MercyOne Children’s Hospital adds “sweet” amenity for patients

Having some sense of normalcy is important for our patients, but especially important for our pediatric patients who may be too young to fully understand the hospital. MercyOne Children’s Hospital has a new tool to help kids feel like well, kids.

Last week, representatives from Hy-Vee, the Jel Sert Company and American Childhood Cancer Organization (ACCO) donated two freezers full of ice pops to MercyOne Children’s Hospital’s pediatric unit and pediatric emergency care. MercyOne is one of 10 children’s hospitals in the Midwest participating in the “Take a Pop, Share a Smile” program started in 2010 by Jel Sert and ACCO. As the primary sponsor of the program, national food and beverage manufacturer Jel Sert is donating the freezers and ice pops to the hospitals and providing ongoing refills and service to the freezers at these hospital locations. To date, Jel Sert has placed freezers in more than 140 facilities across the country, providing more than 1 million treats to ease symptoms and help with hydration.

The freezers will continue to be filled with the icy treats as needed so our pediatric patients will always have a reason to smile.

Thank you to Hy-Vee, Jel Sert and ACCO on behalf of MercyOne Children’s Hospital and our patients!

MercyOne offers specialized treatment for depression

MercyOne is among a limited number of providers in Central Iowa offering a break-through option for those suffering from treatment-resistant major depressive disorder. MercyOne South Des Moines Behavioral Health Care Clinic offers Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) therapy, an FDA-approved, safe and effective non-drug depression treatment for adult patients who have not satisfactorily responded to traditional medication and therapy. It provides benefits without the side effects often associated with antidepressant medication.

MercyOne utilizes the NeuroStar TMS machine, which uses precisely targeted magnetic pulses to stimulate key areas of the brain that are underactive in patients with depression. Patients are awake and alert during treatment, and can go back to their normal activities immediately after treatment. Each treatment takes just under an hour. Treatment is administered five days a week for approximately six weeks.

When the MercyOne Des Moines Psychiatry Residency Clinic opens in September, it will also offer TMS therapy, providing even more options for Central Iowans in need of treatment.

If you or a family member struggle with depression, discuss TMS therapy as a treatment option with your primary care provider or call MercyOne South Des Moines Behavioral Health Care Clinic at 515-643-9030.
Chaplain delivers compassionate, personalized care in the Spirit of Mercy

Mary Pink is a familiar face at MercyOne West Des Moines Medical Center. As the dedicated chaplain, Mary can be seen on all floors, at any hour or day of the week. Her commitment to her faith and to providing comfort to patients and families — especially during their time of need — set Mary apart. Her colleagues say Mary’s ministering to patients and staff provide healing for all. These qualities make Mary our latest Spirit of Mercy Award winner.

Mary has devoted herself to developing the skills she needs in a hospital environment. Her “tools” include her faith in God and being the hand of Jesus in serving the needs of others as a member of the Pastoral Care team. Whether it’s providing a listening ear or trying to make sense of a challenge, colleagues say Mary is always there and has a talent of connecting with people.

A colleague recently shared an example of Mary’s caring spirit. “Mary came in on her day off to support a daughter whose mother was receiving comfort care. As an only child, the daughter was having a difficult time with her grief. Mary stayed with her and held the mother’s hand as she read a beautiful psalm. During the reading, the patient passed. Though sad, the daughter shared her gratitude and appreciation for Mary in helping her understand and maintain faith through it all. When saying good-bye, Mary provided the daughter with the passage. You could see the tremendous impact Mary had on the daughter’s journey to her beginning the healing process.”

Colleagues also benefit from Mary’s caring spirit. They say a genuine smile, a good cup of coffee or a chocolate or a hug, are often accompanied by her sincere words of encouragement. Colleagues share this has helped renew their faith and beliefs and has also helped encourage their showing of appreciation for colleagues.

Thank you, Mary, for your faith and caring nature. Through your dedication and actions in ministering to others, you are displaying MercyOne Values every day.

Welcome new providers

Sarah Springer, ARNP
Wound Care

Stephen Grant, MD
Sleep Medicine Clinic

Congratulations to...
Terri Brummett, Pediatric Intensive Care, and John, on the birth of their son, Lucas Wade. Lucas was born June 16 and was welcomed home by Isla, age 5, Lane, age 4, and Tessa, age 2.

Farewell to...
Sharon Phillips, vice president for MercyOne’s primary care division, retired June 20 after 38 years at MercyOne. She started her career in the NICU at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center as a pediatric nurse in 1981. She transitioned to outpatient care in 1984, opening the Indianola clinic while serving as clinic manager. In 1989, Sharon joined MercyOne’s clinic administration team as Director of IT, where she headed the IDX system implementation, centralized scheduling and, in the early 1990s, added the billing department. She was named COO/VP of MercyOne Medical Group in 2000, and named VP of primary care in 2015.

If you have a colleague at MercyOne Central Iowa who you would like to nominate for the monthly Spirit of Mercy Award, please visit mercyone.org/desmoines/about-us/spirit-of-mercy-award.

Announcement

The Bulletin will not be published July 5. Watch for the next issue on July 12.