

## Membership Form

Mercy Auxiliary is a dynamic organization of nearly 500 members (*women and men*) who come from all walks and seasons of life.

In volunteering their time and talents, members work toward a common goal: *to support Mercy Medical Center and participate in delivering The Mercy Touch.\**

I would like to become a member of the Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:           New  Renewal

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10 – Regular Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 – Lifetime Membership

*Auxiliary project area of interest  
(refer to list in brochure):*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**If you have questions,  
please call the Auxiliary Office at 398-6286.**

**Mail this form to:**  
**The Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary**  
**701 10th Street SE • Cedar Rapids, IA 52403**  
*Please do not send cash through the mail.*

*You can help us grow the membership!  
Look through your contacts to see who  
might be interested in joining the auxiliary  
and give them this form to send in.*



## Dates to Remember:

Feb. 6-7                   Midwest Books, 10th St. Lobby

Feb. 19                    Board Meeting

## Sympathy & Prayers

Norma Finerty           Auxilian



If you have a change of address  
or membership status -  
please contact  
Joleen Woods,  
Auxiliary Administrative Assistant  
at (319) 398-6286  
or jjwoods@mercyare.org.



# Mercy Auxiliary Newsletter News to You



February, 2024

## Comment Corner —

### Balance

— Submitted by Chris Hoffman, auxilian



Chris Hoffman

By definition, balance is a situation in which different elements are equal or in correct proportions. When people talk about balance in the scheme of things, they're often referring to the way that things seem to be organized.

It's the start of 2024, the time for resolutions. I really don't believe in resolutions. They're always made with good intentions, but I'm a procrastinator. For people like me, too many other things come up to keep a resolution, or maybe I just put things off!

I do like to pick a word for the year, a goal, something to work towards and a mantra of sorts. During COVID-19, it was "healthy/vaccinate/reconnect." Last year it was "get involved." So, here we are a year later, and my word is "balance." I need some balance in my life; I'm sure I'm not alone in that feeling.

I've volunteered with the auxiliary for about five years now. I help with Mistletoe Market and the Spring Bazaar. I'm on the auxiliary's Mount Mercy scholarship committee. I attend the monthly board meetings. I also volunteer at The Chris & Suzy DeWolf Family Innovation Center for Aging & Dementia, Family Caregivers Center and help at Catherine's Cupboard food pantry. I also work three days a month at Kirkwood. I love all these opportunities. The answer to my balance isn't to cut back.

I'm starting to feel like there aren't enough hours in a day, days in a week, etc. The lesson I'm learning is that retired or not, you have must delegate your time. Balance is something you must work on. It's not a matter of doing too much – it's figuring out what's important and keeping things equal.

The Mercy Auxiliary is going through some changes. Maybe in need of a little balance. We have a small group of consistent volunteers along with Joleen, our administrative assistant, who keeps everything on track. We also have great support from the Mercy Foundation and Volunteer Services.

In a recent newsletter, there was an article talking about a reimagining of the auxiliary. There is a dedicated committee looking at ways to find a new balance. The auxiliary of 100 years, 50 years or even 10 years ago isn't the auxiliary of today but no less important. We need more active members, but we also need to figure out how to make things work with what we have. We need to look at the future of the organization.

During events we have a great response. Mistletoe Market saw many auxiliary members help with the most successful market ever. We also had bake sale donations and raffle ticket purchases by our members. We don't want to compromise any of that success. We do need to find the balance between what works and what doesn't anymore.

Mercy Medical Center has a rich history of service. Starting with the sisters of Mercy who founded the hospital in 1900, the Mercy Auxiliary has been part of that service to others for 101 years. In 2024, we hope to find the balance to update the auxiliary while continuing to support Mercy and our service to our community.

It just so happens that I wrote an article for the February newsletter last year. I closed with this: Your time and your talents are gifts we would love to receive!

Help us find our balance. We hope to reimagine, reinvent and make this Mercy Auxiliary relevant for the next 100 years!

# Balance

## Donna Hobson accepts role as Mercy Auxiliary Treasurer

Submitted by Pat Martin



As a barista, Donna Hobson is a familiar face to Uncommon Grounds patrons. “Good News” tells us that in January Donna will begin training as auxiliary’s treasurer.

The current treasurer, Ginny Ekwall, has admirably held this position for some 10 years, and she will lead the transition to this role with Donna. Donna has a Bachelor of Business Administration in accounting from North Texas State University and began work in accounting in Dallas in 1983. She was a stay-at-home mom for nine years, until her family relocated to Cedar Rapids. After relocating to Cedar Rapids, Donna worked for a private accounting firm for 13 years and moved to the public accounting firm of BGHN Associates in 2011. Donna retired from BGHN in 2022.

She has served as treasurer for Gems of Hope, her P.E.O. Chapter IH and Riverbend Nature Association.

Donna has two adult sons with her first husband, Tom Hobson, who passed away in 2014. Her sons live in London and Nashville. She remarried in 2020 to Dennis Devore, and in 2023, began her barista position.

We are so happy to have you as an integral part of *The Mercy Touch*®, Donna!

## Auxiliary Spring Bazaar coming soon

In like a lion? Out like a lamb? Whatever March chooses to do, and we know how unpredictable she can be, rest assured that one thing is for certain – April will bring the Mercy Auxiliary Spring Bazaar. Put April 18 on your calendar (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) lest you forget that fun is in store!

We’ll of course have our usual local artisan vendors who you’ve come to know and love with maybe even a surprise or two. Kroul Farms, a perennial favorite, will be showcasing their spring flowers and plants as only they can. And, who can forget our raffle with the opportunity to win prizes valued at \$500 or more? While you’re here, don’t forget to visit the Mercy Gift Shops for some beautiful and unique treasures. If you get thirsty at any point, there’s always Uncommon Grounds – Mercy’s premier coffee shop with tasty beverages to “wet your whistle”!

If this annual event doesn’t get you in the mood for spring, we really don’t know what will. Grab your capris and tank tops, or maybe your snow boots and scarves, and come join us for Mercy Auxiliary’s Spring Bazaar.



## There are many ways to say “I love you” ...and Mercy Gift Shop selections say it best.

Cards, plants and flowers, candy, plush huggables, and more are available at the 10th Street Lobby and Hall-Perrine Cancer Center! Hurry in and choose your favorite expressions of love for your favorite people.

Shop at our gift shops! Profits go to Mercy Auxiliary for Mercy’s Foundation.



Scholarship recipient:  
*Emily Armstrong*

Hello, my name is Emily, and I’ve been a Patient Care Technician in the float pool at Mercy for about three years now. I really enjoy interacting with patients and helping to brighten their day while they’re staying in the hospital. I currently attend Mount Mercy in their accelerated RN-BSN program. I plan to graduate in August 2024 and continue to work at Mercy. I hope to float all through the patient tower to gain as much knowledge as I can being a new nurse.

## Uncommon Grounds Needs Volunteers, STAT

Calling all energetic, enthusiastic go-getters: **Join the Uncommon Grounds brew crew!**

If you can **withstand light, physical tasks** and **enjoy learning new things**, serving coffee for a cause is a **perfect, flexible volunteer opportunity**. You’ll meet great people, form new friendships and, because each beverage sold **helps support the mission of Mercy**, you’ll **make a big difference** every day!

Our volunteer application is online at [www.mercycare.org/volunteer](http://www.mercycare.org/volunteer); indicate your interest in Uncommon Grounds. Questions? Call the Mercy Volunteer Office at (319) 398-6035.

