IT’S THE HOLIDAY SEASON! Usually, that means it’s a time to be merry, and for kids to be at home, waking up to filled stockings and presents from Santa. Unfortunately, some kids don’t have that privilege of being home at Christmas time when they are sick and in the hospital. Child Life Specialists, such as Erin Biegert and Avery Thomason, make sure hospitalized children get plenty of special visitors during this time.

Lately, patients in Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics (MCHC) have received a constant stream of these special visitors who usually end up bringing something special for the kids themselves!

A few visits that have occurred since the beginning of the month include:

**Pleasant Hill Police Department – Thursday, Dec. 8**
Officers, a detective and the chief brought holiday gifts to give to the kids in MCHC. Older kids received gifts such as gift cards to Best Buy, and younger kids received wrapped toys and stuffed animals. Money raised during ‘No-Shave November’ was used to purchase the gifts.

**Iowa Wild players – Monday, Dec. 12**
Players Pat Cannone, Alex Stalock, Jordan Schroeder and Mike Weber brought gigantic, stuffed teddy bears that were thrown on ice at the Iowa Wild game on Dec. 9.

**Santa – Thursday, Dec. 22**
Santa came to town to visit the kids in the Pediatric Unit, bringing lots of presents and candy canes to share.

In addition to receiving special visitors, generous donations have also been coming in to MCHC. Just this past week, students from Mrs. Bradford’s first grade class at Waukee’s Walnut Hills Elementary School completed a service project and made fleece blankets for the patients, along with cards to go with each one.

Each visitor and every donation helped put a smile on the children’s faces. Every time, it’s a priceless joy seeing everyone light-up and have a few laughs during a rather difficult time.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO THE KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN MCHC, AND TO THE ENTIRE MERCY FAMILY!**
MERCY LIVEUP RECOGNITION PROGRAM COMING SOON

OUR MERCY COLLEAGUES ARE TRULY REMARKABLE and soon you will be able to recognize one another for the extraordinary things you do for our patients, families, colleagues and community, through a new Mercy program.

The Mercy LiveUp Recognition program will launch in early January 2017. With this new rewards and recognition program, you will be able to recognize your colleagues across the organization through the Mercy LiveUp Recognition Program’s website and mobile app. Not only can you recognize others, but you can also “Like” and comment on other colleague’s recognition. Each month, all colleagues who are recognized will be entered into a sweepstakes where 10 winners will be drawn and awarded points to redeem for merchandise on the program’s website.

As the new program launches, the “Star Grams” and “Drop in the Bucket” programs and the old $5 Remarkable cards will be retired. The LiveUp Grams will still be in use and a new $5 On-the-spot card will be unveiled.

All Mercy central campus, West Lakes, Centerville, Skiff and CHIPS colleagues are eligible to participate. You do not need to do anything to be eligible for the program – you are automatically enrolled. Watch for more information in the coming weeks on how to access the website, download the mobile app and start recognizing your colleagues.

If you have any questions regarding this new and exciting recognition program, please contact Susan Schrader at sschrader@mercydesmoines.org.

Mercy Clinics Family Medicine Beaverdale staff brought Christmas cheer to residents of Calvin Community on Dec. 13. Clinic staff members spent the lunch hour singing carols and dropped off baskets of items to be used for the retirement facility’s spa and bingo gifts.

WHAT’S UP?

NEW DIRECTOR OF MOTHER/BABY UNIT

Kristen Ernsperger, MSN-CNL, RNC, has been named director of Mercy’s Mother/Baby Unit. She brings more than 15 years of experience in maternal-infant nursing experience at Mercy. Kristen received her Associate Degree in Nursing in 2000, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2004 from Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, and went on to earn a Master of Science in Nursing earlier this year from Grand View University in Des Moines. Kristen has been a primary registered nurse in Mother/Baby since 2001, served as the weekend package manager from 2008-2014, and was the Mother/Baby clinical resource nurse from 2014 until her recent promotion.

Congratulations to Kristen on her new role!

JOLLY HOLIDAY LIGHTS isn’t over yet, but we’ve sold out of tickets here at Mercy! It was a record year for Jolly Holiday Lights ticket sales! Between all of our locations, Mercy sold more than 1,000 tickets, and we raised more than $5,000 for Make-A-Wish Iowa. Thank you to all who participated and took advantage of this opportunity!

CONTACT US

The Bulletin is published weekly for staff and friends of Mercy Medical Center, 1111 6th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50314-2611

If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

FOLLOW US:

@MercyDesMoines