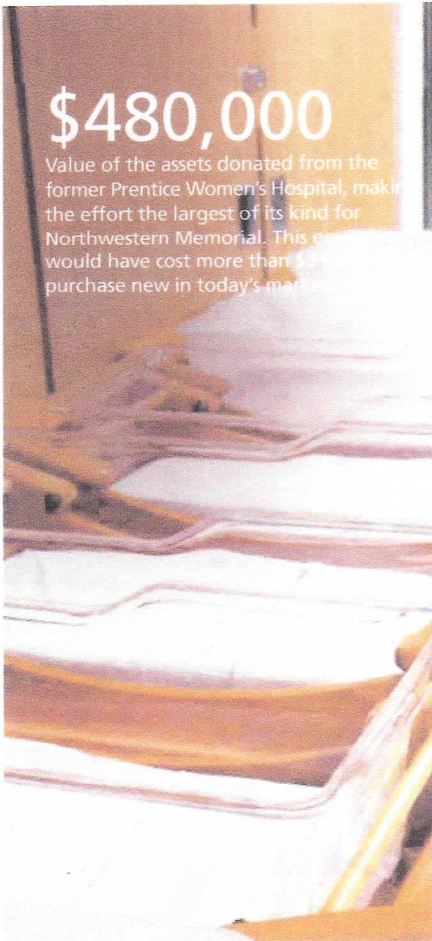


\$480,000

Value of the assets donated from the former Prentice Women's Hospital, making the effort the largest of its kind for Northwestern Memorial. This equipment would have cost more than \$480,000 to purchase new in today's market.



Donated Equipment Reaches Patients from Chicago to Africa

In a hospital in Cameroon, West Africa, women gave birth on beds shaped by hand from pieces of wood until the arrival of donated birthing beds from Northwestern Memorial.

"Looking at the old beds, you would never have thought someone could even sleep on them," said Francis Ntowe, chief operating officer of the Cameroon America AIDS Alliance. "We are very thankful."

When our new Prentice Women's Hospital opened in October of 2007, some 1,565 pieces of used specialty medical equipment, computers and furnishings from the former facility found appreciative new owners in the largest donation of its kind in Northwestern Memorial history. At the Presbyterian Health Centre in Cameroon, which is affiliated with Ntowe's group and the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, prenatal care is important to the effort to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa. As word of the birthing beds and other new equipment circulated, patient visits jumped from 150 a week to almost 250, making it possible for an additional 100 women to be screened each week for the deadly virus.

The donated equipment reached organizations as far away as Guatemala, Serbia and Cameroon and locally the equipment supports care in medically underserved communities throughout the city, helping to meet the need.

"It only made sense to donate to organizations that often serve the most vulnerable such as the uninsured, children and the elderly," said Daniel Derman, MD, vice president of Operations at Northwestern Memorial, clinical instructor of Medicine at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine and president of Northwestern Memorial Physician's Group.



New parents Violeta Zamudio and Ramiro Ramirez watch as their baby girl, Mia, rests in one of the infant bassinets donated to St. Anthony's Hospital, a nonprofit community hospital that provides medical care, social services and community outreach in Chicago's Near Southwest Side.



Dozens of critical care beds, birthing beds and other items were donated to the Lifeline Humanitarian Organization and shipped to war-torn Serbia. Pictured, Her Royal Highness Crown Princess Katherine of Serbia visits a hospital where donated beds are used in the Intensive Care Unit.



Donated furniture is put to use in the waiting area at Erie-West Town Health Center on the city's Near West Side.



A patient rests in a donated hospital bed at the Presbyterian Health Centre in Cameroon, West Africa.



Donations of office equipment support the work of Deborah's Place, which serves homeless women by providing healthcare, health education and social supports in small medical centers on the North, Near North and Near West sides. Pictured is Julie Nelson, a health center manager.