Love and generosity defined the lives of Joseph and Dorothy Schuster. Their caring legacy will live on through a recent estate gift of $492,000 – the largest private contribution received by MercyOne House of Mercy, to date, and the foundation for creating the new Joseph and Dorothy Schuster Mental Health Center at MercyOne House of Mercy.

Dorothy Schuster passed away in June 2018 at the age of 96. Her children desired for the funds to support families who were struggling.

"Joseph and Dorothy were incredible, loving, generous people," said Dorothy’s daughter Audrey Off. "We've always been amazed by mom's resourcefulness and strength, and by Joe's love and generosity. We are very excited for the new Joseph and Dorothy Schuster Mental Health Center, and how it will transform the lives of thousands of individuals in the years to come."

The new mental health center will enable House of Mercy to provide an estimated 9,000 additional hours of open appointment times for adults, children and families – more than double the organization’s current annual capacity of 1,700 clients.

In addition to the Schuster gift, the mental health center is also made possible through a $100,000 leadership grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines, and gifts from GuideOne Foundation and Prairie Meadows, among other contributors.

As the unit nursing director of 7 South at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center, Sarah Wadden makes an impression on those who see and experience her efforts to provide her personal and professional best. She is said to honor the sacredness and dignity of every person in her care or supervision – especially the most vulnerable. These traits are the MercyOne Values in action, and they make Sarah a Spirit of Mercy Award winner.

Health care presents daily challenges, where innovation is a must to deliver and maintain quality personalized care. Colleagues view Sarah as an advocate for patients and staff, continually seeking input and encouraging ideas to make improvements.

A leader who frequently shows her commitment to colleagues, Sarah is regularly by their side on her days off, and even on some weekends. Whether floating to the most needed area or serving as a floor nurse, Sarah's staff members feel she owns the unit's needs and her efforts help strengthen the bond with their patients, and each other.

Thank you, Sarah, for your leadership and commitment to our patients and your colleagues. Your actions inspire excellence and keep the rich heritage entrusted to us by the Sisters of Mercy alive in us all.
Brett Edmundson recognized with DAISY Award

Brett Edmundson, RN, is MercyOne Central Iowa’s newest recipient of The DAISY Award®. He was presented the award at a ceremony June 1, with several of his colleagues and nursing leadership in attendance. Brett, who works in Neuro-Trauma Intensive Care, was nominated by the daughter of a patient to recognize the kind and compassionate care he provided to the patient and her family.

The nominator wrote, “My mother had a stroke while we were visiting from out of town. (Brett) was kind and caring toward my mother who was struggling to speak and easily agitated. His manner of talking to her was conversational and while he shared all necessary medical information, he shared it in a way that both my mother and I could easily understand. He was also friendly and helpful for my father and me as we navigated those first few days when none of us knew what tomorrow would hold.”

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. MercyOne Central Iowa implemented The DAISY Award® program in April 2017 to honor our nurses, who consistently provide compassionate and remarkable care while demonstrating clinical excellence. Find out more about the award or submit a nomination at MercyOne.org/daisy.

Congratulations to...
• Lindy Elmquist, Labor and Delivery Unit, and Josh, on the birth of their daughter, Elaina. Elaina was born July 5.
• Morgan Sunderman, MercyOne West Des Moines Telemetry, and Bryce, MercyOne Des Moines Emergency Care, on the birth of their daughter, Harper. Harper was born on June 22.

Sympathy to...
• Pamela Rosenberg, Financial Operations, on the death of her mother.
• Echo Ubben, Financial Operations, on the death of her father.

Kudos to...
Laura Vanden Bosch, director of Public Relations and Marketing for MercyOne Central Iowa, for recently being honored as one of the HMN Perspectives, Inc. “Top Hospital Marketers of the Year.” This prestigious list recognizes extraordinary hospital marketers driving innovation, spearheading great creative, and working toward better branding of their hospital, health system or facility.

Welcome new providers

Geetha Bendi, MD               Suellen Marsh, ARNP    Jeffrey Neitzel, DO        Laura Nelson, PA-C
MercyOne Des Moines Hospitalists  MercyOne Des Moines Palliative Care  MercyOne Des Moines Trauma/Acute Care Surgery  MercyOne Iowa Heart Center Vascular Surgery

Flight team blood drive saves lives
To help increase the area’s blood supply, our flight team held their second annual blood drive on Friday, July 19. “Lei back and donate blood with LifeServe and MercyOne Des Moines Air Ambulance” brought in 136 units of blood, which will result in 408 lives saved. This year’s event also attracted 33 first-time donors. A big thank you to all who donated and to the flight team!