

Meet Dr. Agnes Eichelberger...

Meet Dr. Agnes Eichelberger- Sioux City's pioneering physician and a founder of the care that became today's Crittenton Center. Born in 1864, Dr. Eichelberger was Sioux City's FIRST FEMALE DOCTOR (can you believe that?!) and brought a lifelong focus on maternity and children's care to our community.

Moved by a strong humanitarian spirit, she helped organize and then founded the Women's and Babies' Home (the Baby's Home Society) in the 1890s to care for unwed mothers, infants, and children in need. Under her leadership the local Babies' Home affiliated with the National Florence Crittenton mission, new buildings were built for maternity care, and a dedicated Sioux City maternity hospital followed- creating the infrastructure for organized, compassionate care for women and children in our region.

Those who knew her remembered that "Dr. Eichelberger gave scientific care to each unfortunate girl with no thought of recompense." She not only provided medical care but worked to find homes for orphaned children and to protect abused and neglected youth- setting standards of skilled, humane services that shaped how our community cares for families. Because of her vision and persistence, the Crittenton legacy lives on in the services we provide today.

We're proud to honor Dr. Eichelberger's legacy- a reminder that one person's compassion and leadership can create systems of care that last for generations. Share this story to celebrate her work and the generations of women, children, and families who've benefited from it.