Mercy to sponsor annual Walk to Defeat ALS

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that attacks nerve cells and pathways in the brain and spinal cord. This disease can take away one’s ability to perform normal, day-to-day functions, leaving family and friends with the task of caring for their loved ones.

Mercy is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the 2014 Walk to Defeat ALS®. As corporate chair of this event, Mercy President Bob Ritz would like to invite everyone in the Mercy Family to join in the walk to help bring hope to families living with ALS.

“By raising awareness for ALS, we have the opportunity to strengthen our Mission to serve people in our community during their greatest time of need,” said Bob Ritz. “That’s why we would like to encourage everyone in the Mercy Family to join us in the fight against ALS. Together, we can make a difference.”

Walk to Defeat ALS
Saturday, Oct. 4
Walk Check-In: 8:30 a.m.
Walk: 10 a.m.
Distance: 2 miles
Register today!

Mercy Clinics is expanding services to residents in northern Ankeny and surrounding communities. The new clinic, Mercy Briarwood Medical Clinic, is located at 120 N.W. 36th St. – on the northwest corner of N.W. 36th St. and Ankeny Blvd.

Shannon Hood, D.O., and Brandon Mitchell, PA-C, will begin seeing patients at the new clinic on July 1. Dr. Hood has been a family practice physician at Mercy North Family Practice in Ankeny since 2000. Brandon Mitchell joined Mercy in 2010 as a physician assistant at Mercy Waukee Medical Clinic and, in 2013 he began seeing patients at Mercy North Urgent Care in Ankeny. Both providers are accepting new patients at the family practice clinic, which will be open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Appointments can be scheduled now by calling (515) 358-7550.

In addition to family practice services, a provider with Mercy Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will also see patients at the new Mercy Briarwood Medical Clinic. These services will be available beginning in mid-August.

Resident of northern Ankeny and surrounding communities will be able to access health care services at Mercy Briarwood Medical Clinic beginning July 1.

Mercy supports ACS Relay for Life

Members of the Mercy team walk a lap in the American Cancer Society’s (ACS) Relay for Life held on June 13, at Mercy Cancer Center – West Lakes. This was the second year the event was held at Mercy Cancer Center and more than $50,000 was raised in support of cancer research. With dedication and support of events such as Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society will make progress toward realizing their goal of having a world without cancer.
Seven residents from Mercy Family Medicine Residency Program will graduate on June 30 and one will graduate on Aug. 31. The graduating family medicine residents will be honored at a banquet held this evening at the Renaissance Savery Hotel.

Upon completing the residency program, the physicians have the following plans. Dr. Trevor Bond will join Labette Health in Parsons, Kan., as an emergency room physician. Dr. Kareem Cooper will join Eastern Medical Associates in Goldsboro, N.C., as a family medicine hospitalist. Dr. Juby Joseph is going into private practice at Hopkins Memorial Hospital & Clinic in Sulphur Springs, Texas. Dr. Jessica Kennedy is going into private practice at Adair County Health System in Greenfield, Iowa. Dr. Paul Martis is going into private practice at Associates in Family Health Care in Lansing, Kan. Dr. Summera Qamar is exploring options in Montana. Dr. Ojash Raval is going into private practice at Cass County Health System in Atlantic, Iowa. Dr. Shelly Soltis is going into private practice at Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital in Grand Rapids, Minn.

Congratulations to Mercy’s graduating family medicine residents!

President Bob Ritz honored by alma mater

Mercy President Bob Ritz was honored with the St. Ignatius Distinguished Alumni award by Wheeling Jesuit University (WJU), for his contributions to his profession, to society and to the University. WJU President Rev. James Fleming presented the award during Alumni Weekend at the university in June. The award is given to an alumni who exemplifies the Jesuit ideals of extraordinary competence and personal compassion in one's chosen profession.