MERCY SELECTED TO PILOT A NEW CARE MODEL TO ADDRESS BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines has been selected as one of three health systems operated by Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) to implement a new, innovative model for addressing the social determinants of health. The program, which was made possible by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation with an equal match from CHI, will focus on rural and urban primary care settings and includes adding community health workers who will help patients access local health and social services.

Mercy Accountable Care Organization (ACO) will coordinate efforts in Iowa and plans to hire community health workers to assist patients at Mercy Medical Clinic in Centerville, Mercy Clinics Family Medicine South in Des Moines and with patients who utilize services from health coaches through the Mercy Clinics’ system.

“We’ll begin by working with our CHI colleagues to identify and address the social and environmental issues that affect well-being and health equity by integrating comprehensive screening for basic human needs into the primary care setting,” said Dr. David Swieskowski, Chief Accountable Care Officer, Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines. “Basic human needs represent a range of physical, social and psychological needs such as availability of food and safe housing, transportation, quality childcare, access to behavioral health service and social supports. This initiative will foster collaboration with a wide array of community partners to address the issues that affect well-being, connecting patients with the local resources needed to improve their health – and their lives.”

The 30-month grant will go toward fully implementing CHI’s Total Health Roadmap plan to address the social determinants of health – the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live and age – which are essential to providing equitable, effective and high-quality care. In addition to Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines, the Total Health Roadmap plan will also be piloted at Centura Health in Colorado and Kansas, and KentuckyOne Health.

The Total Health Roadmap, which eventually will expand across CHI, will:

• Transform our role as health care providers to ensure we address basic human needs as a standard of care.
• Leverage our status as community-based “anchor institutions” to partner with other organizations in addressing our patients’ social determinants of health needs.
• Strengthen the capacity of our governance boards and leaders to ensure CHI addresses social determinants of health as a standard of care.

Support for this project comes from a $2.5 million grant awarded to CHI by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, a national organization dedicated to creating healthier communities. CHI is matching the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant with a $2.5 million award from its Mission and Ministry Fund.

DR. COLLETIER HONORED WITH QUILT OF VALOR

Dr. Philip Colletier, Mercy Cancer Center Radiation Oncology (MCCRO) medical director, was presented a Quilt of Valor on Aug. 17 in a surprise celebration that included his family and MCCRO staff. The Quilts of Valor Foundation is a non-profit national organization with a mission to honor service members and veterans who have been touched by war. The foundation has awarded more than 140,000 quilts nationwide to veterans and active service members since its founding in 2003.

Dr. Colletier served in the U.S. Army from 1989-1997 and was a medic with the 1st Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kan., in Operation Desert Storm. The quilt he received was hand-sewn by Jan Utterback, a current patient of his who previously worked for Mercy as a nurse anesthetist for 32 years.
LOCAL GIRLS HOLD BAKE SALE TO BENEFIT MERCY’S PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

When Hailey Gojkovich turned 10 in 2015, she asked friends invited to her party to bring presents that could be donated to the pediatric unit at Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics. She really wanted to do something for kids who were hospitalized. Since then, Hailey has taken her philanthropy to a higher level by hosting a summer bake sale to buy items on the child life specialists’ wish list. One hundred percent of the sales go toward the purchase of new items for kids in the hospital.

Hailey and her sister, Riley, had so much fun doing the baking and shopping in 2016, that their friends Mallory and Norah Kell, and Jillian and Melanie Mayer begged to help them this year. The six girls made amazing homemade treats and hosted a bake sale in July that raised $1,047. Hailey and Riley’s mother, Heidi, said the girls completely sold out of their baked goods this year.

In August, the group of girls went shopping for items on the child life specialists’ wish list. They delivered a cart stacked high with stuffed animals, games, craft supplies, movies, toys and more to Child Life Specialists Lisa Fox, Allison White and Erin Biegert.

Thank you to Hailey, Riley, Mallory, Norah, Jillian and Melanie for this great donation to our pediatric patients!

If you’d like to learn more about items on the Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics’ child life specialists’ wish list, visit mercy.dm/childlifewishlist.

WHAT’S UP?

NEW PROCESS FOR FLU SHOTS!

Receiving your seasonal flu shot is just around the corner, and there’s a new, mandatory process this year. Instead of receiving paper receipts as in year’s past, your vaccination record will now be tied to your badge. Your badge MUST be current, active and presented at the time of getting the flu shot.

To check if your badge is current, look at the expiration date in the lower right-hand corner. If it is past expiration, you will need to update it by visiting Public Safety – central campus, West Building, A-Level.

This process applies to all Mercy employees, contractors, volunteers, physicians, med staff, residents and Mercy College of Health and Sciences students. If you do not fall into one of these categories, please ask.

Questions or concerns can be directed to Kendra Buchanan at KBuchanan@mercydesmoines.org or Becky Ubben at RUbben@mercydesmoines.org.

Watch Mercy News Briefs for dates, time and locations to get your flu shot!

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.

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