WHAT’S IN A NAME?

The name ThedaCare was born from a remarkable woman named Theda Clark Peters.

So who, exactly, was Theda Clark?

She was a woman of vision who dreamed of a better life for the people of northeastern Wisconsin. Throughout her life, Theda felt a deep sense of community responsibility. To help broaden the cultural tastes of Neenah and the surrounding area, she opened an opera house, a public library and an entertainment venue. But her greatest concern was the lack of a hospital in Neenah. It became her greatest contribution.

On October 18, 1903, Theda gave birth to a baby daughter. But three days later, she died from complications of childbirth. True to her visionary nature, she had prepared for the possibility. Shortly after learning that she was pregnant, she had her brother Bill administer an endowment of $96,000 to develop a community hospital in Neenah. That endowment included an endowment of $96,000 to develop a community hospital in Neenah.

Bill honored his sister’s wishes, and in 1909, Theda Clark Memorial Hospital opened its doors.

Over the last century, the Neenah hospital joined with Appleton Medical Center. Beginning in the 1990s, diverse primary care practices from Shawano to the Fox Cities formed one common medical group with the Appleton and Neenah hospitals. They had a similar tie – Touchpoint Health Plan – and the desire to improve quality and care.

Since then, five other hospitals joined the others. Theda Clark’s name lives on in ThedaCare, with hospitals and clinics throughout the area she loved. Her compassion and deep care for the community lives on, too, in every facility that bears her name.