300th baby bursts onto the scene in West Des Moines

MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center is having a baby boom. Since opening in December, the obstetric floor hit a milestone of delivering their 300th baby on July 4.

Baby William, was not only number 300, but also crowned the 4th of July baby at the medical center. The little firecracker’s parents are MercyOne colleague, Jacqueline and her husband, Josh.

West Des Moines unit manager, Mary Hick says, “To realize we reached the predicted first year goal of 300 deliveries in only seven months, is amazing. It has been such a blessing to share such experienced, wonderful nurses from downtown, which allowed us to provide high quality care to all our patients. I’m so excited to see what the upcoming months will bring.”

The department held a small in-house celebration to commemorate the goal on July 13.

Celebrated baby William and his mother, Jacqueline and father Josh are shown.

New MRI equipment installed in the East Tower

MercyOne is excited to announce the installation of new scanning technology at Des Moines Medical Center. The equipment combines the latest advancements in MRI with the sophisticated engineering of a 3.0T wide bore system.

The scanner offers a whole new level of precision imaging that will minimize scan times and improve image quality.

The innovative technology is another example of MercyOne’s commitment to providing patients with the latest in diagnostic imaging technology.

MRI staff including Sonia Muller, Amanda Wingate, Beth Pottebaum, Chelsey Crowdes, Dixie Ferguson, Heidi Sumpter, GE Specialist, Alex Mishos and Radiologist, Dr. Ryan Buss are pictured in front of the new machine.
Iowa sister state bond remains strong during COVID-19

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in China, Iowans responded in a way they are known for — they helped others. The new, highly transmissible virus created a need for personal protective equipment (PPE) and Iowa dispatched a shipment to Hebei Province, China. When COVID-19 cases began to appear, the kindness was reciprocated.

The non-profit Iowa Sister States program, which develops global partnerships and better international understanding, brought Iowa and Hebei Province together more than 35 years ago. When Hebei Province learned Iowans were being impacted by COVID-19, they reached out. Businesses who could supply PPE contacted the Chinese Consulate in Chicago. A founding sister states board member, familiar with MercyOne as a connected state-wide health system, helped in identifying and placing donated PPE where it was needed most and arranged transportation to Iowa through a business he leads.

“We are extremely grateful to the people of Hebei Province and the Iowa Sister States,” said MercyOne President and CEO Bob Ritz. “This collaboration helped MercyOne and Iowans when we needed it most. Working together with our community, both locally and globally, ensured we were able to have the supplies we needed to care for Iowans.”

Three PPE shipments were received that included masks, gloves and gowns. The first shipment was distributed to several hospitals across the state, including MercyOne hospitals in Iowa City, Waterloo, Sioux City, Des Moines and many community hospitals. Additional shipments were shared further throughout the state to MercyOne locations in order to supplement their available PPE supplies. This donation allowed PPE certified for COVID-19 patient care and screenings to be conserved and used to meet needs.

MercyOne employees are now eligible for referral bonus

Colleagues can refer a friend to work at MercyOne Central Iowa and receive a bonus.

The gross amount of the referral bonus is based upon the position and will be paid over two installments.

- $500 for PCT
- $1,000 for CNA, LPN (clinics and Iowa Heart), and Radiology Techs (clinics and Iowa Heart)
- $2,000 for RN (inpatient), Surgical Techs, and Medical Techs (inpatient)

The bonus is contingent on a form being submitted to MercyOne DesMoines Human Resources prior to the referral’s start date and on the candidate crediting you for referring them either on their application or by notifying their recruiter.

More information is available by contacting the Human Resources office at 515-247-3100.

Updated Email Signature Template

MercyOne has a unified email signature to ensure consistency and professionalism in the way we are represented internally and externally. Our unified email signature helps ensure all of us are easily contacted and available for collaboration as ONE.

Please follow the templated guidelines for updated email signatures found on MercyOne, with optional updates of:

1. the addition of a fax number, and
2. the use of identifying pronouns

More details on the updated email signature to come, but supporting documents such the template to follow and a FAQ can be found on MercyOne.