KATHLENE GRUBBS, the latest recipient of the Spirit of Mercy Award, is a giver. Her amazing devotion and dedication to serving others is easy to see as she attends to the needs her patients in Mercy’s Women & Infants’ Center.

Grubbs, through her nursing excellence, compassionate nature and willingness to help anyone in need, positively impacts everyone in her care. A recent example of her commitment shined through during a moment of crisis when a full-term, healthy baby experienced an unexpected health crisis. While NICU staff focused on the transport, Grubbs turned her focus to the mother to provide some much needed support. She spent time with the mother in the NICU and provided hugs, prayers and a listening ear during this mother’s time of need. Grubbs attended to the business of a hospital stay so the parents could focus their attention on their child. Fellow nurses say this level of nursing is what all her patients receive.

Peers and physicians say Grubbs is a highly valued member of the team. Her kind-hearted and giving spirit help in keeping the unit ready for the next patient. Just as important, they say she is always ready to listen, share her clinical knowledge, mentor or just talk.

Thank you, Kathlene, for more than 10 years of dedication to Mercy’s Women & Infants’ Center, and congratulations on your Spirit of Mercy Award.

NEW LINEAR ACCELERATOR BLESSED, CELEBRATED AT OPEN HOUSE

Approximately 40 Mercy staff, current and former patients, and community members attended an open house Thursday, April 6, to celebrate Mercy Cancer Center’s newest weapon for fighting cancer – the TrueBeam Radiotherapy System. The TrueBeam is a linear accelerator, a machine that uses high-energy radiation beams to kill tumor cells. This particular device offers the most advanced radiation therapy available, and offers physicians the ability to target smaller treatment areas and to treat patients in less time.

The new TrueBeam replaces a linear accelerator that was installed 16 years ago, which is estimated to have provided 144,000 treatments to 8,100 patients. While those treatment statistics are impressive, Dr. Philip Colletier, Mercy Cancer Center Radiation Oncology Medical Director, reminded those in attendance of the true impact advancements in cancer treatment can have. He shared an anniversary party invitation from a patient he had treated for three separate cancer diagnoses, who is now 95 years old and celebrating his 75th wedding anniversary. “All this technology is fantastic,” said Dr. Colletier, “But what’s most important is that these machines create 75th wedding anniversaries.”

Staff is currently training on the new linear accelerator and will begin treating patients later this month.
CHILD LIFE EASTER BASKET AUCTION HUGE SUCCESS

The annual Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics Child Life Specialists’ Easter basket auction was a huge success.

This year’s event brought in 63 baskets that raised approximately $6,800 for the program – a new record for the fundraiser. The money will be used to provide crafts, movies, games and comfort items for pediatric patients of Mercy Children’s Hospital & Clinics. Thank you to all the departments that put together beautiful baskets and to everyone who bid on them!

OT CENTENNIAL: CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY!

April is Occupational Therapy Month – and since 1917, occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants have been helping people participate in the things they want and need to do through the therapeutic use of everyday activities.

Occupational therapists use scientific- and evidence-based approaches to help people recover from serious illness and injury, and live life to its fullest by promoting a healthier lifestyle and adapt their living, school and work environment to increase independence with daily function.

Occupational therapy practitioners work in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, outpatient clinics, skilled and long-term care nursing facilities, community centers and in-home care. They provide services such as optimizing development and growth of babies in the NICU; recommendations for assistive devices following joint replacement; facilitation of early movement for critically ill patients; and helping stroke and brain injury survivors relearn how to bathe, groom, dress and cook for themselves.

Mercy currently employs more than 20 occupational therapy practitioners who provide services in areas such as pediatrics, low vision, neurology, orthopedics, oncology, critical care, cardiac/pulmonary, lymphedema and wheelchair assessments.

OPEN HOUSE SHOWCASES NEW WOMEN’S HEALTH FACILITY

Mercy Comfort Health Center for women is inviting the community to tour and learn more about a new health care facility dedicated to providing specialty care to women in midlife. On Saturday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to noon, women’s health medical providers and staff will be on-site to guide visitors through the newly renovated facility, located in the Mercy West clinic building, 1601 NW 114th St., Ste. 151, in Clive. We hope to see you there!

LiveUp Recognition program celebrates Mercy staff

Nearly 1,000 recognitions were submitted through the LiveUp Recognition program’s website in March. Recognizing colleagues gets each person entered into a monthly sweepstakes for a chance to win points redeemable for merchandise on the website. March sweepstakes winners include:

Joy Bowman, Melanie Brenneman, Janet Breitenkamp, Scotlan Bunnell, Codi Frost, Amanda Garber, Jason Gordon, Abigail Johnson, Lori Kennedy, Zachary Laue, Samantha Logan, Jonna Lox, Lyndsey Moon, Kyla O’Boyle, Satoko Weeks

To recognize your colleagues, and view and “like” other’s recognitions, visit https://mercydsmliveup.isrewards.com. For new users, login using your Lawson # as your username and “Mercy” for the temporary password.

Donate Life Ecumenical Service

During Donate Life Month, Mercy offers an ecumenical service to remember organ donors and recipients. The service will be on Tuesday, April 18, at 1 p.m. in the Mercy East Tower Auditorium. Donor families and recipients will share their stories as part of the service. All are welcome to attend. The service can also be viewed on the central campus on channel 4.

CONTACT US

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If you are interested in submitting information to be printed in the Bulletin, send it to PR and Marketing or call 515-247-3050.

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