CHINESE DELEGATION VISITS MERCY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT BIRTHING PRACTICES

Since the start of the year, Tamela Hatcher, manager of Mercy Volunteer Birth Doulas, has periodically traveled to China to lecture on Western birthing practices.

Earlier this month, back in Iowa, Mercy hosted the Perinatal Center of Iowa Conference and the International Childbirth Education Association (ICEA) Conference. Leading up to both conferences, Tamela hosted a delegation of Chinese medical professionals interested in learning more about American birth practices. Two of these health professionals shadowed her on Tuesday, Oct. 4, as they toured Mercy, attended the Doula meeting and observed a related childbirth class.

They also attended the PCI Conference, where they informally discussed typical birthing practices in China in order to promote a better understanding of how their practices are both similar to and different from ours in the United States.

Tamela’s involvement with the Chinese delegation started as a result of two things – Tamela’s presentation to an international audience at the Lamaze/ICEA Conference last year, and recent changes to China’s “one baby policy.”

On Jan. 1 of this year, China released the “one baby policy,” in place in that country for many years. Since then, approximately 50 percent or more deliveries have been by Cesarean section. The Chinese government and its people are looking for ways to turn that around and reduce this high rate of Cesarean births.

“Now, families can have two or three children, depending on either the area you live in or the job you have,” said Guanying (Gwen) Huang, one of the Chinese medical professionals who visited Mercy. “Birth in China has changed ever since doulas have been allowed to be a part of the process, as both father and doula can now be in the delivery room. However, this is currently only for regular deliveries, not C-Sections.”

Tamela serves as the Director of Education for ICEA. Her term began in January and she will serve in this capacity for two years.
Robin Burke, LPN, believes in the idea of paying it forward. Whether it’s spending additional time with a patient, or giving back to the community in some way, she knows this reflects upon Mercy.

“I feel when I project the Values of Mercy – Reverence, Integrity, Compassion, Excellence – our patients become part of the Mercy Experience in a positive way and also feel like they are a part of the Mercy Family,” Robin said. “In the long run, that becomes a win-win situation for all of us!”

Robin is a clinical nurse, working with Dr. Kurt Klise, at Mercy Clinics Family Medicine Perry. She has been with Mercy since 2009, and with the clinic since 1995.

Living Up is a part of Robin’s daily work, providing needed care and support to clinic patients. “Living Up means putting forth the best you can be in support of your patients, for the clinic, for Mercy and for myself,” she said. “In turn, this means I try to be better and do better for us all each day. It’s the philosophy of ‘Be Better, Do Better,’” she added.

In her time away from Mercy, Robin likes spending time with family – especially her grandchildren! She and her husband also like to travel and enjoy riding bikes on the many wonderful trails throughout the state. She also enjoys reading.

CELEBRATING MERCY STAFF AT FAMILY FUN FEST

On Saturday, Mercy staff and families enjoyed a fun day of games, food and activities at Principal Park. Kids and adults enjoyed playing Giant Jenga, Connect Four, decorating pumpkins, climbing a rock wall and so much more! While some participated in games, others tested their speed and agility through the obstacle course on the infield, while the outfield bustled with hard-fought Bubble Ball competitions. Ultimately, a team from 8 North emerged as the Bubble Ball champions after defeating the Pharmacy team in the final game.

In the Chili Cook-Off battle, Stacey Clough, Mercy Wellness Center, took home first place with her “Gramma Millie’s Texas Chili.” Additional competitors placing in the Chili Cook-Off include Shelly Morrill (second place), Toshia Garnes (third place) and Kyle Zeiser (fourth place). The winning recipes can be found here: mercynet.mercydesmoines.org/mercynet/providers/docOpen.aspx?name=MMC027481.

Thank you to all who helped make this event a success by attending or volunteering! We appreciate all the remarkable things you do each day!