Brenda’s Wish, A True Story of Faith, Family and the Testament of Love

The journey of a Des Moines family that touched the hearts of millions around the world is now a book, and features a special tie to MercyOne.

Released last week, Brenda’s Wish, A True Story of Faith, Family and the Testament of Love, details the journey of Brenda Schmitz and the meaningful gift she gave those she loved most after her death.

After being diagnosed with Stage 4 ovarian cancer in January 2011, Brenda wrote a letter to local radio station STAR 102.5, and asked a friend to deliver it when the time was right: when her husband David found a new wife to help raise their four boys. Two years later, David received the Christmas wish made for him and his family, hearing the words of his late wife for the first time since her death.

The emotional Christmas wish interview went viral, and David received hundreds of requests for interviews from media outlets, including Good Morning America, The Today Show, Ellen, The View and more. Currently, the interview has 4.6 million views and continues to be one of the most shared and liked stories on social media, especially around the Christmas holiday. Watch the Dec. 20, 2013, interview with David Schmitz on STAR 102.5 on YouTube.

Dr. John Martens, radiation oncologist with MercyOne Des Moines Cancer Center, was part of the team that treated Brenda, and joined David and the book’s author during the virtual launch on October 1. Dr. Martens shared some important facts and personal anecdotes about ovarian cancer during the event, and joined David in discussing Brenda’s inspirational story and selfless act that left her family with an amazing legacy of love.

Autographed copies of the book are available for sale at MercyOne Des Moines Gift House & Flowers. You may also order a copy at dreamtoauthor.com/about or on Amazon.

Send an email to publicrelations@mercydesmoines.org with the subject “Brenda’s Wish” and be entered into a drawing for a free autographed copy of Brenda’s Wish, A True Story of Faith, Family and the Testament of Love.

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MercyOne helps “Tame the Hunger”

Colleagues from MercyOne Central Iowa joined the Iowa Wild and other volunteers from the community on Sept. 29, to distribute pantry packs from The Outreach Program in Des Moines. Through the “Tame the Hunger” outreach, more than 29,000 meals were donated, feeding almost 700 families across 60 schools and programs throughout the Des Moines Public Schools district.

2020 Annual Campaign: Working as One by Giving as One

To honor MercyOne’s commitment to those we are privileged to serve, MercyOne Des Moines Foundation is offering colleagues the opportunity to support one another and our patients during the 2020 Annual Campaign, taking place October 5-23. Give online at MercyOne.org/desmoines/give.

This year, the three funds of focus are:

- MercyOne Richard Deming Cancer Center
- MercyOne Colleague Care Circle
- MercyOne Employee Relief Fund

Colleagues may also contribute to any of the other funding areas listed on the pledge form, as well as any of the more than 200 funds at the MercyOne Des Moines Foundation and United Way of Central Iowa. By participating, MercyOne colleagues will qualify to win incentives, such as a day off with pay, a family membership to Blank Park Zoo, Starbucks gift cards, and more. Winners are drawn every Friday through October 23.

This is what Be ONE looks like to me

The derecho that hit Iowa in August had a significant impact on the state, including many residents of Newton and colleagues of MercyOne. To provide support, MercyOne Centerville Medical Center presented MercyOne Newton Medical Center with a $1,000 donation to the Employee Relief Fund. This generous and kind act aligns with the MercyOne Key Result of Team Engagement.

Share your Focused Stories of how colleagues and providers are working to achieve our Key Results at MercyOne.org/Culture for a chance to win. Winners will be selected each week and featured in system-wide communications, including the monthly MercyOne System Newsletter and bi-weekly MercyOne Update e-newsletter.

Did you know? Funds raised through last year’s Annual Campaign have supported the Nurse Navigator program, funded vital equipment, provided scholarships to students at Mercy College of Health Sciences, and more!