

## Give a Gift from the Heart

Over the past four years, many employees have strengthened the impact of their gift by checking the "Gift from the Heart" box on their pledge form. When you choose to make a Gift from the Heart, a gift equivalent to one hour of your current pay (post-tax) will be deducted from your paycheck each pay period and will be directed to the Mercy Foundation priority or priorities of your choice. (A Gift from the Heart cannot be used for gifts to Variety of Iowa or United Way.)

### *An Easy Way to Give: The Gift of PTO Hours*

On your pledge form, simply indicate the number of PTO hours you wish to contribute from your current PTO hours.

If you choose to make a one-time gift of PTO hours, those hours will be deducted from the total PTO hours you have available on your Nov. 9, 2007 paycheck. You must have the hours available in your account at the time (no negative balances). If you have questions, please contact the Payroll Department at extension 3-7365.

To calculate the value of your PTO hours after required tax withholding:

- Take the total dollar amount you wish to contribute and divide by .6135.
- Divide that number by your hourly wage. This equals the total number of PTO hours needed to make your desired contribution.
- Round the number up to the nearest whole number. Enter that number on your pledge form. (See "Example".)

### *Example*

Sarah wants to give \$100 in PTO hours. Her hourly wage is \$15.

- $\$100 / .6135 = 162.9$
- $162.9 / \$15 = 10.86$
- Round 10.86 up to 11

Sarah will give 11 PTO hours.



### *Return your packet by Oct. 5 to be eligible for these prizes!*

- King-size Snickers! All employees who return their packet to their team captain will receive a candy bar.
- All employees who give at the "Gift From the Heart" level will be eligible to win a \$500 gift certificate to Jordan Creek Mall.
- All employees who give will be eligible to win one of three \$100 gift certificates from Dahl's grocery stores.

To be eligible for these prizes, please return packets to the Mercy Foundation office by Friday, Oct. 5.



## Be a beacon, Light the way...

September 2007

As a member of the Mercy Family, you have the opportunity to work alongside those who continue the compassionate ministry begun by the Sisters of Mercy in 1893. As you serve, you are also a part of the sacred opportunity to facilitate healing for our patients and their families.

Today, we'd like to ask you to continue your support for Mercy's Mission initiatives. Our annual Spirit of Mercy campaign, currently underway, has a theme that challenges each of us to "Be a Beacon. Light the Way." Mercy's leadership, physicians, employees, vendors and the community are currently being invited to participate in the Spirit of Mercy campaign.

### **Spirit of Mercy gifts have:**

- Given spiritual and emotional guidance to patients and their families through our **Pastoral Care** department,
- Provided excellent care to **Hospice** patients and support for their family and friends,
- Been a refuge to those seeking a new life at the **House of Mercy**,
- Equipped cancer patients with emotional support and knowledge through our **Cancer Center**,
- Opened doors of opportunity to talented students seeking careers in health care at **Mercy College of Health Sciences**,
- Been a bright light for Mercy colleagues in crisis who needed to know others care through the **Employee Relief** program.

Each of the wonderful programs supported by the Spirit of Mercy has their own unique appeal. Your gift assures that each mission initiative will continue to thrive. Last year, more than 4,200 gifts were given through the Spirit of Mercy campaign, raising more than \$683,000 for Mercy's mission-driven programs. The needs are great; the call to serve continues to be paramount to our mission to "nurture the healing ministry of the Church ..." Please consider how you might respond to our challenge to "Be a Beacon. Light the Way."

We each have many opportunities to contribute to those we serve, and yet we always get back far more than we give. *Because you give, the lives of Iowa families will find peace in the midst of a personal storm and hope for a healthier tomorrow.* Thank you for being a part of this tremendous ministry.

*Most Sincerely,*

Dr. David Kapaska  
Senior Vice President  
Medical Affairs  
Co-Chair Spirit of Mercy

Laura Wenman  
Vice President  
Mission Integration  
Co-Chair Spirit of Mercy

### **Questions?**

Contact Ellen Diehl, Director of Annual Giving, at 643-8034 or by e-mail at [ediehl@mercydesmoines.org](mailto:ediehl@mercydesmoines.org).



## Mercy Medical Center & Variety - The Children's Charity

### Variety of Iowa - The Children's Charity

Our partnership is dedicated to keeping Iowa's babies and children healthy, happy and safe.

### Variety and Mercy ... Making a Difference Together

- Variety provided funds to Mercy to purchase equipment and facilities for pediatric cardiopulmonary cases so these children no longer have to be sent out of Des Moines for care.
- Variety provided funds to Mercy to help purchase state-of-the-art pediatric biplane cardiac catheterization equipment. Mercy is the home of central Iowa's only pediatric heart program. More than

100 pediatric cardiac catheterizations are performed annually.

- Variety provided funds to Mercy to create a pediatric trauma room and renovate the pediatric emergency exam rooms to be "kid-friendly," with bright surroundings and kid-sized instruments.
- Variety has provided more than \$630,000 for bricks and mortar and special equipment for House of Mercy's daycare center.
- Variety donated a van to House of Mercy in 2002 to transport moms and families to school, work, doctor's appointments, drug treatments and general errands.
- Variety provided funds to Mercy to create and renovate the children's

heart and lung center to allow for expanded capacity to care for children experiencing heart and lung complications.

- Variety provided funds to Mercy to purchase specialized equipment to assist in prenatal detection and treatment of abnormalities.
- Variety provided funds to the Children's Center at Mercy to help integrate children's services and provide better coordinated care of all infants and children at Mercy.
- In FY2007, Mercy had 4,098 pediatric admissions, making it one of central Iowa's leaders in pediatric healthcare.



## United Way of Central Iowa



### Our Mission: To improve lives by uniting the caring power of our community.

#### Your United Way contributions:

##### • Bring people together

Our experience tells us the best way to help the most people is to focus on underlying causes to our community's most serious problems. United Way brings together neighborhoods, faith-based groups, agencies, business, labor, government, schools and volunteers.

##### • Achieve results

United Way is focused on results – in the lives we improve and the communities we shape. We identify community needs, recruit individuals and groups to contribute their time and talent, and invest in partnerships and programs that make the greatest impact.

*Together, we improve lives by focusing on three key priorities:*

#### Children and youth achieve potential

High-quality early childhood programs for children living in vulnerable neighborhoods have profound impacts on their intellectual and social development. By 4th grade, students' reading scores are used by educators as predictors of success in high school; academic success in 8th grade is a predictor of high school graduation. In Polk County, an average of 520 youth drop out of school each year, the equivalent of one graduating class of a large high school.

#### Families are economically stable and independent

Between 114,000 and 166,000 Iowa families earn before-tax income insufficient to cover basic household and work-related expenses, according to the Iowa Policy Project. This is 14 to 21 percent of all Iowa families and is greater for families with children. Central Iowa has a growing population of families walking a financial tightrope.

United Way of Central Iowa has joined the Financial Stability Partnership™, a national movement of community partners working to help these families increase income, build savings and gain assets.

#### All people are healthy

In central Iowa, 50,000 to 60,000 individuals lack health insurance. The cost of health insurance rises at a rate of 15 percent per year. Children from urban neighborhoods are less likely to have received quality prenatal care and be up to date with their immunizations. United Way and its partners work to improve the health status, longevity and quality of life for all central Iowans. As a community we need to ensure all central Iowans have access to quality physical, dental and mental health care. We also must address unhealthy conditions like lead poisoning in children, unhealthy weight and tobacco use.