The letters spell out the name: WOMEN’S PAVILION. It’s true, most of the patients in this section of Wooster Community Hospital are women—women expecting a new baby and women cradling infants in their arms—but the activity in this wing of the hospital is focused on serving entire families.

For the last two consecutive years, Wooster Community Hospital has been awarded the Women’s Choice Award for America’s 100 Best Hospitals for Patient Experience. That’s a lengthy title for recognition that means, in fewer words, that this hospital is dedicated to their patients.

The Women’s Pavilion, the hub of WCH’s obstetric and maternity services, models this commitment—this facility not only provides medical care for mothers giving birth, but also seeks to build the strength of the families it serves.

“We do work very hard to provide the kind of care the mother wants, so we work with families to determine how they want the delivery to go,” says Tara Raudebaugh, RN, MSN, manager of the Women’s Pavilion. Some women prefer to use water with labor; others do not want continuous fetal monitoring. As long as the doctor feels the patient’s safety is not at risk, the hospital finds a way to accommodate the mother’s wishes. If, during labor, a C-section is necessary, the Pavilion has the ability to do that within the unit, quickly and safely.

The Women’s Pavilion was designed with family in mind. Large, private rooms are furnished and decorated to feel comfortable and homey. Siblings are welcome to visit and share in the family time, as are other friends (if all are healthy). Each suite has a private bathroom and a comfortable couch that pulls out to become a sleeper.

Almost every mother chooses to keep her new baby with her in her room. The Pavilion actively promotes their “Skin to Skin” program. It’s essential, says Raudebaugh, that moms and babies have as much physical contact as possible during the first hours of baby’s life in his or her new world. “Mom and baby bond and learn about each other. Moms learn their babies’ cues—when they’re hungry, why they’re crying. And babies regulate their blood sugar better, they stay warmer, they don’t cry as often. It’s actually amazing.”

But sometimes complications arise that interrupt this happy family bonding time. Many couples have experienced disappointment and anxiety when their newborn baby arrives prematurely, extremely underweight or with serious and urgent health problems, and must be whisked away, transferred to another hospital where the infant can receive special care.

While many are very grateful that the services of a pediatric medical facility like Akron Children’s Hospital are available, this separation of mother and baby and the travel involved for the family when a child is transferred creates stress for everyone.

Now, in 2015, the Women’s Pavilion at Wooster Community Hospital is happy to announce that many babies will no longer need to be transferred to Akron Children’s. Here’s why they can offer that reassurance.

For a number of years, Wooster Community Hospital and Akron Children’s Hospital have been collaborating to bring more of Akron Children’s services to the Wooster area. For example, a woman with a high-risk pregnancy can now see an Akron Children’s specialist or children can be cared for by Akron Children’s pediatricians—all in Wooster, without traveling outside the community.
**Level II**
Continued from Page 4

In 2015, a new area of collaboration between WCH and Akron Children’s has created a special-care nursery at the Women’s Pavilion to locally care for premature and moderately ill babies. Only extremely ill newborns will still require transfer to Akron.

Through this collaboration with Akron Children’s Hospital, the Women’s Pavilion is now licensed as a Level II facility. What is a Level II facility?

Ohio’s Department of Health uses a “Level” designation to specify what maternity services can, by law, be provided by a hospital. Level I nurseries are equipped to care for well and full-term babies. If an infant is born prematurely or is seriously ill, Level I nurseries must transfer the baby to a facility with a higher level of neonatal care. Level II nurseries have services and trained professionals to deliver and care for babies that are born at 32 weeks and weigh at least three pounds, five ounces. These facilities can also care for babies with moderate illness. Level III facilities provide the highest level of care for extremely ill newborns. Akron Children’s Hospital, with its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is licensed as Level III.

As a Level II facility, the Women’s Pavilion at Wooster Community Hospital now has a special care nursery, with everything required to care for premature and moderately ill babies. What does this mean for mothers, babies, and families?

This means that a baby who is born prematurely but is at least 32 weeks and at three pounds, five ounces, can now be delivered and cared for at Wooster Community Hospital.

This means that if a baby has moderate or temporary breathing or eating problems or other complications, WCH has everything required to care for the child right in the Women’s Pavilion on the Wooster campus. The baby will not be transferred unless the illness is severe.

This means that most babies who previously would have been transferred to Akron Children’s Hospital now can stay with mother and family, and have that very important time to bond with mother. It means the family will not be separated or have to travel to visit their newborn.

And finally, this collaboration of the two hospitals also means that all babies, sick or well, will be seen by Akron Children’s pediatricians.

This change is huge. Many more babies can now be cared for in Wooster and not transferred out of the community. Families will not have the stress and expense of separation and travel.

There is one more very important way in which the Women’s Pavilion at Wooster Community Hospital hopes to benefit the families of women who deliver their babies there, and this service is in the area of family finances. WCH’s package pricing aims to accommodate family budgets, not only in their very competitive pricing but also in payment options—payments can be made in installments throughout the pregnancy. Package pricing bundles everything, including doctor’s visits, and the hospital provides free transportation services for the patients. “We work with Wooster OB/GYN and make this a total service package that goes beyond just the delivery of the baby,” says Marketing Manager Michelle Quisenberry.

For those who want to know more about the Women’s Pavilion, Quisenberry offers an invitation to tour the unit. See for yourself the facility, the individual suites, and the environment of the Pavilion. Bring a group, and find out more about what Wooster Community Hospital can offer the families of the community.

For more information on package pricing, call Michelle Quisenberry at 330.263.8143 or email mquisenberry@wchosp.org.

To set up an appointment for a tour, call Tara Raudebaugh at 330.202.5560 or email traudebaugh@wchosp.org.

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**Tradition**
Continued from Page 11

transmit sound to the inner ear, said Dr. Wartmann. “These are a good option when ordinary hearing aids don’t transfer the sound adequately.

“Often people walk around with untreated hearing loss for years.

When they get the help they need they are very happy. Communication is great when it works.”

Another component of communication Dr. Wartmann works with is speech. “Age related vocal cord pathology, paralysis or immobility can impair speech. A vocal fold injection administers a filling agent into your vocal cord to augment it and cause it to function again. It often provides dramatic improvement in voice and speech.”

Dr. Wartmann joined the Wooster practice in August and looks forward to a long partnership. “He has been well received by the hospital staff and is a great addition to Wooster ENT Associates and their long tradition of patient care in this region,” said Sheron.