LIVE UP BY KNITTING RED HATS FOR MERCY’S BABIES

The American Heart Association is seeking handmade red hats, crocheted or knitted, to provide to Iowa babies born during American Heart Month in February. The project is part of the national Little Hats, Big Hearts program, which is coming to Iowa for the first time this winter. With Little Hats, Big Hearts, the American Heart Association is raising awareness about cardiovascular diseases, the number one killer in the United States, and congenital heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country – occurring in one of 100 babies.

Hats will be given to each baby born in February at Mercy Medical Center. The American Heart Association is working with the Mother/Baby Units at central campus and West Lakes, and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, so donations of red hats in both premature and newborn sizes are needed. Because bows and buttons may be a danger to newborn babies, only red hats without decorations can be accepted for Little Hats, Big Hearts. The American Heart Association’s goal this year is to collect and deliver 800 hats to all babies born in February at our partnering hospitals.

Donations will be accepted from within and outside Des Moines, and can be dropped off at or mailed to the American Heart Association’s office in Des Moines (5000 Westown Parkway, Suite 340, West Des Moines, IA 50266) by Jan. 15. In-person donations may also be made during business hours.

To learn more or find out how you can help, visit www.heart.org/littlehatsbighearts.

MERCY FAMILY JOINS FORCES TO GRANT CHILDREN’S WISHES

When Make-A-Wish Iowa’s Jolly Holiday Lights was cancelled due to flooding, the Mercy Family joined with other health care providers in town to raise funds to help provide wishes to critically ill children.

Shown here presenting a check to Make-A-Wish Iowa leadership are (l-r): Eric Crowell, president and CEO, Unity Point Health – Des Moines; Bob Ritz, president, Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines; Chris Voggesser, president and CEO, Make-A-Wish Iowa; and C. Edward Brown, CEO, Iowa Clinic.

Thank you to all of the Mercy Family members who helped make these wishes come true!
COLOGUARD™ NOW AVAILABLE AT CLINICS

Mercy Clinics is now offering Cologuard™, the first and only FDA-approved noninvasive stool DNA screening test for colorectal cancer. This new testing option analyzes a person’s stool to detect both altered DNA and blood known to be associated with colorectal cancer and pre-cancer.

“As a patient-friendly screening option, Cologuard represents a significant advance in the fight against colon cancer,” said Timothy McCoy, D.O., Mercy Clinics quality medical director. “Colonoscopy is still the gold standard for colon cancer screening, but making Cologuard available for patients who refuse this option will hopefully encourage patients to get regular screenings and, in turn, improve survival rates for this preventable cancer.”

Cologuard is available for people 50 years of age or older who are at average risk for colorectal cancer. When a health care provider orders Cologuard, the collection kit is delivered directly to the patient’s home, making it easy for patients to take the test at their convenience and in the privacy and comfort of their own home. Results from the Cologuard test are turned around in as little as two weeks, and patients learn their results from their primary care provider. If a positive result is identified, the patient will be advised to undergo a diagnostic colonoscopy.

The test is currently reimbursed with Medicare insurance, but patients should check their individual policies for coverage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEWS BRIEFS

Congratulations Amy Dotson

Amy Dotson, OTR/L, is an occupational therapist specializing in pediatrics. She recently completed an advanced certification in Neonatal Touch & Massage. Amy is one of only 450 neonatal professionals in the country with this distinction. This certification requires 15 hours of online education and two days of hands-on training. Caregivers with this training have advanced skills in handling and positioning tiny babies, and specialize in skin-to-skin contact, infant massage and myofascial trigger point releases. These skills lead to better outcomes for NICU babies and also help parents bond with babies confined to the hospital as they get bigger and stronger. Congratulations Amy, and thanks for living up by extending your knowledge to better serve our tiniest patients!

First baby of 2016 arrives at Mercy West Lakes

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines welcomed its first baby of 2016 at 2:35 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 1.

Matthew and Trista Hageman of Clive are the proud parents of Caplan. He joins older brother Summit. Caplan was delivered at Mercy West Lakes by nurse midwife Lori Steinman of Mercy Clinics Midwifery.

Mercy wishes Caplan and his family the best in 2016 and the future!