MERCY ONE CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO CENTRAL IOWANS

On Nov. 2, Mercy One celebrates its 30th Anniversary. This service, which started in 1986 with a small staff and a Bell 222 helicopter, has turned into a team of 35 flight nurses and medics, five pediatric transport team members, ten NICU transport team members, 13 dispatchers, seven pilots and four mechanics operating two Bell 429 helicopters.

Last year, Mercy One completed 1,051 flights, and through the years has saved countless lives thanks to the quick response and expert medical care received from the Mercy One team. Staff – as well as community members – are invited to send congratulations and Mercy One stories to: contactus@mercydesmoines.org. We will be sure to share them with the team!

A note from Dennis Cochran, Mercy One program manager...

It is with humility and gratitude that our program takes a moment to reflect on the thousands of patients and families our team has had the opportunity to serve over the past 30 years.

The pilots, flight nurses, flight paramedics, communications specialist and mechanics of Mercy One are grateful to be able to work beside people of all ages in their hour of need. Our team is dedicated to making a difference in people’s lives.

Mercy One would not exist without the partnership of healthcare professionals, fire departments, law enforcement officers, and communication specialists throughout Iowa, and we pause to say thank you for allowing our team to work beside you throughout the years.

To all the present and past members who have been a part of the Mercy One team, I want to personally recognize each one of you and say thank you; it has been, and continues to be, an honor to work beside you.

To see Mercy One’s 30th Anniversary video, visit mercy.dm/MercyOneAnniversary.
Thanks to all who came out to ride for the Ruan Neurology Clinic on Saturday, Oct. 8! Hundreds of people gathered for either an 80-, 40- or 10-mile ride starting and ending at the Iowa Speedway in Newton, followed by a Nadas concert that evening. This first annual ride honored its namesake, Annie O’Dell, an MS patient of Dr. Bruce Hughes at Ruan Neurology Clinic. As a thank you to Dr. Hughes and his team, Annie’s family started this annual ride. All proceeds benefit the clinic and will help MS patients with additional therapies and resources.

Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) recently announced it has signed a Letter of Intent with Dignity Health to explore aligning of respective health ministries in order to strengthen Catholic health care and expand our mission of service. A Letter of Intent is a non-binding legal document that describes key points of exclusive negotiation and discussion between CHI and Dignity Health.

In the changing health care environment, many Catholic health systems are exploring various types of affiliation, and CHI believes this type of alignment would allow the organization to play an even greater role in shaping the transformation of health care for the future. Benefits of such an affiliation would be to expand access to health care services and improve coordination of care and clinical excellence.

“There is a potential to align the strengths of these two organizations will allow us to play a far more significant role in transforming health care in this country,” said Kevin E. Lofton, chief executive officer of Catholic Health Initiatives. “Together, we could enhance our shared ministry as the health industry transitions to a system that rewards the quality and cost-effectiveness of care.”

These discussions between CHI and Dignity Health are preliminary in nature, and no decisions have been made about how a future relationship may look. As the organizations move through this process, the goal is to do what is best for the healing ministry that has been entrusted to us and to best serve the people who seek our care, compassion and kindness.