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**JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1
COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL REPORT
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1998**

Under provisions of state law, this report is a public document. A copy of the report has been submitted to the audited, or reviewed, entity and other appropriate public officials. The report is available for public inspection at the Baton Rouge office of the Legislative Auditor and, where appropriate, at the office of the parish clerk of court.

Release Date MAY 19 1999

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL REPORT

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1998

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ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

**COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997
TOGETHER WITH AUDITORS' REPORT**

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Parish Council of
Jefferson Parish:

We have audited the accompanying combined balance sheets of Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 (the Service District - a component unit of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana) as of December 31, 1998 and 1997, and the related combined statements of revenues and expenses and fund balance and cash flows for the years then ended. These combined financial statements are the responsibility of the Service District's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

Except as discussed in the following paragraph, we conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and in accordance with the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards (1994 Revision), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Governmental Accounting Standards Board Technical Bulletin 98-1, "Disclosures about Year 2000 Issues," requires disclosure of certain matters regarding the year 2000 issue. The Service District has included such disclosures in Note 9. Because of the unprecedented nature of the year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Accordingly, insufficient audit evidence exists to support the Service District's disclosures with respect to the year 2000 issue made in Note 9. Further, we do not provide assurance that the Service District is or will be year 2000 ready, that the Service District's year 2000 remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with which the Service District does business will be year 2000 ready.

In our opinion, except for the effects of such adjustments, if any, as might have been determined to be necessary had we been able to examine evidence regarding Year 2000 disclosures, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 at December 31, 1998 and 1997, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report on our consideration of the Service District's compliance and internal control over financial reporting dated March 5, 1999.

New Orleans, Louisiana,
March 5, 1999

Arthur Andersen LLP

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

COMBINED BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

ASSETS

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
CURRENT ASSETS:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,898,480	\$ 7,937,243
Patient accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$10,001,000 in 1998 and \$8,761,000 in 1997	26,614,980	22,823,191
Government health care program receivables	6,384,138	5,241,558
Inventory of drugs and supplies	2,507,246	2,423,259
Prepaid expenses	5,451,747	4,368,064
Assets whose use is limited that are required for current liabilities	<u>5,147,000</u>	<u>5,332,000</u>
Total current assets	<u>49,003,591</u>	<u>48,125,315</u>
ASSETS WHOSE USE IS LIMITED (Note 2):		
By board for specific purposes, at market	134,809,493	183,155,847
Trustee-held assets, at amortized cost	<u>138,028,273</u>	<u>61,796,663</u>
Total assets whose use is limited	272,837,766	244,952,510
Less amounts required for current liabilities	<u>(5,147,000)</u>	<u>(5,332,000)</u>
Noncurrent assets whose use is limited	<u>267,690,766</u>	<u>239,620,510</u>
PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT, net (Note 3)	<u>80,056,705</u>	<u>77,892,534</u>
OTHER ASSETS:		
Unamortized financing costs	3,652,179	4,222,157
Other	<u>4,528,592</u>	<u>4,986,139</u>
Total other assets	<u>8,180,771</u>	<u>9,208,296</u>
Total	<u>\$ 404,931,833</u>	<u>\$ 374,846,655</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

COMBINED BALANCE SHEETS

DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable	\$ 6,261,676	\$ 4,731,933
Accrued expenses	10,900,431	9,867,614
Patient deposits and credit balances	2,296,093	4,090,112
Current installments of long-term debt (Note 4)	2,890,000	3,515,000
Bond interest payable	<u>2,257,333</u>	<u>1,816,994</u>
Total current liabilities	24,605,533	24,021,653
RESERVE FOR ESTIMATED MALPRACTICE CLAIMS (Note 5)	2,320,000	2,100,000
LONG-TERM DEBT (Note 4)	178,000,000	159,449,999
CONTINGENCIES (Notes 5 and 6)		
FUND BALANCE	<u>200,006,300</u>	<u>189,275,003</u>
Total	<u>\$ 404,931,833</u>	<u>\$ 374,846,655</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES AND FUND BALANCE

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
OPERATING REVENUES:		
Net patient service revenue	\$ 135,140,671	\$ 133,542,554
Other operating revenues	<u>5,916,758</u>	<u>5,879,826</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>141,057,429</u>	<u>139,422,380</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES:		
Personnel	62,476,752	60,054,546
Professional fees	6,454,378	6,010,515
Medical and general supplies	25,706,427	23,986,460
Purchased services	11,918,707	11,559,930
Other expense	10,314,887	10,173,892
Bad debt expense	10,584,729	9,589,657
Depreciation	9,087,399	8,666,551
Interest expense, net of interest income from bond fund investments of \$5,277,000 in 1998 and \$4,692,000 in 1997	<u>3,222,317</u>	<u>4,719,920</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>139,765,596</u>	<u>134,761,471</u>
INCOME FROM OPERATIONS	1,291,833	4,660,909
INVESTMENT INCOME AND OTHER NONOPERATING REVENUES	<u>13,109,051</u>	<u>16,374,421</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY ITEM	14,400,884	21,035,330
EXTRAORDINARY LOSS ON REFINANCING (Note 4)	<u>(2,993,997)</u>	<u>-</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	11,406,887	21,035,330
FUND BALANCE AT BEGINNING OF YEAR	189,275,003	168,880,976
ASSESSMENTS BY JEFFERSON PARISH (Note 1)	<u>(675,590)</u>	<u>(641,303)</u>
FUND BALANCE AT END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 200,006,300</u>	<u>\$ 189,275,003</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

COMBINED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:		
Income from operations	\$ 1,291,833	\$ 4,660,909
Adjustments to reconcile income from operations to net cash provided by operating activities-		
Depreciation	9,087,399	8,666,551
Amortization of bond financing costs	444,458	490,517
Interest expense, net	3,222,317	4,719,920
Loss on sale of assets	-	136,479
Changes in assets and liabilities-		
Accounts receivable	(4,934,369)	(5,283,335)
Inventories and prepaid expenses	(1,167,670)	94,158
Other assets, net of non-cash items	457,547	889,635
Accounts payable	1,529,743	(109,864)
Accrued expenses, credit balances and malpractice	<u>(541,202)</u>	<u>1,917,278</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>9,390,056</u>	<u>16,182,248</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:		
Purchases of investment securities	(1,880,181,603)	(1,113,095,995)
Proceeds from sales and maturities of investments	1,862,187,658	1,111,446,927
Investment income and other	<u>8,495,125</u>	<u>8,642,332</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(9,498,820)</u>	<u>6,993,264</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM CAPITAL AND RELATED FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Interest payments	(8,059,363)	(9,268,720)
Acquisitions of capital assets	(11,251,570)	(10,849,213)
Principal payments on borrowings	(2,720,000)	(3,310,000)
Payments to defease bonds	(47,008,626)	-
Proceeds from bond issuance	<u>64,785,150</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash used in capital and related financing activities	<u>(4,254,409)</u>	<u>(23,427,933)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM NONCAPITAL FINANCING ACTIVITIES:		
Transfers to other parish funds	<u>(675,590)</u>	<u>(641,303)</u>
NET DECREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	(5,038,763)	(893,724)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, beginning of year	<u>7,937,243</u>	<u>8,830,967</u>
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS, end of year	<u>\$ 2,898,480</u>	<u>\$ 7,937,243</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

JEFFERSON PARISH HOSPITAL SERVICE DISTRICT NO. 1

NOTES TO COMBINED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:

Organization

West Jefferson Medical Center (the Medical Center) and West Jefferson Service Corporation (the Service Corporation) operate under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (the Parish) as Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 (the Service District) and are exempt from Federal and state income taxes. The Service District reports in accordance with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' "Audits of Providers of Health Care Services." As a governmental entity, the Service District also provides certain disclosures required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

The Medical Center operates an acute care hospital, physician clinics, medical office buildings and a health and fitness center. The primary purpose of the Service Corporation is to support the activities of the Medical Center. It operates an outpatient imaging center (d/b/a West Jefferson Imaging Center) and provides management consulting services to its subsidiaries as well as various unrelated healthcare providers. The Service Corporation subsidiaries include Omega Claims, Inc. (a claims administration service begun during 1994) and Physicians Center Pharmacy, Inc. (a retail pharmacy). The Service Corporation is also the leasing agent for various medical office buildings owned by the Medical Center.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported in the financial statements. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

The operations of all entities are included in the accompanying combined financial statements. All significant intercompany transactions have been eliminated in combination. Significant accounting policies used by the Service District in preparing and presenting its combined financial statements are summarized below.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include investments in highly liquid debt instruments with a maturity of three months or less, excluding amounts whose use is limited by board designation or other arrangements under trust agreements or with third-party payors.

Investments

Effective January 1, 1998, the Service District implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 31 (GASB 31) "Accounting and Financial Reporting for Certain Investments and for External Investment Pools" and, accordingly, investments are carried at fair value in the balance sheet and all investment income, including changes in the fair value of investments is recognized as revenue in the statement of revenues and expenses.

Inventory

Inventory, which consists primarily of drugs and supplies, is stated at the lower of cost (first-in, first-out) or market.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost. Depreciation is computed on the straight-line basis over estimated useful lives as follows:

Land improvements	10 years
Buildings	10-40 years
Fixed equipment	10-25 years
Major movable equipment	5-10 years
Minor equipment	3 years

Costs of Borrowing

Deferred financing costs are amortized over the period the obligation is expected to be outstanding using the interest method.

Other Assets

Other assets consist primarily of the Medical Center's 24.25% interest in a managed care organization and a 33% interest in a shared laundry co-operative, both of which are carried under the equity method of accounting.

Net Patient Service Revenue

The Service District has agreements with third-party payors that provide for payments to the Service District at amounts different from its established rates. Net patient service revenue is reported at the estimated net amounts realizable from patients, third-party payors and others for services rendered, including estimated retroactive adjustments under reimbursement agreements. Retroactive adjustments are accrued on an estimated basis in the period the related services are rendered and adjusted in future periods as final settlements are determined. Government health care program receivables include settlements for 1993 and subsequent years which are subject to audit and retroactive adjustment by the intermediary and the Department of Health and Human Services. Payment arrangements with major third-party payors are summarized below:

- Government Programs - Services rendered to most Medicare and Medicaid program beneficiaries are paid at prospectively determined rates or fee schedules which may vary according to a patient classification system based on clinical, diagnostic and other factors. Certain outpatient services and defined capital costs related to Medicare beneficiaries are paid based on a cost reimbursement methodology under which the Service District is paid at a tentative rate with final settlement determined after submission of annual cost reports by the Service District and audits thereof by the fiscal intermediary.
- Commercial Insurance - The Service District has entered into payment agreements with certain commercial insurance carriers, health maintenance organizations and preferred provider organizations. The basis for payment to the Service District under these agreements includes prospectively determined rates per discharge, discounts from established charges, prospectively determined daily rates and capitated per member per month rates.

The Service District derives a significant amount (approximately 44% in 1998 and 45% in 1997) of its net patient service revenue from patients covered by the Medicare and Medicaid programs and by Medicare health maintenance organization insurance plans. The Service District is unable to predict the future course of Federal, state and local regulation or legislation, including Medicare and Medicaid statutes and regulations. Further changes could have a material adverse effect on the financial results of the Service District.

Community Benefits

Services provided to the indigent and benefits provided to the broader community by the Medical Center for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997 are summarized below:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Benefits for the Indigent (unpaid costs)- Traditional charity care	\$ 1,572,000	\$ 1,643,000
Benefits for the Broader Community-		
Unpaid costs of Medicare programs	2,280,000	3,894,000
Other community benefits	<u>1,055,000</u>	<u>1,021,000</u>
Total quantifiable benefits for the broader community	<u>3,335,000</u>	<u>4,915,000</u>
Total quantifiable community benefits	<u>\$ 4,907,000</u>	<u>\$ 6,558,000</u>

Benefits for the indigent include services provided to persons who cannot afford healthcare because of inadequate resources or who are uninsured. This includes the estimated costs of services associated with traditional charity care and other services such as emergency room services.

Benefits for the broader community include the unpaid cost of treating Medicare beneficiaries in excess of government payments. These benefits also include services provided to other needy populations that may not qualify as indigent but that need special services and support. Examples include the cost of health promotion and education, an assistance program for the elderly, health clinics and screenings, ground ambulance and air ambulance services, and special assessments by the Parish to fund healthcare for the Parish correctional center, all of which benefit the broader community.

Community benefit expense approximated 4% and 5% of total Service District operating expenses in 1998 and 1997, respectively.

Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to prior year balances in order to conform to the current year presentation.

New Accounting Pronouncements

In June, 1998, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Statement of Financial Accounting Standard No. 133, Accounting for Derivative Instruments and Hedging activities (FAS 133). The Statement established accounting and reporting standards requiring that every derivative instrument be recorded in the balance sheet as either an asset or liability measured at its fair value. The Statement requires that changes in the

derivative's fair value be recognized currently in earnings unless specific hedge accounting criteria are met. Special accounting for qualifying hedges allows a derivative's gains and losses to offset related results on the hedged item in the income statement, and requires that a company must formally document, designate, and assess the effectiveness of transactions that receive hedge accounting. FAS 133 is effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 1999. The Medical Center has not yet quantified the impact of adopting FAS 133 on the financial statements and has not determined the timing or method of the adoption of FAS 133.

2. CASH AND INVESTMENTS:

Assets whose use is limited that are required for obligations classified as current liabilities are reported in current assets. The composition of assets whose use is limited at December 31, 1998 and 1997 is set forth below:

	1998 Carrying Value			1997 Total
	Cash Equivalents	U.S. Government Securities	Total	
Board designated	\$ 107,380	\$ 134,480,835	\$ 134,588,215	\$ 183,155,847
1986 Bond Issue	814	-	814	779
1988 Bond Issue	469,040	54,365,543	54,834,583	54,457,106
1985-A borrowings	-	-	-	1,269
1993 Bond Issue	7,700,747	-	7,700,747	7,337,509
1998 Bond Issue	114,634	63,211,148	63,325,782	-
Debt Service Reserve	-	12,387,625	12,387,625	-
Total Carrying Value (at fair value)	<u>\$ 8,392,615</u>	<u>\$ 264,445,151</u>	<u>\$ 272,837,766</u>	<u>\$ 244,952,510</u>

Louisiana state statutes authorize the Service District to invest in obligations of the U. S. Treasury and other Federal agencies, time deposits with state banks and national banks having their principal offices in the State of Louisiana, guaranteed investment contracts issued by highly rated financial institutions and certain investments with qualifying mutual or trust fund institutions. During the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997, the Service District invested primarily in securities issued by the U. S. Treasury and other Federal agencies. Louisiana state statutes also require that all of the deposits of the Service District be protected by insurance or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 100% of the deposits not covered by insurance. The bank balances of deposits at December 31, 1998 and 1997 were entirely covered by insurance or collateral held by financial institutions in the Service District's name.

The Service District's investments are categorized below to give an indication of the level of risk assumed at year end. Category (a) includes investments that are insured or registered or for which the securities are held by the Service District or its agent in the Service District's name. Category (b) includes uninsured and unregistered investments for which the securities are held by the counterparty's trust department or agent in the Service District's name. Category (c) includes uninsured and unregistered investments for which the securities are held by the counterparty or by its trust department or agent, but not in the Service District's name. Balances at December 31, 1998 were as follows:

Securities Type	Credit Risk Category			Total Fair Value
	(a)	(b)	(c)	
U.S. Government and Federal agencies' securities	\$ -	\$264,445,151	\$ -	\$ 264,445,151
Money market funds and other cash equivalents	<u>200,000</u>	<u>8,192,615</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,392,615</u>
Total investments	<u>\$ 200,000</u>	<u>\$272,637,766</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 272,837,766</u>

3. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT:

Property, plant and equipment at December 31, 1998 and 1997 consists of:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Land and land improvements	\$ 6,072,835	\$ 5,806,989
Buildings	60,734,123	58,139,168
Fixed equipment	38,630,701	38,630,701
Movable and other equipment	<u>91,235,834</u>	<u>83,220,862</u>
Total	196,673,493	185,797,720
Less- accumulated depreciation	<u>(116,616,788)</u>	<u>(107,905,186)</u>
Property, plant and equipment, net	<u>\$ 80,056,705</u>	<u>\$ 77,892,534</u>

The Service District leases certain major movable and other equipment under operating leases with terms predominantly on a month-to-month basis. Rental expenses for leased equipment amounted to approximately \$624,000 for 1998 and \$556,000 for 1997. During 1996, the Medical Center entered into an agreement whereby an outside firm manages the Information Systems function. Future commitments under this arrangement total \$10,596,000 at December 31, 1998.

4. LONG-TERM DEBT:

Long-term debt consists of:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Customized Purchase Revenue and Refunding Bonds (Series 1986); variable interest rates (ranging from 3.50% to 4.35% in 1998 and 1997); due in 2026	\$ 48,000,000	\$ 48,000,000
Louisiana Public Facilities Authority Revenue Bonds (Series 1988); 7.9%, due in installments to 2015 (\$48,000,000 of the bond proceeds were placed in escrow to advance refund the Series 1986 bonds)	-	45,664,999
Louisiana Public Facilities Authority CP Program Hospital Equipment Financing and Refunding Revenue Bonds (Series 1985-A); variable interest rate (ranging from 4.43% to 5.75% in 1998 and 1997); due in varying principal installments through 2005	15,345,000	17,000,000
Hospital Revenue Bonds (Series 1993); 3.60% - 5.40%; due in installments to 2019	51,235,000	52,300,000
Hospital Revenue Bonds, (Series 1998A); 4.00% - 5.25% due in installments to 2022	41,310,000	-
Hospital Revenue Bonds (Series 1998B); variable interest rate due in installments to 2028	<u>25,000,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	180,890,000	162,964,999
Less: Current maturities	<u>(2,890,000)</u>	<u>(3,515,000)</u>
Long-term debt, less current maturities	<u>\$ 178,000,000</u>	<u>\$ 159,449,999</u>
Total market value of long-term debt	<u>\$ 183,075,448</u>	<u>\$ 164,672,580</u>

Scheduled sinking fund payments on the Service District's long-term debt are as follows:

1999	\$ 2,890,000
2000	3,190,000
2001	3,380,000
2002	3,715,000
2003	6,545,000
Thereafter	<u>161,170,000</u>
Total long-term debt	<u>\$180,890,000</u>

In 1985, the Medical Center issued \$52,100,000 of Hospital Revenue Bonds (Series 1985), repayable solely from the revenues of the Medical Center. The proceeds of the issue were used primarily to finance construction of a professional office building and a garage, purchase equipment and advance refund the Series 1979 Hospital Revenue Bond issue. Proceeds in the amount of \$27,580,000 were deposited with an escrow trustee and invested in obligations secured by the U.S. Government. The principal and interest income from these invested funds are used to service the debt of the refunded issue. Neither the escrow fund nor the Series 1979 bonds payable are shown in the accompanying balance sheets. Series 1979 bonds payable outstanding were \$28,415,000 at December 31, 1998 and 1997. The Series 1985 bonds were advance refunded through issuance of the Series 1986 bonds and the Series 1993 bonds as discussed below.

In 1986, the Medical Center issued \$48,000,000 of Hospital Revenue and Refunding Bonds (Series 1986) to be repayable from the revenues of the Medical Center. Additionally, the trustee of the bond issue is entitled to draw up to an amount sufficient to pay the outstanding principal of and up to 58 days of accrued interest on the bonds under a transferable irrevocable letter of credit. Proceeds of the Series 1986 Bonds were used to provide funding for certain construction and equipment acquisitions at the Medical Center and advance refund certain debt issues. Approximately \$14,807,000 in proceeds from this issue and approximately \$22,599,000 from amounts held in connection with the advance refunded Series 1979 bonds were deposited with an escrow trustee and invested in obligations secured by the U. S. Government for redemption of \$30,710,000 of Series 1985 Hospital Revenue Bonds. The principal and interest from these investments are used to service the advance-refunded bonds payable. Of the Series 1985 issue bonds which were advance-refunded, \$13,340,000 and \$15,000,000 was outstanding at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively. Neither the escrow fund nor the Series 1985 advance-refunded bonds payable are shown in the accompanying balance sheets.

During 1988, the Medical Center entered into a loan agreement with the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority to obtain financing of \$59,500,000 to refund the Series 1986 bonds and finance the cost of providing improvements and equipment for the Medical Center. Loan proceeds of \$48,000,000 were placed in escrow to provide for the future advance refunding of the Series 1986 bonds and to fund the debt servicing requirements of the related liability prior to the refunding. Amounts in the escrow fund will be used to redeem the Series 1986 bonds on any date directed by the Medical Center on or before December 1, 2001. Prior to redemption of the Series 1986 bonds, the interest on borrowed funds deposited in the escrow fund is payable solely from investments and earnings of the escrow fund. The Series 1988 Bonds were defeased in July 1998 and matured in December 1998. An extraordinary loss on this refinancing of \$2,993,997 is included in the statement of revenues and expenses.

During 1991, the Medical Center borrowed \$20,000,000 through the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority CP Program Hospital Equipment Financing and Refunding Bonds (Series 1985-A) Program.

In January 1994, the Medical Center completed the issuance of \$55,265,000 of Hospital Revenue Bonds (Series 1993) to provide funds to (1) advance refund \$13,340,000 of the Series 1985 Hospital Revenue Bonds, (2) advance refund \$9,275,000 of the Series 1988 Bonds (3) finance acquisition, construction improvements, renovations and expansions of the Medical Center and (4) finance the costs incurred in connection with the issuance of the Bonds. The 1993 Bonds have fixed rates of interest at an average yield of 5.67% and are due in varying installments through 2019.

In September 1998, the Medical Center completed the issuance of \$66,310,000 of Hospital Revenue Bonds (Series 1998) consisting of \$41,310,000 Fixed Rate Hospital Revenue Bonds, Series 1998A and \$25,000,000 Variable Rate Hospital Revenue Bonds, Series 1998B to provide funds to 1) reimburse the Medical Center for certain capital expenditures previously incurred by the District, 2) finance the acquisition, construction improvements, renovations and expansions of the Medical Center and furniture, fixtures and equipment, 3) finance the costs associated with the acquisition and construction of an outpatient surgical and diagnostic facility and 4) finance the cost of acquisition and construction of a family medicine facility. The Series 1998A Bonds have fixed rates of interest at an average yield of 5.25% and are due in varying installments through 2021. The Series 1998B Bonds have a variable rate of interest and are due in varying installments through 2028.

Effective October 14, 1998, the Medical Center entered into a floating-to-fixed interest rate swap agreement with an investment bank (the counterparty) on a notional amount of \$25,000,000. Under this agreement, the Medical Center will make fixed interest payments at a rate of 4.42%, while receiving a floating interest payment at a rate based on TBMA index. The swap has a thirty (30) year final maturity, although after ten (10) years, if the trailing 90-day average of the TBMA exceeds 7%, the counterparty may opt to terminate the swap.

5. MALPRACTICE INSURANCE:

During 1976, the State of Louisiana enacted legislation that created a statutory limit of \$500,000 for each medical professional liability claim and established the Louisiana Patient Compensation Fund (State Insurance Fund) to provide professional liability insurance to participating health care providers. The constitutionality of the statutory limit has been tested and sustained to date although additional challenges may be made in the future. The Service District participates in the State Insurance Fund, which provides up to \$400,000 coverage for settlement amounts in excess of \$100,000 per claim. The Service District is self-insured with respect to the first \$100,000 of each claim and has excess insurance coverage with an annual aggregate limit of \$11,000,000 in excess of an annual deductible of \$1,500,000. In addition, the Service District is insured for claims under \$100,000 to the extent they exceed an annual aggregate of \$500,000. Malpractice suits involving claims of varying amounts have been filed against the Service District by various claimants. These actions are in various stages of processing and some may ultimately be tried before juries. The Service District believes the ultimate resolution of these claims will not have a material adverse effect on the Service District financial position or results of operations.

6. GOVERNMENTAL REGULATIONS:

The healthcare industry is subject to numerous laws and regulations of Federal, state and local governments. These laws and regulations include, but are not necessarily limited to, matters such as licensure, accreditation, government healthcare program participation requirements, reimbursement for patient services, and Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse. Government activity has increased with respect to investigations and allegations concerning possible violations of fraud and abuse statutes and regulations by healthcare providers in recent years. Violations of these laws and regulations could result in expulsion from government healthcare programs together with the imposition of significant fines and penalties, as well as significant repayments for patient services previously billed. Management believes that the Service District is in compliance with fraud and abuse as well as other applicable government laws and regulations. Compliance with such laws and regulations can be subject to future government review and interpretation as well as regulatory actions unknown or unasserted at this time.

Legislation and regulation at all levels of government have affected and are likely to continue to affect the operation of the Service District. Federal healthcare reform legislation proposals debated in Congress in recent years have included the imposition of price controls and/or healthcare spending budgets or targets, significant reductions in Medicare and Medicaid program reimbursement to hospitals and the promotion of a restructured delivery and payment system focusing on competition among providers based on price and

quality, managed care, and steep discounting or capitated payment arrangements with many, if not all, of the Service District's principal payors. It is not possible at this time to determine the impact on the Service District of government plans to reduce Medicare and Medicaid spending, government implementation of national and state healthcare reform or market-initiated delivery system and/or payment methodology changes. However, such changes could have an adverse impact on operating results, cash flows and estimated debt service coverage of the Service District in future years.

7. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:

Retirement Plan Description

The Service District contributes to the Retirement Plan for Employees of West Jefferson Medical Center (the Plan) which is a single-employer, noncontributory defined benefit pension public employee retirement system (PERS) which covers substantially all employees who meet certain length of service requirements. The Service District's total payroll for all employees and the Service District's total covered payroll for the year ended December 31, 1998, amounted to approximately \$52,154,000 and \$40,632,000, respectively, and \$49,814,000 and \$40,277,000, respectively, for the year ended December 31, 1997. Covered payroll refers to all compensation paid by the Service District to active employees covered by the plan on which contributions to the plan are based.

The Service District's PERS provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. Benefits do not vest until after ten years of service at which time benefits are 100% vested. The normal form of retirement benefit at age 65 is an actuarially equivalent joint and 50% contingent benefit payable for life in an amount approximating the sum of (1) 1.2% of final average monthly compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service not in excess of thirty and (2) .65% of final average monthly compensation in excess of "covered" compensation multiplied by the number of years of credited service. The Plan issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplemental information.

Employer contributions to the Plan are invested primarily in equity and fixed income funds.

Funding Status

The amount shown below as pension benefit obligation was determined as part of an actuarial valuation as of January 1, 1999 and represents a standardized disclosure measure of the present value of pension benefits, adjusted for the effects of projected salary increases estimated to be payable in the future as a result of employee service to date. The measure is the actuarial present value of credited projected benefits and is intended to help users assess the Plan's funding status on a going-concern basis, assess progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due and make comparisons with other plans.

Annual Pension Cost and Net Pension Obligation:

Annual required contribution	\$ 1,039,785
Adjustment to annual required contribution	<u> -</u>
Annual pension cost	1,039,785
Contribution made	<u>(1,039,785)</u>
Increase in net pension obligation	-
Net pension obligation beginning of year	<u> -</u>
Net pension obligation end of year	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>

Significant actuarial assumptions used in the valuation include a rate of return on the investment of present and future assets of 8.5% per year, compounded annually, and projected salary increases based on merit of 5% per year.

Contributions

The funding policy of the PERS provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that are sufficient to fund normal costs and amortization of past service costs over 30 years. The actuarially determined contribution requirement accrued in 1998 (to be paid in 1999) was \$1,039,785 and the contribution actually made in 1998 (accrued in 1997) was \$911,398. The actuarial amount of assets in excess of liabilities at January 1, 1999 was \$893,245.

Significant actuarial assumptions used to compute contribution requirements are the same as those used to compute the standardized measure of the pension benefit obligation.

Trend Information

Historical trend information as of January 1 is presented below in order to assess the progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay pension benefits as they become payable.

<u>Fiscal Year Ending</u>	<u>Annual Pension Cost (APC)</u>	<u>Percentage of APC Contributed</u>	<u>Net Pension Obligation</u>
12/31/96	\$ 1,140,375	100%	\$ -
12/31/97	911,398	100%	-
12/31/98	1,039,785	100%	-

The 1998 audited financial statements of the Plan include certain required supplementary information related to net actuarial value of assets and accrued liabilities, funded ratio and annual covered payroll.

Executive Benefits

The Service District provides a supplemental executive retirement plan (SERP) as well as a contributory flexible benefit plan to certain key employees. Service District contributions to the plans were \$205,000 in 1998 and \$254,000 in 1997. Net assets and liabilities associated with the plans were approximately \$3,552,000 and \$3,183,000 at December 31, 1998 and 1997, respectively, and are included in current assets and liabilities in the accompanying financial statements.

8. CONCENTRATIONS OF CREDIT RISK:

The Service District grants credit without collateral to its patients, most of whom are local residents and are insured under third-party payor agreements. The mix of receivables from patients and third-party payors at December 31, 1998 and 1997, was as follows:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Medicare	27%	24%
Medicaid	12%	14%
Managed Care	34%	34%
Other third-party payors	17%	17%
Patients	<u>10%</u>	<u>11%</u>
	<u>100%</u>	<u>100%</u>

9. "YEAR 2000" ISSUES (UNAUDITED):

The year 2000 issue is the result of shortcomings in many electronic data processing systems and other equipment that may adversely affect the Service District's operations as early as fiscal year 1999. The Service District has completed an inventory of computer systems that may be affected by the year 2000 issue and that are necessary to conducting the Service District's operations. The Service District has replaced its patient registration and billing system and is in the process of replacing its financial accounting system with software products from third party vendors that are year 2000 compliant. The Service District's primary clinical system is year 2000 compliant and its laboratory system will be upgraded with year 2000 compliant software (also from a third party vendor) during the second quarter of 1999. The Service District expects to complete remediation, testing and validation of all critical systems by August 1999.

The Service District has also completed an inventory of other electronic equipment including medical devices, elevators, power systems, communications equipment, etc. and obtained confirmations from vendors regarding year 2000 compliance of these items. Items determined to be non-year 2000 compliant are expected to be replaced or upgraded during 1999. The Service District's preparations to ensure that all such equipment is year 2000 compliant are dependent upon the validity of vendors' confirmation of year 2000 compliance of this equipment.

The Service District is also in the process of confirming that major customers including the federal and state governments and major insurance companies are year 2000 ready.

Because of the unprecedented nature of the year 2000 issue, its effects and the success of related remediation efforts will not be fully determinable until the year 2000 and thereafter. Management cannot assure that the Service District is or will be year 2000 ready, that the Service District's remediation efforts will be successful in whole or in part, or that parties with whom the Service District does business will be year 2000 ready.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

REPORT ON COMPLIANCE AND ON INTERNAL CONTROL OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING BASED ON AN AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PERFORMED IN ACCORDANCE WITH GOVERNMENT AUDITING STANDARDS

To the Parish Council of Jefferson Parish:

We have audited the financial statements of Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1 (the Service District - a component unit of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana) as of and for the year ended December 31, 1998, and have issued our report thereon dated March 5, 1999 which was qualified because insufficient audit evidence exists to support the Service District's disclosure with respect to the Year 2000 issue. Except as discussed in the preceding sentence, we conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States.

Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the Service District's financial statements are free of material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provision of laws, regulations, contracts and grants, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit and, accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

Internal Control Over Financial Reporting

In planning and performing our audit, we considered the Service District's internal control over financial reporting in order to determine our auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements and not to provide assurance on the internal control over financial reporting. Our consideration of the internal control over financial reporting would not necessarily disclose all matters in the internal control over financial reporting that might be material weaknesses. A material weakness is a condition in which the design or operation of one or more of the internal control components does not reduce to a relatively low level the risk that misstatements in amounts that would be material in relation to the financial statements being audited may occur and not be detected within a timely period by employees in the normal course of performing their assigned functions. We noted no matters involving the internal control over financial reporting and its operation that we consider to be material weaknesses.

This report is intended for the information of the audit committee and management, however, this report is a matter of public record and its distribution is not limited.

New Orleans, Louisiana,
March 5, 1999

Arthur Andersen LLP

ARTHUR ANDERSEN LLP

**RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF
WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997
TOGETHER WITH AUDITORS' REPORT**

ARTHUR ANDERSEN

Arthur Andersen LLP

Suite 4500
201 St Charles Avenue
New Orleans LA 70170-4500
504 581 5454

REPORT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

To the Trustees of the
Retirement Plan for Employees of
West Jefferson Medical Center:

We have audited the accompanying financial statements and supporting schedules of the Retirement Plan for Employees of West Jefferson Medical Center (the Plan) as of and for the years ended December 31, 1998 and 1997. These financial statements and supporting schedules are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and in accordance with the standards for financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards (1994 Revision), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and supporting schedules referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial status of the Plan at December 31, 1998 and 1997 and the changes in its financial status for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report on our consideration of Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1's compliance and internal control other financial reporting dated March 5, 1999.

Arthur Andersen LLP

New Orleans, Louisiana,
March 5, 1999

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF
WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER

STATEMENTS OF PLAN NET ASSETS

DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
ASSETS:		
Fixed income funds	\$10,958,650	\$10,294,968
Equity funds	20,905,899	15,985,068
Cash equivalents	5,833,680	5,722,567
Employer contributions receivable	1,039,785	911,398
Accrued income receivable	<u>66,197</u>	<u>124,830</u>
	38,804,211	33,038,831
LIABILITIES:		
Payable to employer for administrative expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>24,006</u>
NET ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR PENSION BENEFITS	<u>\$38,804,211</u>	<u>\$33,014,825</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF
WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN PLAN NET ASSETS
FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
ADDITIONS:		
Employer contributions	\$ 1,039,785	\$ 911,398
Investment income	<u>5,542,924</u>	<u>5,022,941</u>
Total additions	<u>6,582,709</u>	<u>5,934,339</u>
DEDUCTIONS:		
Benefits paid to participants and beneficiaries	745,916	642,992
Administrative expenses	<u>47,407</u>	<u>37,761</u>
Total deductions	<u>793,323</u>	<u>680,753</u>
NET INCREASE	5,789,386	5,253,586
NET ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR PENSION BENEFITS, beginning of year	<u>33,014,825</u>	<u>27,761,239</u>
NET ASSETS HELD IN TRUST FOR PENSION BENEFITS, end of year	<u>\$38,804,211</u>	<u>\$33,014,825</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF

WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1998 AND 1997

1. PLAN DESCRIPTION:

General

West Jefferson Medical Center operates under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council of Jefferson Parish, Louisiana (the Parish) as Jefferson Parish Hospital Service District No. 1. A Louisiana Attorney General opinion empowers hospital service districts to create pension plans for officers and employees and to completely fund the plan with district funds. The Retirement Plan for Employees of West Jefferson Medical Center (the Plan) is a single-employer, non-contributory, defined benefit public employee retirement system (PERS). The Plan covers substantially all employees of West Jefferson Medical Center (the Employer) who meet certain length of service requirements and is funded through employer contributions and investment earnings. As a governmental entity, the Plan provides disclosures required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board.

Plan Membership

At December 31, the Plan's membership consisted of:

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1997</u>
Active employees	1,345	1,377
Retirees and beneficiaries currently receiving benefits	192	163
Terminated employees entitled to, but not yet receiving, benefits	<u>211</u>	<u>203</u>
Total plan participants	<u>1,748</u>	<u>1,743</u>

Eligibility Requirements

An employee is eligible to participate in the Plan as of the date he or she has completed one year of service and attained the age of 21.

Benefits

Retirement

The Plan provides retirement benefits as well as death and disability benefits. All benefits are fully vested after 10 years of credited service. The basic annual retirement benefit at age 65 is a benefit payable for life in an amount equal to the number of years of credited service up to 30 years, multiplied by the sum of (1) 1.2% of final average monthly compensation and (2) .65% of final average monthly compensation in excess of "covered compensation," which is defined as the average of the Social Security Taxable Wage Base for the 35-year period ending the year in which social security normal retirement age is attained. Final average monthly compensation is defined as the monthly compensation of a participant averaged over the 5 consecutive calendar years which produces the highest monthly average within the last 10 calendar years preceding the earlier of retirement or termination of employment. Employees with 10 years of credited service may elect to receive a reduced benefit beginning at age 55.

Deferred and Disability Benefits

A Plan member leaving employment after 10 years of credited service but before attaining retirement age or who ceases active employment because of total and permanent disability after 10 years of credited service but before attaining retirement age is eligible for deferred benefits or may elect to receive reduced benefits beginning on the early retirement date.

Survivor Benefits

The survivor benefit provided under the Plan is a death benefit for a vested participant payable in the form of a survivor annuity. Such annuity payments are generally equal to 50% of the amount which would be payable to the participant if he had survived and elected to commence receiving a retirement income at the earliest date allowed under the plan.

Contributions

The Employer is required to contribute amounts necessary to provide the benefits under the Plan determined by the application of accepted actuarial methods and assumptions.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL REPORTING POLICIES:

Basis of Accounting

The Plan's financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting.

Employer Contributions

Employer contributions are recognized as revenues in the period in which employee services are performed.

Investments

The assets of the Plan are invested in various fixed income, equity and short-term money market funds managed by a Trustee. Investments are carried at fair value as reported by the Trustee.

Administrative Expenses

All administrative expenses of the Plan are paid by the Employer and are to be reimbursed by the Plan.

3. CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED AND CONTRIBUTIONS MADE:

The funding policy of the Plan provides for periodic employer contributions at actuarially determined rates that are sufficient to pay benefits when due. The actuarial funding method used to determine the normal cost and the unfunded actuarial accrued liability, amortized over 30 years, for purposes of determining contribution requirements is the entry age normal cost method. The significant actuarial assumptions underlying the actuarial method used to compute the contribution requirements are the same as those used to compute the pension benefit obligation.

The actuarially determined contribution requirement for 1998, accrued by the employer and to be received by the Plan in 1999, was \$1,039,785. The actual contribution paid by the Employer during 1998 relating to the 1997 contribution requirement was \$911,398. The 1998 contribution requirement consisted of (a) \$810,542 normal cost, (b) \$147,785 amortization of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability and (c) \$81,458 net interest cost.

4. INVESTMENTS:

The Plan has adopted certain investment policies, objectives, rules and guidelines which are intended to protect and preserve the Plan's assets while providing an appropriate return. The targeted overall mix of plan investments to meet these objectives are outlined below:

<u>Investment Class</u>	<u>Target</u>
Long-term bonds	15%
Intermediate bonds	20%
High-cap equity	45%
Growth equities	15%
Money market	5%

The fair value of individual investments that represent 5% or more of the Plan's total net assets as of December 31, 1998 is as follows:

Federated U. S. Government Trust Institutional Fund	\$ 6,723,675
Vanguard Fixed Income Securities Fund	4,234,973
Federated Growth Strategies Fund	2,363,013
SEI S&P500 Index Fund	18,542,886
The One Group U. S. Treasury Securities Money Market Fund	5,833,680

5. HISTORICAL TREND INFORMATION:

Historical trend information designed to provide information about the Plan's progress made in accumulating sufficient assets to pay benefits when due is presented as Schedules 1 and 2.

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OFWEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTERREQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATIONSCHEDULE OF FUNDING PROGRESSDECEMBER 31, 1998

<u>(1)</u> <u>Actuarial</u> <u>Valuation Date</u>	<u>(2)</u> <u>Actuarial</u> <u>Value of Assets</u> <u>(AVA)</u>	<u>(3)</u> <u>Actuarial</u> <u>Accrued</u> <u>Liability</u> <u>AAL</u>	<u>(4)</u> <u>Unfunded</u> <u>(Overfunded)</u> <u>Actuarial</u> <u>Accrued Liability</u> <u>(UAAL) (3) - (2)</u>	<u>(5)</u> <u>Funded</u> <u>Ratio (2)/(3)</u>	<u>(6)</u> <u>Annual</u> <u>Covered</u> <u>Payroll</u>	<u>(7)</u> <u>UAAL</u> <u>as Percent of</u> <u>Payroll (4)/(6)</u>
01/01/93	\$ 16,915,000	\$19,973,478	\$3,058,478	84.7%	\$29,810,785	10.3%
01/01/94	19,000,000	22,683,471	3,683,471	83.8%	32,015,331	11.5%
01/01/95	19,588,000	25,934,315	6,346,315	75.5%	36,983,844	17.2%
01/01/96	23,743,000	27,596,935	3,853,935	86.0%	38,038,967	10.1%
01/01/97	28,228,000	29,532,330	1,304,330	95.6%	37,269,213	3.5%
01/01/98	32,500,000	34,223,220	1,723,220	95.0%	40,276,838	4.3%
01/01/99	37,000,000	36,106,755	(893,245)	102.5%	40,631,521	-2.2%

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF

WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER

REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SCHEDULE OF EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS

DECEMBER 31, 1998

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Annual Required Contribution</u>	<u>Percentage Contributed</u>
1992	\$ 998,714	100%
1993	967,683	100%
1994	1,047,919	100%
1995	1,419,308	100%
1996	1,140,375	100%
1997	911,398	100%
1998	1,039,785	100%

RETIREMENT PLAN FOR EMPLOYEES OF

WEST JEFFERSON MEDICAL CENTER

NOTES TO REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

DECEMBER 31, 1998

The information presented in the required supplementary schedules was determined as part of the actuarial valuations at the dates indicated. Additional information as of the latest actuarial valuation follows:

Valuation date	January 1, 1999
Actuarial cost method	Entry Age Normal
Amortization method	Level payments open
Remaining amortization period	30 years
Asset valuation method	Market value
Actuarial assumptions:	
Investment rate of return	8.50%
Projected salary increases	5.00%
Cost-of-living adjustments	None

ARTHUR ANDERSEN

CONFIDENTIAL

Arthur Andersen LLP

March 5, 1999

Suite 4500
201 St Charles Avenue
New Orleans LA 70170-4500
504 581 5454

To the Board of Directors of
West Jefferson Medical Center:

As part of our audit of the financial statements of West Jefferson Medical Center for the year ended December 31, 1998, we considered the Medical Center's internal control structure in determining the scope of our audit procedures for the purpose of rendering an opinion on the financial statements. While our purpose was not to provide assurances on the internal control structure, we noted the following matters that we want to report to you:

Physician's Center Pharmacy Accounts Receivable Trial Balance

The Physician's Center Pharmacy does not currently maintain a detailed accounts receivable trial balance. The balance in accounts receivable per the general ledger is calculated by netting the monthly gross sales against cash receipts. Therefore, it is difficult to maintain individual account balances and to determine unpaid account balances. We recommend that a detailed accounts receivable trial balance be developed at the Pharmacy to better monitor account activity and to increase collections on unpaid accounts.

Information Systems

We recommend that the Hospital consider implementing the following ideas in order to strengthen controls in the Information Systems (IS) structure:

Assess the risk of an IS disaster, develop a formal IS disaster plan responsive to the assessment, and test the plan.

Document change control policies and procedures, including standards for the management of software and hardware upgrades.

Conduct regular quality assurance reviews of the IS department to ensure that the Eclipsys performance is in accordance with the contract requirements and that department policies and procedures are being followed. The quality assurance function should also include a regular audit of user access rights to ensure that employees have the appropriate access and that necessary changes to access are made promptly.

ARTHUR ANDERSEN

This letter is intended solely for the use of management and the Board of Directors and is not intended for any other purpose.

We appreciate the courtesies and cooperation extended to our representatives during the course of our work. We would be pleased to discuss these recommendations in greater detail at your convenience or otherwise assist in their implementation.

Very truly yours,

Arthur Andersen LLP

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1101 Medical Center Boulevard
Marrero, LA 70072
(504) 347-5511

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MAY 12 1999

LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

May 7, 1999

A. Gary Muller, F.A.C.H.E.
President/CEO

Board of Directors:

Frank C. DiVincenti, MD
Chairman

Louis H. Thomas, Jr.
Vice-Chairman

Anthony S. Penn, Sr.
Secretary-Treasurer

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Stanton W. Salatho

Steve J. Theriot

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To the Board of Directors of
West Jefferson Medical Center:

In response to the Management Letter, dated March 5, 1999 by Arthur Andersen,
Management submits the following response:

Physician's Center Pharmacy Accounts Receivable Trial Balance

Management concurs with Arthur Andersen's recommendation and will implement it during 1999.

Information Systems

Management will request that Eclipsys, the Medical Center's information systems vendor,
implement the recommendation to develop a disaster plan and document change control policies
and procedures. Management will also conduct quarterly assurance reviews of the Information
Systems department to ensure Eclipsys' performance.

Sincerely,

Mark J. McGinnis
Sr. Vice President

MJM/jkb

To CURE Sometimes... To RELIEVE Often... To COMFORT Always