MERCY CLINICS’ GROWTH PLAN INCLUDES NEW, RENOVATED CLINICS

Mercy’s clinic system already provides primary and specialty care to thousands of Iowans, but with its current growth strategy, Mercy Clinics is preparing to serve more patients in central Iowa and expand its services into other regions of the state. One new clinic has already opened this year, and two additional clinics are slated to open before the year ends.

Family Medicine Fort Dodge, a practice built on two family medicine doctors already well-known in the community, opened in January. The clinic has already established a significant patient base, causing the need for two additional nurse practitioners – one who started this month and one starting in August.

New clinics in Grimes and Norwalk will feature family medicine and pediatrics providers. The clinic in Norwalk is scheduled for completion August 28 and Grimes is on track for November completion. Each of these clinics will be home to four family medicine providers and four pediatric providers when at full capacity. Both clinics will feature a similar building design and layout, with 24 patient exam rooms, a laboratory for on-site testing, a procedure room and X-ray services.

“We are proud and excited to be able to provide quality family medicine and pediatric care to growing communities,” said Dr. Kent Carr, interim president of Mercy Clinics. “Our new clinics will offer added convenience to our patients by bringing high-quality medical services to areas where they live.”

In addition to these new practices, Mercy Clinics Ottumwa recently opened in a newly-built facility which provides family medicine, internal medicine, urgent care and physical therapy services. The new facility opened to patients Tuesday, June 20. Family Medicine Beaverdale will relocate to a new facility next spring at the new Calvin Community campus, which is currently being constructed.

Remodeling projects are currently planned for the Mercy West, North and East clinics as well.

Construction is currently underway on a new Mercy clinic in Norwalk, with an expected completion date of Aug. 28.
DONATION HONORS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS PATIENT

Ruan Neurology recently received a generous donation of $25,000 from Annie’s Ride, a bike ride created specifically to raise proceeds for the clinic to go toward helping multiple sclerosis (MS) patients. Annie (shown in the middle) was diagnosed with MS, and said Dr. Bruce Hughes (not pictured), a neurologist with Ruan Neurology, was her “knight-in-shining-armor.”

Annie was diagnosed with MS during her senior year in college and, in spite of many serious setbacks and defying all odds, she is thriving today – walking, driving and taking care of her active daughter. With this money, it’s hoped that every local person with MS could have an advocate for their care and receive the latest technologies, therapies and treatments, just as Annie did.

SPECIAL PROGRAM RECOGNIZES VETERANS

As we prepare to celebrate our freedom on the Fourth of July, Mercy Palliative Care is rolling out a new program created to recognize, honor and thank military veterans for their service to our country.

As part of this program, each patient who is a veteran will receive a flag, a blanket and a thank you certificate, all presented at bedside by a palliative care staff member. Veterans will be asked if they would like to recite the Pledge of Allegiance with the palliative care staff while receiving the flag, and if they would like to hear Psalm 91, also known as the Soldier’s Prayer, which can be found on the back of the thank you certificate.

Palliative care staff will then ask some pre-determined, safe questions such as:
• What branch did you serve in?
• Where did you serve?
• Is there anything you would like to share about your time in service?

If you’d like to get involved with this special initiative, blanket donations with a red, white and blue color scheme are being accepted. To date, all of the donated blankets have been created by a volunteer, Teddy, whose daughter, Joan Beard, is the director of Mercy Center for Pain Medicine.

Any questions can be directed to Jennifer Lohner or Wendy Sontag, Palliative Care, at (515) 643-4203, or email J.Lohner@mercydesmoines.org or WendySontag@mercydesmoines.org.