NEW SIGNS MAKE CROSSWALKS AT CENTRAL CAMPUS SAFER FOR PEDESTRIANS

In early May, Public Safety placed special signs in pedestrian crosswalks around central campus reminding drivers to stop for pedestrians crossing the road. Before the signs were placed, drivers speeding through campus caused numerous near-misses – especially on private 5th St. by the West Entrance.

Many people (staff members included) may not know the speed limit is 10 mph on this road, and sometimes drivers go as fast as 20 or 30 mph. Most drivers observed speeding through that area were Mercy staff, especially in the early morning darkness.

“It’s a big safety issue,” said Ted Wright, manager of public safety. “We certainly don’t want pedestrians getting hit,” he pointed out.

It’s a state law that drivers must yield the right-of-way to pedestrians crossing the street within any marked crosswalk or within any unmarked crosswalk at an intersection.

Speeding has dropped significantly since the signs went up, with the major difference seen almost immediately after the signs were installed. “Absolutely – there has been major improvement. A lot of people are stopping now or slowing down, and the number of near misses has gone down,” Ted said.

However, it is not always issues with the drivers. Pedestrians can also be at fault by jaywalking or not paying attention. It’s their responsibility to look for cars and to make sure cars are slowing down or stopping before they cross the street.

Ted also reminds staff to yield and/or stop for pedestrians (per state law) using the crosswalks on University Ave., 5th St. and 3rd St. A short stop is well worth the time when it could possibly save a life! In short, be sure to yield to pedestrians, slow down and pay attention when walking or driving in the area.

Signs are located in a few locations at central campus: two on 5th St. (10 mph speed limit), one on 3rd St. (10 mph speed limit), two on University Ave. (25 mph speed limit) and two on the north side of Mercy near the Main Entrance.

A REMARKABLE MERCY (BIRTHDAY) EXPERIENCE

I spent my birthday at Mercy Des Moines on the 8th floor. I had the best care ever!!! The nurses are awesome and the doctors brilliant. I was truly blessed to have been there and received their care. Originally, I was not doing well at all in our hometown hospital. Thank you to everyone involved.

(This is an actual note from a Mercy patient. It has been edited for space purposes.)
LONG-TIME MERCY BOARD MEMBER TERMS END

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines recently honored the dedicated service of two of its long-term board members whose terms expired at the end of June. Sharon Krause and William Young, M.D., completed their full term on the Board after nine years of amazing service to the Mission of Mercy.

“Sharon and Bill had an extraordinary impact on Mercy in their time with us,” said Mercy President Bob Ritz. “Mercy has benefited significantly from their expertise and dedication to the organization and it is with very mixed feelings we celebrate and honor the completion of their nine-year terms. Their commitment to the Mission of Mercy and their passion for our Vision to provide a Remarkable Mercy Experience was contagious. They are strong leaders and ambassadors for Mercy in so many ways. Their contributions to Mercy will last a long time.

Sharon Krause – owner and rancher of Dalla Terra Ranch, an organic sheep ranch in West Des Moines – was a valued member of the Executive, Physician Transaction Review and Quality Committees of the Board. In her time with Mercy, her vision led Mercy to become the first hospital in Iowa to offer life-saving electronic intensive care (eICU) technology to critically ill patients. She was also intricately involved in the Iowa Heart Center integration and has worked on development of the Mercy Comfort Health Center for Women, slated to open in Jan. 2017.

During his Board tenure, Dr. Young – president and CEO of Diagnostic Imaging Associates and medical director of Medical Imaging at Mercy Medical Center – served on the Physician Leadership Council and was a member of the Planning and Marketing Committee. In addition, he was instrumental in Mercy becoming the first hospital in central Iowa certified as a Primary Stroke Center by The Joint Commission, and in the opening of Mercy Cancer Center – West Lakes in 2008.

Thank you to both Sharon and Bill for their commitment to Mercy throughout the past nine years. They will be greatly missed, but never forgotten and still connected to Mercy. Sharon will continue to serve on a Board committee and Dr. Young remains active in leadership roles at Mercy.

June Spirit of Mercy Award winner announced!

Congratulations to Julie Reis, Spirit of Mercy Award recipient for June 2016! Julie, RN, Medical Imaging, works with patients of all ages to make their imaging experience a good one. She has been with Mercy for 24 years.

The Golden Rule guides Julie through her work, both with patients and with fellow staff members. “No matter what language or belief . . . treat others as you want to be treated,” she simply stated. “If we approach each day with this attitude, our world would be a much better place.”

A huge part of living up is as simple as that – treat others as you want to be treated; with respect, compassion and a genuine appreciation of others. “You may think we are here to help our patients but, in fact, we are the ones that gain so much from them – the stories they share, the strength they show, the journeys they are on. At any moment, the stories could be one of ours, so we listen and learn.”

If we want to provide a Remarkable Mercy Experience to everyone we serve and work with, it’s important to LISTEN and REALLY HEAR what others are saying. “It may not be the words, but the tone or expression they are using that tells the story. Once you figure out the real message, you can make an impact in their struggles.”

Outside of work, Julie loves spending time with family and friends. “We have three amazing children and their spouses who have blessed us with six of the most delightful, amazing and smart grandkids we could ever dream for. Anything they are involved in, we want to be there. We love to camp (RV-style), ride the Harley and travel. I love to quilt and create things that spark my interest.”

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to the Mission of Mercy. We are grateful for your service.

CONTACT US

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