Project SEARCH at MercyOne Des Moines helps students train for real-world jobs

In May, eight seniors from Des Moines Public Schools graduated from Project SEARCH at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center, a program helping students age 18 to 21 who have physical, intellectual or behavioral disabilities develop important job and life skills that could lead to future employment.

As part of the program, students work five days a week from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. during the school year, within a number of departments across the organization, including the MercyOne Child Development Center, Environmental Services, Dietary Services and various other patient-facing areas.

MercyOne Des Moines is one of several business in the Des Moines metro which participate in Project SEARCH. This marks the seventh year the program has been at MercyOne Des Moines.

“Businesses who are part of the program find students respond positively to the education they receive. It also offers a great opportunity for MercyOne colleagues to mentor the students and help position them for success,” said Susan Hetherington, Project SEARCH work experience coordinator.

Not only are the students passionate about learning, they also have a positive impact on the services and care MercyOne provides by helping with miscellaneous work activities that free up colleagues to focus on patient care.

“Students of Project SEARCH have made valuable contributions to improve the lives and well-being of fellow team members, as well as the many patients and families we are privileged to serve,” said Karl Keeler, MercyOne Central Iowa president, during the graduation ceremony.

Hetherington notes the program is always looking for additional work experiences at MercyOne Des Moines. “We welcome inquiries from any department,” she said.

To learn more about Project SEARCH at MercyOne Des Moines, contact Hetherington at susan.hetherington@dmschools.org or 515-491-1394.

 MercyOne House of Mercy Game Show Gala on track to raise $400,000

The 10th Annual MercyOne House of Mercy Game Show Gala is Thursday, June 13, from 6-9 p.m. at Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center in downtown Des Moines. This fun-spirited game show-style fundraiser supports MercyOne House of Mercy, one of Iowa's largest and most comprehensive providers of vital services for men, women and children with mental health and substance abuse disorders.
Game Show Gala  Continued from first page

During the event, four teams comprised of community leaders compete in various games modeled after popular game shows. Each team represents a client who has benefited from House of Mercy in the areas of mental health, childhood trauma, methamphetamine use disorder or alcohol use disorder. Attendees decide which teams advance to the championship Family Feud round by donating to their team of choice.

Established in 2010, the Gala has raised more than $2.1 million for House of Mercy. In fiscal year 2018, the organization served 2,833 clients through recovery, halfway housing, permanent housing, adolescent group living, substance abuse and mental health treatment. The goal for this year’s event, which is co-chaired by Monni and Brian Chittenden and Beth and Tim Coonan, is to raise $400,000. For more information or to register for the MercyOne House of Mercy Game Show Gala, visit MercyOne.org/desmoinesfoundation/2019gameshowgala.

June is Men’s Health Month

June is Men’s Health Month. It’s a good time for men to contemplate their overall health—and then do something about it.

1. Complete recommended health screenings! They could save your life and/or make diseases easier to manage if caught early. Even young men should have at least a yearly check-up.

2. Get moving! Strive for at least 30 minutes of exercise a day. Biking, weight lifting and playing sports of any kind are all great forms of exercise.

3. Up your veggie game! Gardens and farmer’s markets are in full bloom right now. Be adventurous or load up on your favorites more often. The American Heart Association recommends 4 ½ cups of fruits and veggies each day.

Save the date!

It’s been one year since the opening of the MercyOne Clive Rehabilitation Hospital. To celebrate, an open house is planned for Tuesday, June 11, from 4–7 p.m. Enjoy:

- Cookies
- Cupcakes
- Ice cream trucks
- Face painting
- Raffles to win gift baskets
- Therapist demonstrations

Going on now: year-end performance evaluations

Colleagues are at the center of MercyOne’s annual performance evaluation process, designed specifically to focus on supporting professional and personal development. The first step begins with a self-evaluation.

The Workday system is open for colleagues to complete year-end self-evaluations through June 30. Reflect and assess your performance for fiscal year 2019 (July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019), highlight your successes, and identify development opportunities for the upcoming year.

To help you prepare for your self-evaluation, job aids and other resources are available on InsideCHI. You may also reach out to your manager or Human Resources with any questions you may have.

While completing the online self-evaluation form, colleagues are encouraged to take notes and write down questions that can be reviewed during a one-on-one performance conversation with direct supervisors or managers, which will take place later this summer.