On Dec. 8, 1893, the Sisters of Mercy first opened the doors of Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, providing much-needed health care services and loving care to the residents of Des Moines. During the first year, 221 patients were served in Mercy’s temporary location – a mansion known today as Hoyt Sherman Place – with two private rooms and a ward for five patients.

Much has happened since our founding: recessions, wars, baby booms, growing technology, and the never-ending evolution of health care. Throughout it all, the guiding principles with which Mercy was built 125 years ago remain today and pay tribute to the lasting legacy of the Sisters of Mercy.

Honoring Our History
In celebration of our anniversary and in honor of our journey, a special, “Celebrating 125 years of Mercy” section has been added to Mercy’s website, featuring:

• An expanded historical timeline detailing many of Mercy’s significant milestones through text and images.

• A virtual museum displaying photographs and memorabilia from the past century.

• A growing list of 125 reasons our colleagues, physicians, volunteers and community celebrate Mercy’s rich tradition of service.

Celebrating Our Past and Our Progress
Mercy’s 125th anniversary may be December 8, but our plans include a year-long celebration full of surprises and opportunities for colleagues, physicians and volunteers to get involved.

125 prizes for sharing your why
How you think, act and communicate begins with your “why.” Your why gives meaning and sets you apart from everyone else. It’s your purpose. It’s what inspires you to take action, spread your ideas and make a difference.

In celebration of Mercy’s 125th anniversary, the first 125 individuals to submit and share your #MyWhy story by Monday, Jan. 7, 2019, will receive a FREE 24-ounce insulated beverage tumbler featuring our organization’s new name and logo.

Additionally, a $25 donation will be made in your name to your choice of the Mercy Employee Relief Fund, House of Mercy or Ronald McDonald House.

Learn more and submit your why at mercydesmoines.org/mywhy.
Mercy Foundation Secures **USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant**

Mercy Foundation recently secured a $92,826 grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) through its Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grant program. The purpose of this grant is to connect medical providers to rural affiliates using telemedicine, providing access to specialty medical services in the form of innovative, interactive two-way audio and video technology. The telemedicine technology that will be purchased by the grant will be used by physicians to diagnose and treat patients primarily in the outpatient settings, as well as for medical staff training and education.

USDA Rural Development administers around 40 loan and grant programs to help enhance economic development and improve quality of life opportunities in rural America. Its focus is rural America (defined as communities of 20,000 residents or less).

This project directly addresses the need for increased access to high-need specialties, including cardiology, in nine rural Iowa communities. The project scope includes opioid treatment and opioid training for medical providers, which are priority areas of this USDA funding opportunity. Rural participating sites are critical access hospitals located in towns ranging in population from 1,273 to 5,528:

- Adair County Memorial Hospital, Greenfield
- Central Community Hospital, Elkader
- Davis County Hospital, Bloomfield
- Decatur County Hospital, Leon
- Manning Regional Hospital, Manning
- Mercy – Centerville, Centerville
- Monroe County Hospital, Albia
- Ringgold County Hospital, Mt. Ayr
- Wayne County Hospital, Corydon

“We are grateful for this funding from the USDA, as this project will benefit patients and families in rural communities by providing more timely access to the appropriate level of care,” said Mercy Foundation President Shannon Cofield.

“The proposed project is an innovative means of connecting specialists to rural affiliates using telemedicine. The project will benefit rural hospitals by equipping them to serve more patients in their home communities,” said Mercy Health Network Telehealth Technology Manager Fred Eastman.

Maximizing Mercy efforts **recognize substantial cost savings**

Comprehensive efforts to redefine the partnership between clinicians and Supply Chain to develop a clinically effective, yet financially sustainable operating model are continuing through the Maximizing Mercy initiative. In November Mercy realized the following savings:

- $90,000 by adopting a common standard for certain neuro/spine surgery preference cards
- $58,000 by replacing cleansing foams with cleansing sprays with the same active ingredients
- $65,000 by removing silver from Foley catheters and limiting the use of specialized Foleys

These three changes will save mercy $213,000 this during the next year, and for every year following. This savings, combined with the earlier estimated savings through Maximizing Mercy initiatives, adds up to a total of $572,000 in total cost savings to date.

“Maximizing Mercy has had a significant impact on our organization’s ability to reduce costs and make advancements toward achieving our overall financial goals,” said Randy Rubin, Mercy’s chief financial officer. “By implementing these changes, Mercy will be better prepared for future sustainable growth.”

Have an idea for Maximizing Mercy? Email it to JFunk@mercydesmoines.org

CONTACT US

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa. If you are interested in submitting information to be published in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.
On a cold, snowy day in February 2013, Sean Cory drove to work expecting a normal day at the office. Then 41, he turned his head as he backed into his parking space. Suddenly, he heard a small pop. That noise quickly became a big medical issue that Cory survived with help from Michael Jacoby, M.D., medical director of the Mercy Stroke Program at Mercy Ruan Neurology, and the physicians and staff at Mercy.

“Right away, I had an immense headache centered over my left eye, and I lost the vision in that eye for just a moment,” Cory says. His vision quickly returned, and he thought, “That was weird” as he continued into work, climbing two flights of stairs to his office.

An hour later, his headache worsened and his mouth felt dry. He texted his wife, then checked in with his cousin, who happens to be the stroke coordinator at Mercy – a real stroke of luck for Cory.

“My cousin said, ‘Get to the ER NOW – I’ll meet you there,’” he recalls. Meanwhile, his co-workers were beginning to notice he was stumbling and leaning to one side while walking. With a friend driving, he made it to Mercy in about six minutes.

“By the time we got there, I was starting to lose my speech, experiencing vertigo and feeling very sick to my stomach,” he says.

Tests revealed Cory had a blood clot that formed on an interior wall in a blood vessel in his neck, where there was a small flap from a minor, previously unknown injury to the vessel. When he turned his head while parking his car, the motion caused the clot to break free, causing a stroke.

Cory spent a week in the hospital followed by a week in inpatient therapy and four months of outpatient rehabilitation at On With Life in Ankeny, relearning how to swallow, talk, walk and ride a bike. Throughout his recovery, he saw Dr. Jacoby multiple times.

“I can honestly say Dr. Jacoby and the whole team were just fantastic,” he says. “He in particular was very good about not sugar-coating anything and being upfront – this is what we know, this is what we don’t know, this is what we’re going to do right now. The communication was exceptional.”

Since his experience, Cory has made an effort to help educate people about the risk of stroke.

“The main point is that you’re never too young to have a stroke. I didn’t have any family history and thought it was something that only happened to older people, but it could be anyone. I’m very lucky that the people I worked with noticed something wasn’t right, and that my cousin told me to get to Mercy right away.”

Cory says the experience helped him gain a new perspective.

“I always had everything revolve around work, but now family is my first priority,” he says. “The whole experience really brought my wife and I even closer together, and I’m so grateful for everything she did to take care of me through this. I always knew life was short, but until something like this happens to you, it’s hard to really realize that.”