Spirit of Mercy Award winner makes a meaningful difference in the lives of others

Shelly Albus is known for her positive attitude and the way she instills confidence in everyone she encounters. Described by her peers as a mentor, guide and proud MercyOne advocate, Albus’ initiative, leadership and dedication contributed to her recent recognition as a Spirit of Mercy Award honoree.

A CT coordinator with MercyOne Des Moines Imaging, Albus takes on the arduous and tedious tasks required to accredit all eight of MercyOne Des Moines’ CT scanners, while also assisting others across the system. This effort requires hours of work reviewing thousands of CT studies to monitor technique, ensuring protocols and image quality meet specific standards and provide the best quality diagnostic imaging available.

In addition, Albus leads the charge to optimize radiation dose (dose registry) with physicians, physicists, technologists and administrative personnel. A valued mentor, she coordinates and oversees the training of new colleagues, at all five locations where MercyOne Des Moines Imaging performs CT exams.

Colleagues say it’s Albus’ talent for creating meaningful connections with others that truly makes her special. Albus addresses every new person she meets, taking time to learn something about them. She masterfully connects with patients in a way that quickly provides reassurance, and her demeanor provides a sense of calm – a highly valued gift displayed during traumas, stroke alerts and patient emergencies.

Congratulations to Shelly for receiving the Spirit of Mercy Award, and thank you for your commitment and generous contributions supporting MercyOne’s Mission.

New outreach supports stroke patients

Keith Kohout, DO, MS, board-certified neurologist at MercyOne Ruan Neurology Care, and Terri Hamm, stroke coordinator, led four in-person/virtual educational programs in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines, the week of Sept. 21 for West Des Moines EMS and firefighters.

With these presentations, Dr. Kohout and Hamm shared information on the anatomy of the brain and how it’s affected during a stroke, as well as, what to do when treating a stroke patient in the field prior to bringing them to the hospital and

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information on thrombectomy. MercyOne Des Moines is central Iowa’s only hospital to offer thrombectomy, an interventional procedure. A total of 61 EMS and firefighters attended either in-person or virtually to watch and actively participate in these presentations.

Our community EMS and firefighters play an integral part in transporting a stroke patient. By facilitating these educational outreach programs, the goal of Dr. Kohout and Hamm is to provide EMS and firefighters with as much education on stroke, as it’ll lead to better outcomes for patients suffering from a stroke.

Shine a light this Christmas season

Celebrate Christmas by making a donation to shine a virtual light on the MercyOne Christmas trees all season long in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a caregiver or health care worker. Each light is $10, or you may donate $25 to honor three individuals.

All funds raised through this program will support MercyOne Des Moines Auxiliary’s commitment to the Ronald McDonald House at MercyOne, helping make an impact on the lives of countless families this holiday season.

MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center will hold its annual tree lighting on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 4 p.m. For more information, visit MercyOne.org/shine-this-christmas.

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, “The Bulletin” will not be published next week, and will return on December 4.

Moments at MercyOne

Leaders showed their appreciation during the annual “Turkey Toss” on Wednesday, Nov. 18, in West Des Moines.

John Chris Hewitt (far right), lab assistant at MercyOne Clive Laboratory Draw Station, was recently presented an Angel of Mercy award. Hewitt was honored by a recent patient who made a gift in his name to MercyOne Des Moines Foundation.

MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center hosted a virtual ribbon-cutting and blessing ceremony for its new Maternity & Infants’ Care Center on Wednesday, Nov. 18, and announced it will open for deliveries on Dec. 1. Take a virtual tour of the new space.