BEAUTIFUL BLESSED BLANKETS BRING COMFORT AND PEACE FOR PATIENTS

The Palliative Care department at Mercy is doing its part to bring comfort and peace to their patients in the form of a soft fuzzy blanket. The blankets are lovingly made and generously donated by Teddy Beard in memory of her husband, Frank.

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people with serious illness. It focuses on symptom relief and stress reduction to help improve quality of life for both the patient and family. One of the main goals of palliative care is to provide emotional and spiritual support.

Teddy Beard is the mother of Joan Beard, director of Mercy’s Pain Services department and the Palliative Care Program. Joan’s father, Frank, died last year and Teddy decided these blankets would be a great way to share his memory in a very meaningful way. In creating each blanket, Teddy follows a specific, intentional routine, which includes praying, measuring, cutting, sewing, washing and blessing each blanket with holy water.

In presenting a blanket to a patient, the palliative care staff lovingly drapes the blanket around the patient, therefore surrounding them with prayerful comfort, hope and warmth. It is a powerful statement of love and caring, and patients are very appreciative of the gesture.

Palliative care at Mercy is provided by Nurse Practitioners Robbin Mann and Jenny Trevillyan; Nurses Danette Hanson, Alicia Knight, Nichole O’Brien, Tami Singleton and Darrah Van Wyhe; Social Worker Wendy Sontag; Chaplain Jan Heckroth; and is supported by Director Joan Beard and Administrative Assistant Angie Fouch.

“We like to think of this as one of the ways we Live Up at Mercy. In all we do, we try to live out the words of Mother Catherine McAuley – ‘In care of the sick, great tenderness in all things.’” – Jan Heckroth, palliative care chaplain
Dr. Sangera honored for teaching excellence

Congratulations to Rajveer Sangera, D.O., chief resident of Mercy’s Internal Medicine Residency program, who is being awarded a Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award. The award is given annually to resident physicians who have demonstrated a commitment to teaching and compassionate treatment of patients, families, students and colleagues. Dr. Sangera was selected for this honor by the third-year students of Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine (DMU) and is one of only a few to have ever received this award from the DMU student body. He will be honored at a reception at the university on Wednesday, June 8.

Mercy Campus Medical Clinic closing on June 30

Mercy Campus Medical Clinic in the Mercy Medical Plaza (411 Laurel) will be closing on June 30, 2016. The providers currently at that location will be seeing patients at other Mercy Clinics’ locations. Please call the provider’s new clinic location directly to schedule an appointment.

- Dr. JoEllen Heims  Mercy Carlisle Clinic  (515) 989-3221
- Dr. Ronnie Hawkins  Mercy East Village Clinic  (515) 643-0833
- Dr. Kevin Moore  Mercy West Grand Clinic  (515) 226-0112
- Dr. Susan Kennedy  Mercy West Grand Clinic  (515) 226-0112
- Elizabeth Gudgel, ARNP  Mercy West Family Practice  (515) 222-7000

Nurse Practitioner joins Mercy West Clinic

The physicians and staff of Mercy West Family Practice and Urgent Care are excited to welcome Debra Jameson, ARNP, to the clinic. Debra earned her master’s degree in nursing, family nurse practitioner, from Graceland University in Independence, Mo., in 2015.

Mercy West Family Practice and Urgent Care is located at 1601 N.W. 114th St. in Clive. Debra is now accepting new patients. To schedule an appointment call (515) 222-7100.

Volunteers needed for Des Moines Corporate Games

Mercy is seeking volunteers to help with the Des Moines Corporate Games coming in June on the following dates/times:

- Saturday, June 18, 7:30-11:30 a.m., at James Cownie Soccer Complex for the Mud Run
- Monday, June 27, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Saydel High School for general track and field events

Contact Jennifer Wagner at jwagner@mercydesmoines.org or 643-8659 with questions or to sign up!