

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:

- May 20 Annual Membership Meeting—
 HPCC Community Rooms
- May 21-22 Midwest Books (10th Street lobby)
- May 29 Reception for Joleen's retirement—
 10th Street lobby

Sympathy & Prayers

Margaret Stirniman Husband
Sandy Shay Auxilian
Mary Chamberlin Husband

Welcome New Auxiliary Members

New Lifetime Member (\$100 fee)
Donna Hobson

New Annual Member (\$10 fee)
Becky Whitman



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



Mercy Auxiliary Newsletter News to You



May, 2024

Comment Corner —

Mercy enhances, evolves care provided to community

— By Molly Newhouse, Vice President, Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer



Molly Newhouse

I was recently offered the privilege of taking on the role of Vice President, Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) at Mercy. I am very excited to accept this role and help continue to evolve Mercy's clinical teams and enhance the care we provide to our community. I have been fortunate enough to be with Mercy since 2005, growing my areas of responsibility during that time from a Staff Nurse, Nurse Manager, Operating Room Nurse Manager, Director of Perioperative Services, Executive Director of Mercy's Surgery Center Operations and Hospital Perioperative Services, and now to the position I am in today. It has been quite a journey to say the least, but a rewarding path that has helped prepare me for executive leadership at a place I call my second home.

I'm very encouraged by our plans to strategically evolve our care for patients as we move forward in today's world of healthcare. We are creating pipelines with our relationships with area schools through programs like Earn + Learn, which exposes students to Mercy through our academic liaison support staff. We've also made great strides in promoting from within by providing pathways for employees to go from a Surgical Tech to RN, and RN to BSN through advancement programs supporting their education. And, while we continue focusing on getting our traveler numbers down, having travelers on our campus also provides us the opportunity to see talent and recruit them to permanent positions – and we have! At Mercy, we have formally developed progressive contract programs to slowly transition travelers who fit our culture into full-time employees. All of these different strategies are taking hold, and we are pleased to be ahead of our goal in reducing the number of travelers. We even expect to far exceed our projections by the end of this fiscal year.

With an infusion of new team members, we have also been intentional about our training and orientation process to ensure that, as we bring people on board, they are comfortable and prepared to deliver care in the ways our community expects from a Mercy experience. As such, we have increased our number of preceptors not only to adequately train those coming in, but also to provide ongoing continuing education more extensively than we have in the past.

There are also a number of initiatives within the inner-workings of patient care that have great potential for Mercy. In particular, I'm focused on developing ways that our inpatient and outpatient teams can collaborate more as patients transition and their level of care changes. The work we're doing in this regard will help provide an overall patient experience that is more seamless with better communication between teams and with patients. We're also looking at how we can better free our nurses to have more time at the bedside doing what they do best. To that end, we're looking closely at our electronic medical record system, Epic, to determine what documentation is necessary and what could potentially be eliminated without sacrificing pertinent information or patient care. It's a new day in nursing, and we must respond accordingly to continue evolving. This includes utilizing new tools, like "virtual nursing." Virtual nursing has great potential – not to replace nurses at your bedside, but rather to support them by working side-by-side. For instance, a virtual nurse might help complete simple intake or discharge documentation, which, in turn, could free an in-person nurse for more hands-on care.

These are just a few examples to provide you some insight into the direction that patient care is moving and how we, at Mercy, are developing initiatives to ensure we stay on the forefront while also continuing to deliver the unique type of care you expect when you walk through our doors. I'm very proud to lead an exceptional team of caregivers who maintain the highest levels of quality, compassion and service that makes *The Mercy Touch* so special. I'm very excited about what the future holds!





Mercy Auxiliary Spring Bazaar: Thank YOU!

Submitted by Joyce Klimes, Spring Bazaar Chair

Thank you for helping to make our Mercy Auxiliary Spring Bazaar a success!

Similar to any fundraising event, the Spring Bazaar is like putting together a puzzle: It takes many pieces to complete the final masterpiece; without just one piece, we can't see the final masterpiece.

SPONSORS: We thank the many businesses and individuals who have generously continued to support our event:

Yellow Tulip Sponsor (\$250-\$499)

Emery Place
The Gardens
Doug & Joyce Henderson
The Keystones of Cedar Rapids
Koppenhaver & Associates, PC
The Little Red Hen
Travel Leaders/Destinations Unlimited

Red Tulip Sponsor (\$500-\$999)

Joy Kuntz
Waln Enterprises

Purple Tulip Sponsor (\$1,000+)

The Views of Cedar Rapids and Marion

VENDORS: What a showcase of the local artisans we have in our community who share their handcrafted handmade items

RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS: A generous community of businesses and individuals donated items for raffle prizes:

Airport National Golf Course
American Red Cross
Barb's Painting
Big Grove Brewery & Taproom
Blind Pig
Bop's Pizza
Carlos O'Kelly's
Cedar Rapids Bowl
Cold Stone Creamery
Dairy Queen
Frontier Garden Center
Kathy's Pies

Mercy's Uncommon Grounds
Mercy Flowers & Gifts
Perkins Restaurant & Bakery
Red Lobster
Sam's Club
Sweetie's Mercantile and Ice Cream Parlor
The Daisy
The Sanctuary Spa
Villa Patio
Zeppelins
Generous Auxiliary members

DONORS: Thanks to the individuals who sent in donations to share their support for this fundraising event.

BEHIND THE SCENES: The individuals who contact vendors, organize all of the written materials and are the liaisons to Mercy staff; design the marketing materials; print the posters and announcements; set up and take down the tables and chairs; and place posters; as well as the Security team that ensures all is safe and sound.

MERCY & STUDENT VOLUNTEERS: The people who help vendors, greet guests, sell raffle tickets and more.

YOU: Yes, YOU! We wouldn't have a complete puzzle without you attending as event guests and without the volunteers whose energetic, friendly and engaging personalities encourage one another in our commitment to Mercy.

We hope you enjoyed this event as a kickoff to spring!



Newly Adopted Mercy Auxiliary Mission Statement

The mission of the Mercy Auxiliary is to support hospital needs and enhance the patient experience at Mercy Medical Center through volunteering and fundraising.

Meet the Slate of 2024-2025 Mercy Auxiliary Officers

Members will vote for the following officers on Monday, May 20, at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Linda Kelly, co-chair: "I hope to guide Mercy Auxiliary as we adjust to changing times, improve our membership, boost our fundraising efforts, and collaborate with Foundation and Volunteer Services."

Molly Yacoub, co-chair: "As I am new to Mercy Auxiliary, I'm excited to learn all about how it operates and the depth of its mission to fundraising and volunteerism for Mercy Medical Center."

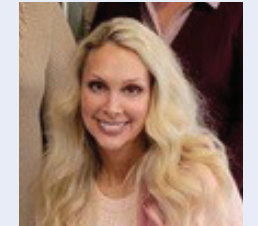
Carol Woods-Boren, secretary: "Aside from my secretarial duties, my goal is to continue to enjoy the company of my fellow auxiliaries as we fundraise to support Mercy Medical Center. The 'boots on the ground' members are the ones to get it done! We are a hard-working, fun group."

Donna Hobson, treasurer: "My goal as co-treasurer is a successful transition to the new Workday software. My goal for Mercy Auxiliary is to grow our net income over last year's."

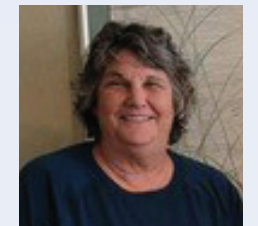
Please join us on the afternoon of Wednesday, May 29 from 12:30 – 2 in the 10th Street lobby to celebrate Joleen's retirement!



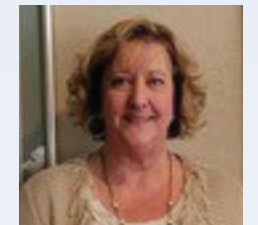
Linda Kelly



Molly Yacoub



Carol Woods-Boren



Donna Hobson

You are urged to attend the Mercy Medical Center Annual Auxiliary Membership Meeting

Monday, May 20, 2024, 10 a.m.
Continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m.

Hall-Perrine Cancer Center Community Room
701 10th St SE
Cedar Rapids, IA

RSVP to: Joleen Woods at (319) 398-6286
or jjwoods@mercy.org by May 13

Meeting Highlights Include:

- Guest Speaker: Jeff Decker, Event Director, *Especially for You Race*
- Donation to Mercy Foundation
- Election of Officers

We hope you will join us for this special annual meeting

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; indicate your interest in Uncommon Grounds. Questions? Call the Mercy Volunteer Office at (319) 398-6035.

