Spirit of Mercy Award winner dedicated to improving patient care at MercyOne Centerville

Critical access hospitals are vital to rural communities. MercyOne Centerville Medical Center is frequently nationally-ranked as a top critical access hospital, thanks to colleagues like Spirit of Mercy Award winner Cheryl Miller.

Miller embraces the MercyOne Core Values and demonstrates the power of being one in helping to improve patient care. Colleagues say she steps up any way she can to benefit patients and the medical center.

When MercyOne Centerville increased its focus on improving care for respiratory therapy patients, Miller left her position in medical/surgical care to become the respiratory therapy office assistant. Her supervisor says Miller is blessed with compassion, which she demonstrates when she works one-on-one with respiratory patients. Her new role resulted in improved scheduling, which better met patient needs.

Miller’s commitment to excellence and a willingness to help colleagues is another strength. She still supports her colleagues in the medical/surgical area when issues arise. Miller is also an experienced certified nursing assistant, and she will help with inpatient care when there is a need.

Congratulations to Cheryl Miller for receiving the Spirit of Mercy Award, and thank you for your commitment to our patients and MercyOne Centerville.

Spirit of Mercy Award winner lives the legacy of Catherine McAuley

When deciding a career path, it likely wasn’t a surprise when Julie Weldon chose health care. Nursing was the family business, and like her mother and grandmother, Weldon shares a passion for serving the most vulnerable.

Those who provide care at MercyOne Des Moines Medical Center pursue excellence, while remembering the dignity and unique needs of each patient. Weldon’s dedication to Catherine McAuley’s legacy of care did not go unnoticed. Like her mother and grandmother, Weldon is a recipient of the Spirit of Mercy Award.

Throughout her 25 years with MercyOne, Weldon has expanded her commitment from providing care at the bedside, to improving patient care through education at the MercyOne system level with the MercyOne Population Health Service Organization (PHSO). Colleagues say she embodies the MercyOne Core Values and Mission. Her nominator says Weldon practices the values developed by the Sisters of Mercy to serve patients and her colleagues at the PHSO.

During challenging times, such as seeking MercyOne PHSO accreditation from the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA), colleagues say they appreciated Weldon’s leadership and guidance.

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We don’t mean to STROKE our ego...

MercyOne Des Moines’ Stroke Program has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association’s Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Quality Achievement Award. This award recognizes the hospital’s commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

MercyOne Des Moines earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period, including evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability.

MercyOne’s achievements have also met specific scientific guidelines to be recognized as central Iowa’s only hospital to receive the Gold Seal of Approval™ and Primary Stroke Center certification from The Joint Commission, an honor held since 2007 – and, central Iowa’s only hospital to perform thrombectomies for acute stroke.

Quality

Julie Weldon, Spirit of Mercy winner

They shared, “The work was intense and stressful, but Julie was there to support us and keep us on the right path of doing the needed work to best serve our patients and families.”

Weldon’s passion for the Sisters of Mercy is evident to her colleagues in her approach to challenges, “with a smile on her face and in her heart.” While at MercyOne, Julie has taught nursing education classes in the Careful Nursing method developed by Catherine McAuley. This care model was created to serve the sick and poor during times of chronic illness, epidemics, war, poverty and famine in Ireland. Its success allowed the Sisters of Mercy to expand their care world-wide.

In addition to her work at MercyOne PHSO, Weldon continues to educate future nurses and health professionals as an instructor at Mercy College of Health Sciences. Her colleagues share Weldon has shown them efforts are most impactful when they involve caring for people and one another. This mirrors one of her favorite quotes from Catherine McAuley — “The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow.”

Congratulations to Julie Weldon, and thank you for keeping the Spirit of Mercy alive for all to see.

Team Engagement

Join “Run with a Doc” on Saturday, Nov. 21, at 8 a.m., with a social run group that is open to all participants.

Dr. Eric Reynolds (top left) shares tips and techniques with runners on Aug. 28.