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**CCMC Overall Morris Gallery
"Bringing History Back to Light"**

Coleman, Texas – Next time you visit Coleman County Medical Center (CCMC) take a few minutes to visit the Overall Morris Gallery now under development in the corridor that connects the new hospital building to the old.

A project of the Coleman County Medical Center District Foundation (CCMD Foundation), the museum is being designed to preserve the history of CCMC through a series of exhibits about the architecture of the buildings that housed CCMC over the last 100 years, and the story of the people of Coleman County who made this progress possible.

“CCMC has been an integral part of the history of Coleman County, beginning with the construction of Overall Memorial Hospital in 1923 and continuing through our most recent construction project,” said Sarah Beal, Foundation president, “and the CCMD Foundation wants to share that history with community members.

One of the first gallery exhibit, “Bringing History Back to Light”, features three illuminated stained-glass panels originally located in the chapel on the second floor of the 1937 Morris Anex. The rear-illuminated panels are surrounded by bricks salvaged from the building, and are located at the east end of the gallery.

Another item on display is the “depression era” surgical light with tempered glass lenses removed from a surgery suite also located in the Morris wing. The directional light was manufactured by the Wilmot Castle Company, based in Rochester, New York. The company made other medical and dental equipment, including various types of sterilizers and operating tables, including items used in mobile U.S. Army surgical hospitals during WWII.

The most recent addition to the museum is a nurse station that served as the “front desk” or hub for communication between patients and staff, and staff and visitors. As some community members may remember, the nurse station was located in the corridor that connected the 1923 and 1937 buildings, and included the main nurse call system panel that allowed patients to pull a cord or press a button to request assistance.

All of the displays include descriptive signs containing additional information about the manufacture of the artifacts and how they were used.

"As funding permits, we will install additional exhibits both inside and outside that tell the story of CCMC through vintage photography, architectural descriptions, newspaper articles, videos recorded by community members and selected artifacts removed from the 1923 and 1937 buildings," explained Beal.

Two pedestal signs located outdoors on Pecos Street highlight the design and construction of the 1923 Overall Memorial Hospital building and the 1937 Morris Annex. A third sign featuring the 1967 addition will be placed on display in the near future. Made possible by a grant from the Coleman County Foundation, these pedestal signs hint at the more detailed information that will ultimately be located inside the Overall Morris Gallery.

Anyone who would like to share information about the history of CCMC, or help fund other museum gallery exhibits should contact Sarah Beal, president, at 325/998-3607, or Danyelle Hemphill, vice president, 325/636-7680. A fundraiser for the project is being planned for this spring.