It’s been just two weeks since Linda Goodwin, MSN, MBA, FACHE, came onboard as chief operations officer and chief nursing executive at Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines, and she has been busy doing what she does best: creating a vision.

As Linda works to get to know our Mercy colleagues, medical staff and community, she is also looking for “clues of excellence” – examples of what’s working well, along with new and creative ways to enhance the care Mercy provides. It’s this passion for innovation and empowerment that best characterizes Linda’s leadership style.

“To provide a remarkable experience means providing care in a Christ-like way that meets the needs of the patient and his or her family,” said Linda. “It means going that extra step and sometimes breaking free of tradition to do what’s right for that individual.”

Linda’s professional background and education in accounting, business administration and more than 30 years of nursing have prepared her for her role at Mercy – a newly created dual position at the organization.

“It’s a big job, but I’m not doing it alone. To do what’s best for Mercy and those we serve, it’s important to me for colleagues to feel empowered to bring forth their ideas and help us reach our common goals,” Linda said. “Together, we will plan, be accountable and celebrate along the way.”

FAMILY & HOME
Linda grew up in rural north central Kansas, where her father farmed and her mother worked outside the home as a nurse. Her husband Larry Goodwin is a metal sculpturist – his second career. When not working, Linda enjoys biking, photography, being involved in the local culture scene and spending quality time with her son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

“You’re invited
Join us in welcoming
Linda Goodwin
Wednesday, June 20
10 a.m.–12 p.m. | East Tower Auditorium
Enjoy light refreshments at this open house event.
In celebration of National Cancer Survivors Day®, 137 cancer survivors and their 430 guests took in an Iowa Cubs’ baseball game at Principal Park on Saturday, June 9. Each year, Mercy Cancer Center invites cancer survivors to take part in a special event in honor of Cancer Survivors Day, a celebration of life held in communities worldwide. Mercy Cancer Center teamed up with John Stoddard Cancer Center again this year to invite survivors from both treatment programs to enjoy snacks and an Iowa Cubs’ baseball game with others from central Iowa.

On National Cancer Survivors Day®, thousands gather across the globe to honor cancer survivors and to show the world that life after a cancer diagnosis can be fruitful, rewarding, and even inspiring. This annual occasion provides an opportunity for all people living with a history of cancer – including America’s more than 15.5 million cancer survivors – to connect with each other, celebrate milestones, and recognize those who have supported them along the way.

CELEBRATING CANCER SURVIVORS

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MELISSA SMITH RECOGNIZED WITH DAISY AWARD

Melissa Smith, R.N., is Mercy’s newest DAISY Award recipient. She was surprised with the award at a ceremony May 4 in the Cardiac Surgical Intensive Care Unit, with several of her family members, colleagues and Mercy nursing leadership in attendance. Also in attendance were the patient she was nominated for serving and his wife, who nominated Melissa.

Following is an excerpt from the nomination form: “She was so caring and compassionate, not only to my husband, but to me as well. She took time to explain what was happening and answer any questions we had, which helped put us at ease. Since his hospitalization she has taken time to see how things are. She has gone way above and beyond.”

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Find out more about the Daisy award or submit a nomination at mercy.dm/daisy

MERCY REHABILITATION HOSPITAL NOW OPEN!

On Thursday, June 7, Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of the brand new facility and first patients were accepted Tuesday, June 12.

Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital is a state-of-the-art, 50-bed inpatient acute rehabilitation hospital dedicated to the treatment and recovery of individuals who have experienced the debilitating effects of a severe injury or illness.

As Iowa’s first and only freestanding rehabilitation hospital, the new inpatient rehabilitation hospital will provide comprehensive inpatient rehabilitation services that help patients recover and return home with the highest level of independence possible. Call (515) 381-6559 to make a referral or schedule a tour, or visit mercydesmoines.org/mercyrehabhospital to learn more.

Congratulations, Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital!

CONTACT US

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611

If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

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Leaders from Mercy, Kindred Healthcare – Mercy’s joint partner in the Rehabilitation Hospital – and the Mayor of Clive prepare to cut the ribbon.

Congratulations, Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital!
When nine-year-old Riley Plowman was asked to write a report on someone who had made an impact in her life, her mother, Ann, thought it would be about her or her husband. But Riley had another idea.

“I’m going to write about Dr. Bogason, because he saved your life!” Riley told her mom.

While Riley was writing her report, her mom was recuperating in the ICU at Mercy after undergoing a successful surgery to repair a brain aneurysm. If Ann and her husband hadn’t trusted their instincts and gone to the emergency room, the aneurysm would likely have burst and taken her life.

It started in December 2016, when Ann, a substitute teacher in Newton, Iowa, started feeling sick during a workout. She had a headache, stiff neck and was unable to keep anything down.

“The flu had been going around my family, so I assumed it was that,” she says. “But when I felt even worse the next day, and was getting dehydrated, my husband took me to the ER in Newton.”

She felt a bit better after receiving fluids, but after she described her headache to the ER physician as the worst she’d ever had, he ordered a CT scan, which showed bleeding in her brain, caused by an aneurysm. She was immediately transferred by ambulance to Mercy.

“It was a terrifying experience,” she says. “I was 37 years old and had two young children. I just kept saying, ‘I don’t want to die.’”

Fortunately for Ann, the surgery she needed was available at Mercy. Einar Bogason, M.D., central Iowa’s only fellowship-trained vascular neurosurgeon, had recently started performing the specialized procedure at Mercy, and is one of only a few in the state trained in coiling, or clipping, an aneurysm.

In a procedure the next day, Dr. Bogason performed a coiling procedure by navigating a catheter through a vessel in Ann’s leg and up to the spot in her brain where the aneurysm was located. He then inserted coils into the aneurysm to prevent further bleeding. The recovery included two weeks in the ICU, to monitor her and ensure healing was progressing.

“Dr. Bogason stopped by several times each day, including the first thing in the morning and on his way home at night,” said Ann. “I would definitely recommend him and the whole Mercy ICU staff. They took excellent care of me and it was a very good experience.”

Ann’s recovery progressed on schedule and she was able to come home three days before Christmas!

Riley shared a copy of her report with Dr. Bogason, and even took a picture with him at one of Ann’s follow-up appointments. Dr. Bogason sent Riley a thank-you note and called to thank her for sending him her report.

“He is from Iceland. He kinda has an accent. He’s really nice and he saves people’s lives,” Riley wrote. “He saved my mom’s life.”