THE MERCY VALUES AND CATHERINE MCAULEY ENDURE

As her plane touched down in Ireland, Janet Hanson and her husband, Darrell, knew they were in for an adventure and something of a homecoming. They had never been to Ireland, but Janet’s selection as Mercy – Des Moines’ 2016 Spirit of Mercy Award overall winner brought them to the land where Venerable Mother Catherine McAuley and her Sisters of Mercy began a lifetime of service.

The opportunity started as a complete surprise when Janet was nominated by colleagues for demonstrating and living the Mercy Values. At the Employee Appreciation Dinner she was a finalist and it happened again. “I was expecting to have a nice evening at the employee dinner with family and friends,” said Janet. “When it was announced I had won the trip I didn’t know what to think. I do remember Sister Karen telling me I could take her with me.”

Janet first heard of Catherine McAuley from her twin sister who worked for Mercy Clinics. Janet joined the Mercy Family in 2008. As a nurse with the new Pediatric Subspecialty Clinic, and later Mercy Plastic Surgery, she cared primarily for women and children. “My mother’s medical needs taught me the importance of clinical excellence,” said Janet. She added, “I also saw patients needed kindness and deserved the same care as if they were family. It’s something I have not forgotten.”

With the values of Reverence, Integrity, Compassion and Excellence as their guide — Catherine and the sisters transformed the lives of women and children in need in Ireland. Janet shared that at Mercy you can feel a commitment to faith and caring. When Janet saw the House of Mercy, now called the Mercy International Center, she says it all made sense.

“I saw patients needed kindness and deserved the same care as if they were family. It’s something I have not forgotten.” — Janet Hanson

“Catherine was a very astounding woman,” shared Janet. “You definitely have an appreciation for everything she experienced and what she did. She didn’t have nearly the resources we have now to teach and care for people. She wasn’t just teaching women about health and daily needs, she was teaching them about life.”

Before leaving the center, Janet had a chance to reflect on how the actions of Catherine and the Sisters of Mercy made such an impact. “It’s amazing when a place like the House of Mercy is created and through the efforts of Catherine McAuley that initial action spreads to so many countries around the world,” said Janet. “Her efforts helped change the world and try to make it a better place.”
NEW GOGGLES MAKE MRIS EASIER FOR KIDS

Having an MRI can be stressful for anyone, and especially for children. Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics is making having an MRI less stressful for pediatric patients with new Cinemavision goggles. It is the first hospital in Iowa to offer the goggles and accompanying head phones, which allow patients to watch a movie of their choosing while having an MRI test. The purpose is to help alleviate the need for sedation and help relax children while having the test.

Thanks to an $187,216 grant from Variety – The Children’s Charity of Iowa, the Medical Imaging department was able to purchase three pairs of goggles and renovate a waiting room for family members of pediatric patients having an MRI test. Two pairs of goggles and the remodeled waiting room are located in the MRI suite in the East Tower. A third pair of goggles is attached to the MRI located at Mercy West Diagnostic Imaging.

Patients can bring a DVD to watch during their test. The MRI technician and child life specialists can see on a monitor what the patient sees in the goggles. If the MRI technician needs to talk to them, the movie stops and an image of the technician appears in the goggles.

“We started using the goggles with patients in February and so far we’ve had 113 pediatric patients benefit from them,” said Allison White, a child life specialist in the medical imaging department. “Some of our patients have really long tests and this will help take their mind off what is going on around them.”

One such patient is 14-year-old Kathryn Christy. She’s been a patient at Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics since she was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 2013. She’s had several MRIs that required IV medication and she would need to be sedated because of her anxiety of needles. Kathryn had an MRI in June 2017 and used the Cinemavision goggles for the first time. She says she had no problem with the test because the goggles helped put her at ease, and she thinks it’s great that this is an option for kids who have anxiety.

Allison says they have been able to successfully use the goggles on children as young as three.

“We’ve been working on this project for more than seven years, so it’s really nice to see it happen and the benefits these have for our patients.”

HEARTFELT THANKS

John Gachiani, M.D., neurosurgeon at Mercy Neurosurgery, recently received this touching letter from a patient.

Dear Dr. John Gachiani,

Words cannot express my gratitude. You have given me hope again; you are a remarkable doctor and surgeon. You saw the problem and took immediate action. I know you moved heaven and earth to get me into surgery last Friday morning. I am doing much better. It feels like a miracle. I had started to see my life full of pain and restrictions. You have given me hope that with hard work and following instructions I’ll be able to return to my good life.

My family and friends thank you too for returning their happy daughter, sister and friend.

JOIN MERCY CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL & CLINICS AT THE IOWA STATE FAIR

Going to the Iowa State Fair? Make sure you stop by the STAR 102.5/Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics Kid Find booth near the west end of the Grandstand to get your child a special bracelet to ID them in case they get lost. Volunteers from Mercy will be at the booth on Aug. 11-13, and 18-20, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Each weekend they’ll have temporary tattoos, games and more. Everyone who stops by the booth will receive a free water bottle.

Stop by and say “hi” while you’re at the Fair!

CONTACT US

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611

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

FOLLOW US:

@MercyDes Moines