MERCY MEDICAL CENTER, KINDRED HEALTHCARE TO BREAK GROUND ON IOWA’S FIRST FREESTANDING REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines has partnered with Louisville, Ky.-based Kindred Healthcare to build and operate the first freestanding rehabilitation hospital in the state of Iowa. Mercy Rehabilitation Hospital, located at 1401 Campus Dr. in Clive, is expected to open by the second quarter of 2018 and will provide care for patients recovering from stroke, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation and other conditions.

“We are excited to work with Kindred Healthcare on this joint venture to enhance the rehabilitation services offered to patients in the community,” said Mercy interim President, Mike Wegner, at Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines. “The facility will serve the growing population of patients in need of comprehensive rehabilitation care by giving them access to state-of-the-art technology and treatment options to advance the recovery process.”

The two-story, 58,000-square-foot facility will feature 50 patient beds, along with gymnasiums outfitted for high-tech therapy devices and treatments; a dedicated brain injury unit complete with monitored rooms, specialized beds and patient lifting equipment; and separate therapy and dining spaces. The hospital will also have a unit exclusively for stroke patients, rooms specially equipped for bariatric patients, and private, family-friendly rooms with sleeper chairs.

A formal groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site will take place on Tuesday, June 27, at 2 p.m.

HONORING AN ICON

Longtime Mercy Librarian Lenetta Atkins, who passed away in January, has been honored by her colleagues with a special memorial plaque. Lenetta’s colleagues, Jeanette Stonebraker and Marcie White, placed the plaque inside the main entrance to Levitt Medical Library at central campus for visitors to see when entering and exiting the library.

During her 53 years at Mercy, Lenetta oversaw the move of the library five different times and became a well-known figure of the hospital. She treated her colleagues like family, and always had a great story to tell.

“She loved this library,” said Marcie White, library assistant. “She approached every task with great enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to work with her, and an honor to be a part of her life.”

The plaque joins several other items that serve as a tribute to Lenetta, including a special poster signed by many Mercy colleagues when she celebrated her 50-year anniversary in 2011.
NEW LOCATION FOR SOME WEIGHT LOSS & NUTRITION CENTER SERVICES

Mercy Weight Loss & Nutrition Center is changing the location of some of its services and office hours. The surgical program and classes will be moving to 5901 Westown (connected to Mercy West Lakes) and taking on a new name, Mercy Bariatric Surgery. The new address, phone number and hours of operation for the bariatric surgery program are listed below. The nonsurgical programs are staying at the current location in the Mercy Health and Fitness Center. This includes the Optifast and Optitrim programs, nutrition sessions, weight loss coordinator visits, and Tuesday night Live Healthy Classes. Later this summer, the Mercy Weight Loss & Nutrition Center will move into a new office within the building. It will also have new office hours beginning July 1, 2017. If you have questions, please feel free to call (515) 358-9400.

MERCY BARIATRIC SURGERY
5901 Westown Pkwy., Suite 240
West Des Moines, IA  50266
(515) 358-9300

Office hours:
Monday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
The office will close at 2 p.m. every Friday for surgical community lecture.

MERCY WEIGHT LOSS & NUTRITION CENTER
12493 University Ave., Ste. 110
Clive, IA  50325, (515) 358-9400

Office hours beginning 7/1/17:
Monday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Tuesday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Wednesday 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Thursday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Friday 7:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Open the second and fourth Saturdays of the month from 9 a.m. – noon

A SPECIAL GOODBYE

Earlier this year, Mercy had to say goodbye after the passing of two special volunteers who served as part of the hospital’s pet visitation program. Remmy, a German Shepherd owned by Kathy Johnson, an employee at Mercy Clinics – South, was pet therapy certified through Therapy Dogs International and volunteered at Mercy from 2009 to 2015. Scout, a Great Pyrenees owned by Ty Leggett, volunteered on the pediatric and oncology floors since 2014. Both Remmy and Scout had a tremendous impact on the patients they visited and will be greatly missed!