The benefits of daily huddles are endless – increased communication, higher staff engagement, greater collaboration and much more. All of these benefits will help us provide a Remarkable Mercy Experience to everyone we are privileged to serve. Daily huddles for all departments and shifts began more than two months ago, and the benefits are getting noticed and talked about.

Amanda Aswegan, Mercy Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) Clinic, said daily huddles are a great way to start their day as a team. “We are all so busy, so it’s nice to get a chance to see each other and say good morning,” she said. Another advantage Amanda and her team have noticed is the addition of the Mercy Experience focus. “It is always beneficial to remind ourselves of expectations and how we can improve our patient experience,” Amanda added.

Huddles also allow for improved communication to ultimately advance our patient experience and improve how we collaborate with colleagues.

“Huddles provide us with an opportunity to get together and to discuss the areas of improvement, celebrations and process updates that affect us all. It also gives us the opportunity to collaborate to solve problems and see different perspectives on situations around the House of Mercy,” said Sydney Dunn, social worker at House of Mercy.

I want to say a big thank you for the Cancer Survivor Day at Boone and Scenic Valley Railroad. It was a beautiful day for lasting memories to be made and shared. It was such a great thing!

A few of us had gone on the train last fall and wanted to go back . . . we were working to save enough money to go again when we saw the event poster at Mercy Cancer Center. The day was such a blessing! Billy is getting worse and this may have been our last family outing together, so that really makes this extremely special.
Don’t let our blood supply get low – donate blood June 24

Mercy is joining forces with LifeServe Blood Center to host a blood drive on Friday, June 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in East Tower Conference Rooms 1 and 2 at Mercy central campus. Appointments can be made online at www.lifeservebloodcenter.org or by emailing Jessica Kness at JKness@mercydesmoines.org. Walk-ins will be permitted as the schedule allows.

Tell CHI what you think about internal communications

Now and then, we need to take a true and honest look at what’s working and what’s not so we can make adjustments for the better. Will you help CHI improve? This week, all staff should receive an email invitation to take a brief online survey about how CHI communicates throughout the system.

Your thoughtful input will help shape decisions about communication priorities across CHI and help us do a better job of meeting your communication needs. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. If you participate before June 30, you will be entered into a drawing to win one of five iPad minis. Please contact chicommunications@catholichealth.net with questions.

Iowa Wild’s Crash makes visit to Mercy Children’s Hospital

Crash from the Iowa Wild visited patients at Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics on Monday, June 13. It was great to see so many smiling faces!

Volunteers needed for the 2016 Mercy Audi Quattro Cup

Mercy Foundation is looking for volunteers for the 2016 Mercy Audi Quattro Cup, at Glen Oaks Golf Course on Monday, June 27. Volunteers will help sell raffle tickets, assist with hole-in-one contests and hand out beverages and player gifts. If you are interested in volunteering, please register here. For questions, please email Katie Vine.

Join the Barnstormers June 25

Mercy staff and volunteers are eligible for specially-discounted tickets for the Iowa Barnstormers vs. Cedar Rapids Titans game on Saturday, June 25, 7:05 p.m., at Wells Fargo Arena. Lower Bowl tickets start at just $10, with 100 Level Sideline tickets for $19 and 100 Level Corner tickets for $13. Order online at https://barnstormers.isportstix.com/order/group/MMC6-25/ or contact Matt at mswim@theiowabarnstormers.com or (515) 564-8452.