MercyOne colleagues walk to remember

For 21 years, colleagues from MercyOne Maternity & Infants Care and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit have participated in “Walk to Remember,” an organized walk and memorial service supporting parents who have lost their baby because of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death.

While COVID-19 has caused many events to be cancelled, MercyOne colleagues were determined to not allow the pandemic to stand in the way of the special observance. MercyOne Perinatal Hospice and Infant Bereavement Coordinator Connie Thompson reached out to families in advance of the event to share details of the change in plans. Families were also asked if they would like to have a keepsake with their baby’s name placed in the Memory Garden, located outside the East Tower Entrance at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center. In all, 90 keepsakes were made, assembled and placed with care in the garden by Thompson and her colleagues.

On Sunday, Oct. 11, more than two dozen MercyOne colleague volunteers met at the Memory Garden and began the walk. With each step, a message of love and support was sent to those who could not attend. The walk concluded at the Memory Garden, where participants lit votive candles and shared in a prayer service for MercyOne families and their babies.

October is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. All MercyOne colleagues, providers and volunteers are invited to take the short walk through the Memory Garden, providing an opportunity to give thanks for your own family and Be ONE with our colleagues as they provide amazing Personalized Care.

MercyOne colleagues came together as one to support families who have lost a baby because of miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, stillbirth or newborn death.

Variety – the Children’s Charity awards MercyOne

MercyOne Des Moines has been awarded more than $130,000 from Variety – the Children’s Charity to enhance the care and services to Iowa children at MercyOne Children’s Hospital and MercyOne House of Mercy.

Dedicated to improving the lives of children who are underprivileged, at-risk, critically ill or living with special needs, Variety – the Children’s Charity granted $120,000 to fund a new NICView Streaming Camera System and Stryker Nara Bassinet in MercyOne’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

“IT is extremely challenging and stressful for families to have a baby born premature.

Continued on next page
Weekly TV segment features MercyOne Central Iowa provider

In September, WHO-TV 13 launched the new lifestyle talk show, Hello Iowa. With this new program came the opportunity for MercyOne Des Moines Marketing & Communications to partner with WHO-TV 13 in giving MercyOne Central Iowa exclusivity of the weekly segment, “Hello Health,” which features providers from various priority service lines:

- Dr. Valerie Stratton with MercyOne Comfort Health Center for Women hosted the first segment on Thursday, Sept. 17, to discuss menopause.
- On Thursday, Sept. 24, Dr. Philip Colletier with MercyOne Des Moines Radiation Oncology, showcased and discussed CyberKnife and prostate cancer.
- Dr. Tiffany Torstenson with MercyOne Katzmann Breast Care discussed breast cancer and mammograms on Thursday, Oct. 1, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- On Thursday, Oct. 15, Dr. Chris Etscheidt with MercyOne Waukee Pediatrics Care Clinic shared information about the flu vaccine.

Tune in to WHO-TV 13 each Thursday at 11 a.m. to watch one of our very own providers discussing health topics and our services!

Sneak peek! On Thursday, Oct. 22, Dr. Luke Espelund with MercyOne Des Moines Pediatric Emergency Care, is set to appear to showcase pediatric emergency care. Dr. Bruce Hughes with MercyOne Ruan Neurology Care will discuss multiple sclerosis on Thursday, Oct. 29.