



Paris' new facility in DuBois services over two dozen hospital customers in Western and Central Pennsylvania.

Paris Companies Opens \$14 Million Healthcare Linen Services Plant

BY JOHN ADDUCI

On May 11, 2009, Paris Companies opened its new \$14 million Healthcare Linen Services plant on Tom Mix Drive in DuBois, Pennsylvania. This new, state-of-the-art plant is one of the most efficient and environmentally friendly facilities of its kind in the world. The new plant positions Paris as a leader in providing outsourced healthcare linen services in the Mid-Atlantic Region. Paris previously constructed a new Healthcare Linen plant in Ravenna, Ohio in 2004, so the DuBois facility is the second new Healthcare Linen plant that Paris has constructed in the last 5 years. As healthcare construction has continued in recent years, Paris has kept pace with the construction of new plants to best service the thriving healthcare industry. Paris will formally introduce the new DuBois plant at a ribbon-cutting event scheduled for June 11, 2009.

All Paris plants have been accredited by the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC), which is an independent, third party accrediting body for laundries that serve hospitals. This means that Paris meets or exceeds a stringent set of standards set by HLAC in the laundering of healthcare linens.

Consistent with the company's tagline, Partners in Linen Management, Paris has developed a philosophy that challenges the way hospitals and other healthcare facilities view their healthcare linen needs. Rather than simply being hired to process the laundry, Paris views itself as a partner with each of its hospital and healthcare facility customers. Paris works with the hospitals and healthcare facilities in managing their healthcare linens, and goes far beyond the typical laundry service provider. Their innovative programs track linen usage from different hospital departments to help lower the cost per patient day.

Outsourcing for Healthcare Linen

Services has proven to be an advantage for many hospitals as industry trends move away from on-premise laundry (OPL) facilities. Many hospitals and healthcare facilities are realizing that outsourcing their linen services is a more economical solution. To build an efficient laundry could cost as much as \$15 million, so it makes more sense for an outsourcer like Paris to have one state-of-the-art facility than for each hospital to spend millions of dollars updating or building their own facilities. The new Paris Healthcare Linen Services plant has the ability to service many hospitals simultaneously with more efficiency than an OPL can provide. Hospitals have experienced savings ranging from 10 to 50 percent over their previous laundry costs, according to President and CEO of Paris Companies, David Stern. Outsourcing to a Healthcare Linen Services provider like Paris allows hospitals to focus on what is most important, the patients, leaving the linen management function to the experts.

Paris is also deeply committed to environmentally friendly technologies and processes in all of its operations. This philosophy ensures the most efficient use of natural resources, building upon their long-standing practices of recycling, conserving energy, and reducing waste.

Paris Companies employs 600 people and is Pennsylvania's largest, independent textile rental services company in the Mid-Atlantic Region. In 2008, Paris was named one of the "Top 100 Organizations" in Central Pennsylvania by Pennsylvania Business Central Magazine. Paris anticipates that approximately 40 new jobs will be created as a result of the new plant, which will provide a much needed boost to the local economy.

For more information, visit www.parisco.com, call (814) 375-9700, or e-mail Lori Jesberger at ljesberger@parisco.com.

West Penn Hospital School of Nursing Unveils Major Renovation to 85-year-old Building



The Western Pennsylvania Hospital School of Nursing recently unveiled the first major renovation in its 85-year history.

A \$6 million renovation funded by more than 600 donors preserved the building's charm and history while creating a welcoming, modern environment for students. Approximately 5,700 nurses have graduated from the West Penn Hospital School of Nursing since its inception, and it is now enjoying unprecedented popularity as enrollment has more than tripled since 2002.

"As our population continues to age, the education of new health care workers becomes more and more crucial to our society's well-being," said Dawn M. Gideon, President and Chief Executive Officer, The Western Pennsylvania Hospital and Executive Vice President and Chief of Hospital Operations, West Penn Allegheny Health System.

"Not only does this renovation provide a beautiful, warm environment for our students, it adds updated classrooms and laboratories and makes room for the continued growth of the STAR Center (Simulation, Training and Academic Research Center at West Penn Allegheny Health System), giving our students a state-of-the-art educational experience," Gideon said.

The renovations, under the direction of West Penn Hospital Director of Facilities Management Bill Marshall, made the building more energy-efficient, reduced its operating costs and made residential, administrative and classroom spaces more functional and inviting.

Other projects included the addition of a sprinkler system, a handicapped-accessible ramp and an elevator; replacement of all windows and lintels, assorted masonry and terracotta repairs, replacement of the main roof, gutters and downspouts; updates to the building's electrical power, bathrooms and showers, lighting and cosmetics, renovation of classrooms and auditoriums and replacement of furniture and equipment.

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