Mercy named to 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals for fifth straight year

Mercy Medical Center – Des Moines has been named one of the nation’s 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals for 2013 by Truven Health Analytics®. The 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals is a part of the Truven Health 100 Top Hospitals® national benchmarks series. To ensure fair, objective analysis of performance, they use only public data sources and peer-reviewed methodologies as the cornerstones of their program.

“This year’s 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals have proven that a commitment to deliver excellent care is still attainable in times of economic uncertainty,” said Jean Chenoweth, senior vice president for performance improvement and the 100 Top Hospitals program at Truven Health Analytics. “The hospitals in this study have achieved higher levels of care and efficiency than their peers, demonstrating incredibly strong focus by cardiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and cardiovascular service administrators and staff on basic care and outcomes,” she added.

Mercy accepts Platinum wellness award

The Wellness Council of Iowa awarded Mercy the Platinum Well Workplace designation for its commitment to the health and well-being of its employees at the Healthy Iowa Awards Sept. 20. Accepting the award are WOW4U committee members (l-r): Pat Cavanaugh, Debbie Deneff Mehlhop, Jennifer Peterson, Debbie Fisk, Terri Trepp, Stephanie Spotts, Connie Schmitt, Ann Weiss, Amy Ziegler and Amy Bentz.

Exercise your right to vote on Nov. 6

This is a critical election year, and the individuals we elect will make many important decisions concerning the future of health care – and, ultimately, the future of our hospital. Please take the time to register to vote and learn about the candidates and issues in this year’s election.

If you need information on how to register or the location of the appropriate polling place, please visit http://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/voterregistration.html.

To learn more about issues important to Mercy and Iowa hospitals, visit www.ihaonline.org/elections.

You have an important role in choosing who gets to make these decisions. Form your own opinions and then cast your ballot on Nov. 6 and show how much hospital employees care for local patients as well as communities across America. You have the power to make a difference!

If you have questions about issues, contact Sara Eide, director of advocacy, at seide@mercydesmoines.org or at x-35338.
Shoes That Fit drive starts next week

For nine years, Mercy Medical Center employees have helped provide new, warm winter clothes to area school children in need. Each year, the number of children in need of suitable winter clothes continues to increase. Nearly 800 new items—such as shoes, coats, jeans and sweatshirts—were donated by the Mercy Family in 2011.

Employees can pick up Shoes That Fit cards outside the Marketplace and Grille at Mercy Central Campus on Oct. 17, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and in the cafeteria at Mercy West Lakes on Oct. 18, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clinics and off-site locations can request cards to be sent through office mail by calling Sarah Todd in PR at x-38368 before Oct. 16. Additional needs cards can be picked up at Mercy Starbucks on Level 1 or in PR and Marketing on A-Level through Oct. 31.

Fulfilled cards can be returned with the new clothing items to Public Safety at Mercy Central Campus or the Gift House at Mercy West Lakes. Clinics and off-site locations need to call Patrick Maher, x-38269, to arrange item collection. All items need to be returned by Friday, Nov. 30.

Employees can also make cash or check donations during the dates and times listed above, or can drop off donations to the PR and Marketing office on A-Level across from McDonald’s. The money collected will be used to fulfill needs cards that weren’t chosen. Checks should be made payable to “Shoes That Fit.”

Announcements & news briefs

Follow Mercy on Twitter

Do you tweet? If the answer is yes, then follow @MercyDesMoines as we share the latest news, trends and health care information. Our full profile is accessible at www.twitter.com/mercydesmoines. We look forward to tweeting with you!

Teri Reiff named new MCL administrative director

Teri Reiff has been named laboratory administrative director for Mercy Clinical Laboratory (MCL). Teri comes to this position with 26 years experience as a medical technologist, and recently transitioned from her previous position as senior manager, Core Laboratory at MCL, which she held for the last four years. Teri has been employed with Mercy Medical Center since 2000, during which time she has been involved with many key projects in the laboratory, including upgrading instrumentation and IT applications as well as numerous process improvement activities.

Flowerama to donate portion of October sales to Katzmann

In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month and in support of the fight against breast cancer, Flowerama is again offering special pink ribbon flower arrangements and donating a portion of their sales to Mercy Katzmann Breast Center. Three special arrangements will be offered: a Pink Ribbon Bouquet, two for $10 (or $5.99 each); a Pink Ribbon Vase Arrangement, $14.99; and a Pink Ribbon Vase Arrangement with Pink Ribbon Balloon, $19.99. For each one of these special arrangements sold, Flowerama will donate 10 percent of the sale to Katzmann. Get your Pink Ribbon items at any convenient local Flowerama location – 101 S. Ankeny Blvd. in Ankeny, 3310 SE 14th Street in Des Moines and at 7301 University Ave. in Windsor Heights.

Mark your calendar...

NIGHT EYES AT THE BLANK PARK ZOO
Oct. 18-21 and 25-28
Thurs. and Fri., 5:30-8 p.m.
Sat. and Sun., 1-8 p.m.
Blank Park Zoo
Join Mercy Children’s Center at Night Eyes at Blank Park Zoo starting next weekend. Families will enjoy trick-or-treating, games, train rides, bounce houses and more. Attendees are encouraged to wear costumes. Admission is $5 per person or $4 for zoo members.

HEALTHY LUNG EXPO 2012
Nov. 9, 8 a.m.-3 p.m.
West Des Moines Sheraton
1800 50th St., West Des Moines
Attend this program designed for patients, caregivers and healthcare providers to learn more about the latest trends, resources, and research surrounding lung health. To register call 1-800-LUNG-USA, or visit www.lungia.org.

EMPLOYEE FLU SHOTS/MIST
Central Campus
Oct. 19, 22 and 23, 7:30 to 3 p.m.
East Tower Conference Room 6
Mercy West Lakes
Oct. 30, 8 a.m to 1 p.m.
Emergency Department