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-Excerpt from DAISY Award nomination form

Kimberly Rardin, R.N., is Mercy’s newest DAISY Award recipient. She was honored with the award at a ceremony Dec. 5 in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, with her mother, colleagues and Mercy nursing leadership in attendance. Kimberly was nominated by a colleague to recognize the compassionate and remarkable care she recently provided a patient and family. The patient and family were also able to attend the ceremony to celebrate with Kim.

Following is an excerpt from the nomination form: “I observed Kim going above and beyond for a family who was in the PICU for a very long time. I know Kim always advocated for the patient and family for what was best for them. She went above and beyond nursing duties and made the effort to get to know the family personally and visit them and ask them how they were doing even on the days she wasn’t assigned as their nurse. Kim would take time out of her day to spend time in their room, asking them how things were going and celebrating ‘wins’ with the family and celebrating even small milestones. Kim showed empathy and kindness toward this family as well as many others she takes care of and I know it made a difference in their time in the PICU.”

The DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Award is an international recognition program that honors and celebrates the skillful, compassionate care nurses provide every day. Mercy implemented the DAISY Award program in April 2017 to honor our nurses who consistently provide compassionate and remarkable care while demonstrating clinical excellence. Winners are presented with a certificate, pin and a hand-carved stone sculpture entitled A Healer’s Touch. Additionally, everyone in the honoree’s unit is treated to cinnamon rolls.

Find out more about the award or submit a nomination at mercy.dm/daisy.
Mercy Cancer Center adds survivorship coordinator

Mercy Cancer Center (MCC) is committed to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients and recently added a full-time survivorship coordinator to further fulfill this mission. Peggy Reed, who has worked at Mercy in various roles for nearly three decades, began her role as survivorship coordinator in November of 2018.

In Peggy’s new role, she develops continuing care plans for those who have completed cancer treatment and serves as a resource to patients and their families in their ongoing journeys. Care plans consist of guidelines for monitoring and maintaining a patient’s health, including a personalized treatment summary and information about recommended follow-up visits, treatments and tests. Care plans also provide details on available support networks and resources that can contribute to a survivor’s long-term well-being.

Care plans are presented to patients by Peggy or by one of MCC’s nurse navigators or another medical provider in a face-to-face setting when possible. The care plans are also sent to each patient’s primary care provider to ensure a continuum of care.

Survivorship programs are becoming more common at cancer centers across the country and are a required element for a center to receive accreditation from the American College of Surgeon’s Commission on Cancer. MCC began presenting survivorship care plans to patients in 2015 and the percentage of patients receiving plans continues to increase. “Our nurse navigators had taken on the role of presenting survivorship plans in the past,” said Mercy Cancer Center Director Tim Hackbart. “Now that we have a dedicated survivorship coordinator, we are excited to be able to continue to grow the program and provide this added benefit to our patients.”

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Tim Hackbart, Mercy Cancer Center Director

Donated quilts benefit NICU patients

On Monday, Jan. 7, the Covered Bridge Quilters donated their 10,000th quilt to Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics’ neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). They presented the quilts to NICU Child Life Specialist Rania Robb. The group started making quilts for NICU babies 23 years ago when Luella Fairholm’s (second from right) grandson was a baby in the NICU. Since then, the group has averaged 700-900 quilts each year. During the visit, Rania shared how the quilts mean a lot to the families of NICU babies because it symbolizes someone is thinking of them and what they are going through. Some of the quilters shared stories of how NICU families had sent thank you notes or contacted them over the years to let them know how much the quilts are appreciated.

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