1987: Hospital becomes San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center (SLVRMC)

1988: New Logo and Byline

Paul Herman presented the proposed name change from Alamosa Community Hospital to San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center with emphasis on specialty care and services being made available in the San Luis Valley. On February 3, 1988, Herman presented a revised hospital logo for the San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center. The logo depicts the stable mountains surrounding the San Luis Valley. The dove in flight imparts swift movement to wholistic healthcare in the spirit of peace and tranquility. Herman also presented the new byline to accompany the logo, “Because you deserve the best.”

1990’s: Advances to Radiology

Fred Casanova, Director of Radiology for 15 years, started a program and four new machines. We used to have to expose and develop the x-rays which was time consuming. Computers and technology changed everything. We added an MRI machine in the 1990’s and that was huge for SLVRMC.

1991: Dr. Jay Ruddell performed first laparoscopic surgery in Alamosa

Current Surgeon, Dr. David Geiger, recalled, “When Endoscopy was first invented, it was thought to be a fad. They performed laparoscopic surgery in Europe long before it was approved in the United States. What really changed surgical procedures was the innovation of the computer chip cameras.”

1991: City of Alamosa turns over ambulance operations to the newly formed Alamosa County Ambulance District

Dr. Paul Wagner was instrumental in organizing the new Ambulance District. The first board consisted of himself, Paul Herman, Lyle Hood, Dr. Bob Linden and Jack Eatman. They had to raise a mill levy, which passed, in order to fund it.

1991-94: Building and construction included expanded emergency department and lab, streamlined admissions, 2nd floor addition, and 3rd floor dedicated to critical care.

The Helipad was paid for by an El Pomar grant. An Energy Impact Assistant Grant helped fund the new ambulance bay. The addition would turn the hospital from a 50 to 60 bed hospital.

1993: The medical center employs 240

“The medical center employs 240 people – counting physicians 275 – and had an annual payroll of $7 million” (The Pueblo Chieftain, November 19, 1993).

1994: Dr. Janet Ginzkey joined the staff in Physical Therapy

1995: Hospital acknowledged as “Top 100 Hospitals”

The hospital was acknowledged as one of the “Top 100 Hospitals” in the country by the Mercer Corporation. SLVRMC ranked in the top 20 for hospitals with less than 250 beds.

1996-97: Labor and Delivery moves into the 2nd floor

After being an empty shell for several years, in 1997 Labor and Delivery officially moved into the 2nd floor. Pictures have been of the staff in the “Old OB” during the late 1980’s. And some are in the “New OB” in the 1990’s.

1999-2000: Leslie Fleming and Larry Pochardt serve as Interim Co-Administrators

Leslie Fleming and Larry Pochardt served as Interim Co-Administrators of the hospital while the board searched for a replacement. Leslie, C.P.A., was the Chief Financial Officer from 1988-2001. In 1980, she and Leonard Snow were the Assistant Administrators for the hospital.