

# The Story of Whole Person Health

The first Adventist health care center opened in 1866, a time when most people, including Adventists, suffered from poor health. Medical practices were atrocious by today's standards. Doctors prescribed generous doses of opium, strychnine, and other dangerous substances. The wisdom of the day dictated that water should be withheld from those with a raging fever. Hospitals functioned as a staging area for those at the end of life.



## 1 OBJECTIVE

Team members will understand the blueprint for Adventist health care, which informs our mission: Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ. This understanding will bring deeper meaning into the way each serves.

## 2 VIDEO



**The Story of  
Whole Person Health**  
4:37 minutes  
[youtu.be/dogGCsey0qU](https://youtu.be/dogGCsey0qU)

## 3 DISCUSSION

- The decisions made by the small group of health care workers set in motion principles that shaped the future in a way that they never imagined. How is what you are doing today shaping the future?
- As a group, discuss the importance of caring for the whole person.

## 4 PRAYER

Thank You for creating us whole, in Your image. We ask You to reach down and fill us with a love that only You can provide. Bless those we serve, providing courage and hope where needed.

In Your name, Amen

## DID YOU KNOW?

- AdventHealth is the expression of the health ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Adventist churches look much like other Christian worship centers, but their doors open for worship on Saturday mornings.
- In 1863, when the Seventh-day Adventist Church got its start, the United States was in the middle of the Civil War. Families were often torn apart as they fought on opposite sides. Six days after the war ended, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Although the political issues divided people, many on both sides turned to God in search of meaning.
- Raffling a community-sewn quilt, collecting donations with roadside “bucket brigades,” and working for little or no pay, were ways that community, staff, and Adventist church members came together to open health reform sanitariums in the late 1800s. Sacrifice, resilience, and resourcefulness were hallmarks of the cooperative effort to build Adventist facilities across the country.

