Mercy Auxiliary

The Mercy Auxiliary plays an important role in the hospital through various activities and services. The Auxiliary, winner of numerous awards as the Iowa Hospital Association Auxiliary of the Year, provides the following services to the hospital, patients and visitors.

Gift Shop - located in the lobby; provides gifts, candy, personal and sundry items.

Hostess Desk - located in the front lobby to assist patients and visitors; desk is maintained by Auxiliary volunteers.

Scholarships - awards yearly scholarships to individuals entering the medical field.

Yearly pledge - in January a check is presented to the hospital from funds raised during the year. Some items purchased with these funds include patient beds, emergency/surgical automatic door openers, LTC Van, birthing bed, west entrance breeze way. Over the years, all areas of the hospital have benefited from these yearly pledges.
On March 10, 1903, a group of Centerville women met at the Drake Public Library and organized the Ladies’ Hospital Auxiliary. The sum of $4,500 had already been donated for a hospital but the group needed to raise $3,500 more to acquire the Peatman House on the corner of Main and Wall Street. Achieving the goal, Centerville’s first hospital opened its doors on November 17, 1903 with “15 cots and room for some more if needed.” This auxiliary subsequently disbanded.

In 1952, 18 volunteers, wives of the lay board, held an organizational meeting. They wanted to help promote the new addition to the old hospital.

Sister Fabian was the administrator at the time and worked closely with the Auxiliary to recruit new members. The original 18 members held coffees in their homes and soon the membership was over 143.

Because of the foresight the founders had, Mercy Auxiliary has become an important part of the community by remaining strong and active for over 60 years. This is a heritage that members are proud to proclaim.

### Working Committees

**Membership** - dues are $5.00 yearly/ $50.00 lifetime.

**Newsletter** - Published quarterly. This is an important tool used to get Auxiliary news out to the members as well as the community around the state.

**Hostess Program** - Several doctors come on a regular basis from other medical facilities to see patients. The hostess helps the admitting office in assisting patients to get to their respective appointments.

**Hospitality** - Each member is asked to contribute a salad, not more than once a year, for the monthly luncheons. Cost of the luncheon is $2.00, but is free the month a salad is provided by the member.

**Gift Shop** - There are two shifts each day. 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Open 5 days a week. Located in the main lobby.

**Ceramics** - This group has created ornaments for over 20 years to be sold at the holiday bazaar. Workers meet Wednesday mornings in the cafeteria.

**Crafts** - Workers meet Wednesday mornings to work on various craft projects to be sold at the annual Bazaar.

**Quilting** - Each year a queen-sized quilt is created to be raffled off at the annual Bazaar.

**Bazaar** - A long time tradition for the Centerville Auxiliary. Held each November with proceeds going directly to the hospital. Members are asked to contribute 3 items for the sale at the Bazaar.

### Valentine’s Day Candy Sale
- held on Valentine’s Day.
- Proceeds from the sale of homemade candy goes toward scholarships for individuals entering the medical field.

### Hospital Week Tea
- During Hospital Week in May, the Auxiliary hosts a tea for employees.
- Auxiliary members provide homemade cookies, punch, and coffee for this event.

### Pediatric Tours
- Tours of the hospital are given during Hospital week for all area first graders.
- The tours are guided by members of the auxiliary.

### Pins and Awards
- Awards are given annually at the January luncheon to members in recognition for their volunteer hours during the year.

### Newborn Caps
- Crochet or knitted caps are made by members and given to all new babies born at MMCC.

### Telephone
- Callers make calls to each member about upcoming Auxiliary events. Also used in case of funeral notices

### Blood Drives
- Host quarterly community blood drives

If interested in joining,
Please contact:

Auxiliary President
or any member