Mercy Ambulance recently passed their State of Iowa inspection with no deficiencies noted, renewing their state certificate through Sept. 10, 2021. The State of Iowa inspection means Mercy Ambulance is in compliance with the state’s requirements for ambulance services and allows the eight-ambulance fleet to operate for another three-year license period. Receiving this renewal allows Mercy Ambulance to continue to serve our patients in their most emergent moments.

The Mercy Ambulance crew is made up of 50 individuals who are certified as emergency medical technicians (EMT), paramedics and critical care paramedics. During fiscal year 2018, Mercy received a total of 8,358 requests for patient transports, including transports between Mercy’s central campus and Mercy – West Lakes, as well as transports to other destinations. There is a specially-trained highly infectious disease transport team, and the group also teams up with the NICU and pediatric transport teams to provide ground pediatric and NICU transports.

Thanks to Mercy Ambulance for being ready 24/7/365 to provide the first moments of crucial care to our patients!

**KEY RESULT AREA: Team Engagement**

Mercy Ambulance completes Service Authorization

50 the number of individuals who make up the Mercy Ambulance crew

8,358 the number of total requests for patient transports in 2018
**KEY RESULT AREA: Team Engagement**

**Mercy takes top honors at Signature Chefs Auction fundraiser**

On Oct. 3, March of Dimes held their annual Signature Chefs Auction fundraiser, supporting the fight to end premature birth, the most significant health threat to moms and babies everywhere. Chefs representing eight different restaurants and organizations across the Des Moines metro competed by entering tasty meals. Event attendees had the opportunity to vote for the best fare. In the end, the team from Mercy’s Food and Nutrition department took home the top honors.

Mercy’s culinary team entered several delicious items, including garlic pepper crusted beef tenderloin with brandy cream sauce, chicken spiedini skewers, stuffed mushrooms with sausage and three-cheese blend, bruschetta crostini, jumbo shrimp cocktail and tiramisu. In addition, the team displayed an adorable ice sculpture featuring the Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics teddy bear atop alphabet blocks.

Mercy was the key sponsor of this year’s event. Dr. Jona Conklin of Mercy Perinatal Center of Iowa and a member of the March of Dimes Board of Directors, gave the opening remarks. The event raised nearly $120,000 to support the ongoing efforts of March of Dimes.

In addition to participating in the competition, Mercy’s Food and Nutrition department also auctioned off breakfast, lunch and dinners for our NICU families to be served this fall. This auction item raised $1,800 in support of the March of Dimes mission.

**KEY RESULT AREA: Ambulatory Growth**

**Open house scheduled for Grimes clinic**

On Monday, Oct. 22, physicians and staff from Mercy Clinics Family Medicine and Pediatrics Grimes will host a public open house to welcome community members to the facility. The open house will take place from 5-7 p.m. and will offer fun family Halloween activities. Children are invited to attend in costume and receive a special treat! The clinic is located at 250 S.W. Brookside Dr., in Grimes.
In 2011, Tom Wadle was removing a tree branch in his yard – something he’d done many times – when he slipped and fell out of the tree, landing 15 feet below and sustaining a severe injury to his C5–C7 vertebrae.

He couldn’t move his arms or legs, but his voice still worked, so he yelled for his then three-year-old daughter, Cheyenne, the only other person at home.

“I’ve trimmed trees all my life. It was just a freak accident,” says Wadle, a former construction subcontractor from Lacona, Iowa. “Cheyenne came outside and was able to go find a neighbor to call the EMTs.”

Six years later – after surgery at Mercy to fuse the vertebrae, six weeks in the ICU, and three and a half months in inpatient rehabilitation in Lincoln, Neb. – Tom is at home with his wife, Melissa, and Cheyenne, who’s now nine. Melissa and his mother provide daily care for him, allowing him to live at home with his family.

“I have no movement from my neck down – all I can do is shrug my shoulders,” he says.

Wadle visits Anthony Kopp, D.O., a Mercy physiatrist, for a check-up about every three months.

“I started seeing Dr. Kopp after I had a Baclofen pump implanted in 2014 to help with spasticity,” Wadle says. He had that surgery in Iowa City, but was relieved when he found a doctor in Des Moines who could provide ongoing follow-up care, saving him trips to Iowa City. Over the years, he and Dr. Kopp have developed an excellent relationship.

“Once when I was in there at a routine visit I passed out, and he got me very quickly to the ER and started on medication that has controlled my seizures and blackouts,” Wadle says. “I feel like he and his staff have got my back. We always joke around and laugh at my visit. He’s good at communicating and explains everything. He’s just a caring man.”

And Cheyenne, who helped save his life when she was just three, almost always comes along to his appointments.

“Dr. Kopp jokes around with Cheyenne every time we go in, and she always makes him a glove balloon,” Wadle says with a smile. “He’s one of the best doctors I’ve had, and a funny guy to boot.”