

Breaking new ground nothing new for pioneering Mississippi county.

Folks in Jefferson County, Mississippi have a long history of breaking new ground. In 1969, they elected civil rights pioneer Charles Evers as mayor of the county seat of Fayette; Evers was the first African American elected as mayor of a Mississippi town since Reconstruction. Beloved novelist Alex Haley attended Jefferson County's Alcorn University in his early years before he went on to pen *Roots*, the novel that became the basis for the 1977 miniseries that reached a record-breaking 130 million viewers.

So it's no stretch to say that Jefferson County Hospital is in good company as it breaks new ground of its own, on a major physical expansion with a new acute care unit, while simultaneously implementing an impressively ambitious automation upgrade with Custom Software solutions, including Custom Software document management and lab modules and ChartSmart emr® electronic medical records. What makes these dual endeavors even more impressive is that hospital is paying for both from cash reserves, with much of the technology investment to be returned quickly since ChartSmart will allow the hospital to meet meaningful use guidelines and thus qualify for federal stimulus funds provided by ARRA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act).

It is a financial and operational coup that many rural hospitals can only dream of, but as Jefferson Administrator Jerry Kennedy explains, "With the clock ticking on the stimulus, we knew this was the time to make the change, and

we knew Custom Software was the company we wanted to help us make it."

The hospital has been using CSS core financial solutions for nearly two decades, part of a prudent fiscal management style that has yielded such a uniquely strong financial position for the 30-bed facility serving this rural market in southwest Mississippi.

"It's been a real privilege for Custom Software to serve as Jefferson County's long-term technology partner," Custom Software President DeWitt Rhaly says. "Jerry and his staff have set an outstanding example for their peers in the way they've worked and marshaled their resources. Now, with this expansion of facilities and technology, Jefferson County Hospital is perfectly positioned to provide 21st century care with the kind of cost-effectiveness that will insure the hospital's future prosperity."

According to Kennedy, it was the 21st century features of ChartSmart EMR, along with its ease of use, that also helped the hospital with its decision to abandon paper charts. "Our nurses and staff liked what we saw in this EMR system, and we really appreciated everything that ChartSmart could do for us."

The automation upgrade has already begun; the facilities expansion begins June, 2011. At Custom Software, we're very proud to be part of Jefferson County's groundbreaking success.