COMMUNITY HEALING GARDEN BENEFITS MERCY CANCER CENTER PATIENTS

An enthusiastic group of volunteers, Mercy staff and avid gardeners grabbed their trowels and celebrated the grand opening of the Community Healing Garden on Saturday, May 21, near the grounds of Mercy Cancer Center, 12495 University Ave., in Clive. The garden started with four raised garden beds in the fall of 2013, and has expanded each year thanks to the heartfelt efforts of staff, volunteers and donors.

Since its first summer in 2014, the garden has yielded approximately 500 bags of organic fresh produce – including lettuce, tomatoes, spinach, kale, herbs, carrots and various fresh peppers. The produce has been distributed free of charge to cancer patients in an effort to promote a plant-based, health-promoting diet.

The Community Healing Garden also includes non-food healing features, including annual and perennial flowers, art panels, a walking path, outdoor seating, a fountain and special night-time lighting. These special features come together to create a quiet healing environment where patients and families can relax, reflect and enjoy nature.

If you are interested in volunteering at the garden this growing season, contact Barb Wisnieski, Mercy Cancer Center dietitian, at (515) 358-9702, or by email at bwisnieski@mercydesmoines.org. If you are interested in donating to the garden, contact the Mercy Foundation at 247-3248.
Help create a Bright Space for children at House of Mercy

Mercy Child Development Center is raising funds to build a Bright Space at the House of Mercy! A Bright Space is a warm and inviting room, renovated by the Bright Horizons Foundation, where children can play in a peaceful and worry-free environment.

Mercy Child Development Center is sponsoring a “Walk On” event around the Mercy Mile at Mercy central campus, on Saturday, June 25, to help raise funds for this wonderful cause. Participants are asked to meet at the Mercy Child Development Center parking lot, 1150 6th Ave. All funds raised will go toward the House of Mercy Bright Space project.

If you, your friends or family members are interested in participating in the Walk On, please fill out this reservation form – [Registration Release Form 2016] – and return it to Melanie at melanie.rivas@brighthorizons.com, or mail it to Melanie Rivas, 1150 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314. If you are interested in donating financially to the Bright Space project, visit [www.brighthorizonsfoundation.org]. For more information, contact Melanie Rivas at (515) 643-9090.

Free estate planning seminar offered June 1

Human Resources is collaborating with Mercy Foundation to develop an informative program for Mercy staff and volunteers – “Taking Care of Yourself and Those You Love through Your Estate Plan.” The seminar will be offered June 1, in the East Tower Auditorium at Mercy central campus, from 1-3 p.m., and again from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Important topics to be covered include: calculating your estate’s worth; financial power of attorney; farm property; caring for individuals suffering from dementia; body, organ and tissue donation; health care directives; and much, much more. Please contact Paula Moenkhaus to register for this valuable seminar.

Time to vote for your “Best of Des Moines”

It’s time again for the Business Record’s annual Best of Des Moines poll, and time for you to cast your ballot. As in past years, “Business Record” readers are asked to vote on the best of everything Des Moines has to offer in a variety of business-related categories – including best hospital, best workforce and best CEO. Cast your ballot here and share your support of Mercy and our workforce with your vote. The deadline for ballot submission is the end of the day on Monday, June 6, and only one vote per computer is permitted. Results will be announced in the Sept. 30 issue of the “Business Record.”

Discounts available now for the IMT Des Moines Marathon

Mercy staff members are eligible to receive a discount for the LiveUp Loop and Junior Jog at the IMT Des Moines Marathon on Oct. 15-16. The reduced fee for the LiveUp Loop is $15, and $5 for the Junior Jog. Mercy staff and family within the same household may use the discount code “mercyflatfee” to receive the discount. Registration is now open at [http://www.desmoinesmarathon.com/].

A Live Up letter from a grateful family

I recently attended the memorial service offered at Mercy with my children. My mother, Elizabeth, was one of the deceased who was honored at the service.

I just want to thank the Pastoral Care Department for providing this wonderful opportunity for my children and me to say one last goodbye to my mother. It was very emotional for us, but I think it helped us move along in our grieving process. It was nice to see the other families and feel that unspoken bond between all of us as we sat there and listened to the readings, message and music.

I’m sure you don’t get a lot of thank-yous for what you do on a daily basis. But please know that it is much appreciated.

Please continue to offer this memorial service every quarter for people like me and my family. It truly makes a difference for us.

A message for Gwen in Mammography

This was my first mammogram (even though I am close to 60). Gwen, the technologist, was great. She made me feel comfortable and at ease. She explained everything and made this a pleasant experience. Thank you Gwen and all!