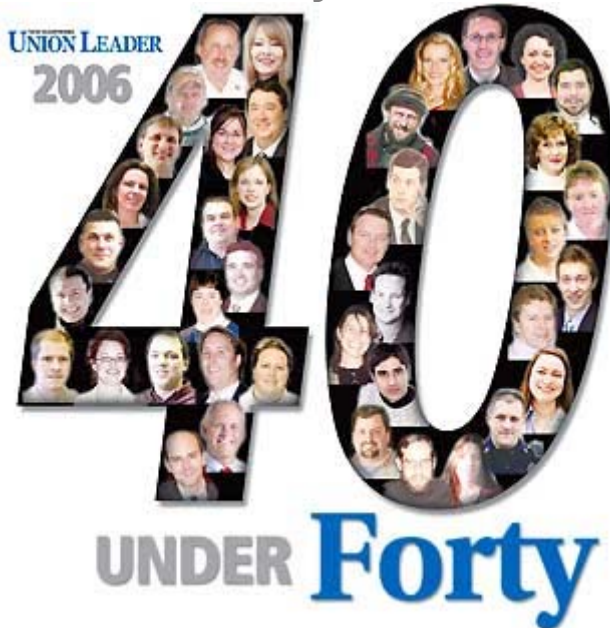


Tue., Jan. 31

40 Under Forty



Our fifth year honoring NH's best

THIS YEAR MARKS the fifth year of the New Hampshire Union Leader's 40 Under Forty program. With this year's class, the state's largest newspapers have honored 200 up-and-coming young leaders from all walks of life.

"We started the program to recognize young people who are contributing so much to New Hampshire and to encourage others to aspire to do the same," said Union Leader Publisher Joseph McQuaid,

Chip Holmes: He made Littleton Regional healthy again

By LORNA COLQUHOUN
Union Leader Correspondent
Monday, Jan. 30, 2006

LITTLETON – As the son of a pediatrician and a nurse, William E. "Chip" Holmes was destined for a career in the medical profession.

But even from a tender age, he did not entertain ideas about being a doctor.

"I wanted to be a hospital administrator," he said.

And that's what he became. He's been at the helm of the 25-bed Littleton Regional Hospital since 2001, at a period when the hospital suffered a \$2 million loss. Last year, it finished at a \$3 million profit. The hospital has an annual payroll of \$22 million and a full medical staff of 75.



**William (Chip)
Edward Holmes,
CHE**

Age: 39

Home: Bethlehem

Birthplace: Lexington, Ky.

Family: Wife, Amy Jeroy Holmes; daughters, Carson Elizabeth Holmes, 8, and Isabelle Keirn Holmes, 7

High school: Rice High School, South Burlington, Vt.

College/postgrad degrees: B.S. in economics and sociology, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., 1989; Masters of Health Administration, School of Public Health & Tropical Medicine, Tulane University, New Orleans, 1992

Current job: Administrator, Littleton Regional Hospital, 2001 to present

Key past positions held: Chief operating officer, Abilene Regional Medical Center, Abilene, Texas, 1998-2001; chief executive officer, Richmond Eye & Ear Hospital, Richmond, Va., 1996-1998; assistant administrator, Charter Westbrook Hospital, Richmond, Va., 1993-1996

Volunteer activities: Board president, North Country United Way, Bethlehem, a member of the board since 2002; committee member, Model Communities, Littleton, 2003 to present; committee member, Healthy Littleton, 2004 to present

Key current professional challenge: Leadership Team & Governance development at Littleton Regional Hospital; rebuilding the North Country United Way

Holmes does not take the credit himself, but said it's a result of the more than 400 people who work there.

"The hospital family turned it around," he said.

More than anything else, patient care is important to Holmes, which was ingrained in him as a child growing up in the northern Vermont town of Fairfax.

"I have vivid memories of going into the hospital with my dad on weekends when he was making his rounds," Holmes recalled. "Other kids played hallway hockey, but I wanted to talk about patient care."

He earned a B.S. in economics and sociology at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., and a master's in health administration at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine at Tulane University in New Orleans.

His first job was an admitting registrar, where he learned about every aspect of patient care and how hospitals operate. Before coming to Littleton, just after the new hospital was built, he worked in Virginia and as the CEO at Abilene Regional Medical Center.

The opportunity to return to Littleton was an opportunity to come home.

"I wanted to be back in New Hampshire or northern Vermont," he said. "This is where I wanted to come and raise a family."

Holmes finds time to be active in the community, where he is president of the North Country United Way and a member of a couple of committees shaping Littleton.

There are challenges Littleton Hospital faces, he said, from being competitive enough to attract doctors and nurses and other staff, to planning for growth. He is now at work on the strategic-planning process and development of the hospital campus.