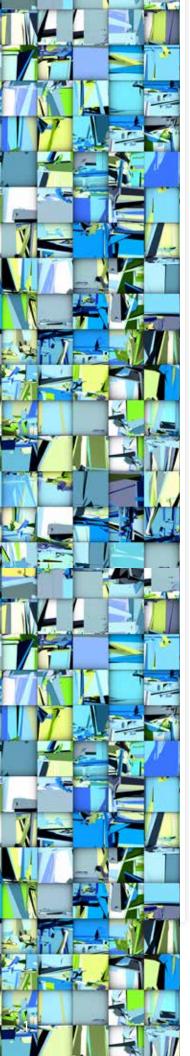


As a Catholic health care organization, our mission at Mercy Medical Center is to continue Christ's healing ministry by providing quality, compassionate, accessible and affordable care for the whole person.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT 2018-2019



We are here for everyone.



For 111 years, Mercy Medical Center has been faithful to the call to continue Christ's healing ministry by providing quality, compassionate, accessible and affordable care for the whole person (body, mind and spirit)—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, economic status or faith tradition—while upholding the philosophies of our founders, the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine.

# EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF GIVING TO A HOSPITAL THAT IS MAKING A DIFFERENCE.

cantonmercy.org/giving 330.430.2750

OVER \$20 MILLION IN COMMUNITY BENEFIT 2018

# What is Community Benefit?

Community benefit is defined as programs or activities that provide treatment or promote health and healing in response to community needs. Community benefit is integral to the mission of a Catholic health care facility such as Mercy Medical Center. Mercy follows the Catholic Health Association (CHA) model for measuring and reporting community benefit. The CHA model includes charity care at cost, unpaid cost of Medicaid (the difference between the cost of Medicaid patients' care and the payment by Medicaid) and community activities and contributions.

The Ohio Hospital Association Community Benefit Report follows the same guidelines. This total does not include "bad debt," although most of Mercy's and many other hospitals' bad debt results from the unfortunate situation faced by uninsured or underinsured patients who cannot afford to pay their hospital bills but do not qualify for Medicare, Medicaid or charity care.





# "We are Mercy. We're Here for Everyone."

Sister Carolyn Capuano, HM, shares what it means to be a Catholic hospital; how the mission, values, and Catholic identity of the hospital and health care system are diligently followed and preserved; and ways that collaboration has enabled Mercy to expand its healing presence in the community.

"People have a sense of security that they can turn to us in times of need and we do our best to be there for them. We are Mercy.
We're here for everyone."

While much about health care has changed and evolved, Mercy Medical Center, part of the Sisters of Charity Health System, continues to uphold Christ's healing ministry in its mission to provide quality, compassionate, accessible and affordable care for the whole person. As a member of Mercy's executive team, Sister Carolyn Capuano, HM, vice president of mission and ministry services, is responsible for pastoral care, ethics, mission outreach, immigrant health outreach, and international outreach.



She says an inclusive, welcoming presence is the hallmark of Mercy's Catholic health care legacy. "People have a sense of security that they can turn to us in times of need and we do our best to be there for them," says Sister Carolyn. "We are Mercy. We're here for everyone."

# 'THE CHALLENGE AND BEAUTY' OF LIVING MERCY'S CATHOLIC IDENTITY

Sister Carolyn meets with all new employees at orientation to discuss how Catholic health care was developed and to stress the importance of not only knowing, but living Mercy's mission. "To work here, employees must agree to follow the example of Jesus," she says, adding that this includes non-Christians and people who don't identify with a religion. "Even those who aren't Christian can look at Jesus as a historical figure who was inclusive, welcoming, healing and was a teacher. There are many examples of Jesus doing these things, and we ask people who are part of our Mercy family to live this."

In accordance with its values and mission, Mercy doesn't turn anyone away who comes to the hospital for medically necessary reasons. "That's the challenge and beauty of it," Sister Carolyn says. "We work to ensure that we have the resources to help those who are unable to pay. Our financial counselors and development foundation are skilled at finding grants and other financial resources."

She says it's a common misconception that Catholic hospitals only serve the

poor, and is quick to point out that Mercy accepts all insurances and "our standards are second to none."

# REACHING BEYOND CLINICAL TO HUMANITY

"I tell new employees that hospitals are places that hold every human emotion possible," Sister Carolyn says. "You never know what someone is coming in with, so be prepared to welcome everyone."

That means making sure that Mercy remains true to the standards of Catholic health care, and not focusing on just the financial bottom line. "A lot of creative thinking is required, and our people rise to the occasion. They know the right thing to do, and find ways to make it work," she says.

She recalls an employee coming to her for advice about a homeless man being treated at Mercy. "There was concern that he couldn't go back on streets. They had found a family member to take him in but that person's family was also poor. Working together, we helped the family get food assistance so they could welcome the man into their home without it being a financial burden."

Sister Carolyn says that the "extra expression of care" is evident daily throughout Mercy, going beyond what is expected, not only for patients, families, and visitors, but also for employees.

Sister Carolyn oversees the Spirit of Mercy Fund which provides grants to employees who are in financial need due to crisis such as illness, family illness, a contentious divorce or a disaster. The fund was started by the



"It's beautiful to see employees help each other. We call ourselves the

Mercy Family and we do step up for each other as well as for the community at large."

Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine and is sustained by employee contributions. "It's beautiful to see employees help each other," Sister Carolyn says. "We call ourselves the Mercy Family and we do step up for each other as well as for the community at large."

# RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY

In keeping with the Catholic church's "preferential option to the poor" (prioritizing care for the most vulnerable members of our society), Mercy actively works toward health equity to ensure that all people have full and equal access to opportunities that enable them to lead healthy lives.

She says, "We go the extra steps to make sure the poor and uninsured and underserved get the care they need. And that means more than providing the financial backing."



Working with the Diocese, the City of Canton and community foundations, Mercy helped bring primary and dental care to 18,000 people who lived in a northeast quadrant of the city with not a single doctor or dentist. The grounds of St. Paul Church in northeast Canton became the new home to Mercy Primary Care at St. Paul Square. The facility, opened in 2012, offers family medicine, dental care, and behavioral health services, as well as health



"We go the extra steps to make sure the poor and uninsured and

UNDERSERVED GET THE CARE THEY
NEED. AND THAT MEANS MORE
THAN PROVIDING THE FINANCIAL
BACKING."

education and other programs. Mercy is currently working on a similar project to bring primary and dental care to southeast Canton.

# DEEP-ROOTED PRINCIPLES ENSURE THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC HEALTH CARE

Despite the declining number of women religious, Sister Carolyn is encouraged about the future of Catholic health care, where 1 in 6 U.S. patients receive care in a Catholic hospital. She sees the role of sisters in Catholic health care today as ensuring that hospitals remain true to the founders' principles and that the Catholic identity remains intact.

She says, "We must make sure that the values of women religious are planted deeply, and that the traditions will continue as lay leaders take over. We have always worked with others so this is an expansion of that."



# Mercy Outreach

# White Coat Seminar Introduces Canton City Students to Medical Careers



Mercy Mission Outreach held its fourth
White Coat Seminar program in 2018 with
a special tour for 21 students in grades
7 and 8 who attend Canton City School
District's STEAMM Academy at Hartford
Middle School. Prior to the tour, Mercy
professionals from several departments
visited Hartford to explain to students
how their jobs relate to subjects like math
science, and more, providing hands-on
activities and demonstrations. During the
seminar, students had the opportunity
to see in action the careers they learned
about in the classroom.

Partially funded through a grant from AHEC (Northeast Ohio Area Health Education Center), the program is a partnership between the medical center and the school. To participate, students must have at least a 3.5 GPA, as well as an interest in a health care career.

# Food, Fun & Fitness Event Encouraged More Exercise

In recognition of National Minority Health Month this past April, Mercy hosted Food, Fun & Fitness, a healthy living event for area families. The focus of the event was to help people learn how to reduce risks of cardiovascular disease and diabetes through exercise.

# Mercy Continues Well Women Summit for Students

Each year, Mercy Mission Outreach holds its Well Women Summit for young women from the Canton City School District. In 2019, pain management physician Jamesetta Lewis, D.O., spoke about

the effects of stress on the body while representatives from Phoenix Rising & area



school counselors shared about stress management. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and received a free, healthy lunch and giveaways.



# Mercy Mission Outreach Holds Mommy Empowerment Luncheon

In March, Mercy Mission Outreach hosted its Mommy Empowerment Luncheon: Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies at Mercy Medical Center at St. Paul Square. The event empowered women to live their healthiest lives before, during, and after pregnancy, and included lunch, gifts, door prizes, and a special presentation by Melinda Smith, M.D., board-certified obstetrician/gynecologist.

The Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies luncheon is just one of many programs Mercy offers to meet the needs of the community. This Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies event was supported by a grant from the Sisters of the Humility of Mary.

# Hospital Holds Free Health Fairs at Its Area Health Centers

In 2019, Mercy began a series of monthly health fairs at its health centers throughout Stark, Carroll, and Tuscarawas counties. Free and open to the community, these health fairs feature blood pressure checks, body mass index (BMI) screenings, pulmonary function testing (PFT), and strength and/or balance screenings. These health fairs are in addition to many other free and low-cost screenings offered each year.

In addition, Mercy nurses and other health care providers regularly give of their time and training at many other community events, serving those who attend and embodying the hospital's long-standing mission.

# Bee Healthy Day Camp Teaches Area Children About Healthy Living

Each summer, campers ages eight to 10 attend Mercy's annual Bee Healthy Day Camp, funded by a grant from the Sisters of the Humility of Mary and held at Mercy at St. Paul Square. Campers enjoy hands-on snack-making demonstrations, a visit to the StarkFresh Urban Teaching Farm near St. Paul Square, a talk on nutrition, a daily hot lunch, outdoor activities, and guest appearances by Mercy Pet Patrol teams and Stark Park critters.



# Mercy Highlights

# Mercy Supports Area Community Events and Organizations

As a major employer in this area,
Mercy Medical Center has a
responsibility to those in need,
both within the walls of the
hospital and in our community.
We are committed to improving
the health of those we serve and
actively participate in community
health initiatives including:

- American Cancer Society Relay for Life
- Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival Balloon Classic
- American Heart Association Heart Walk and Hands Only CPR Sponsor
- ArtsinStark
- United Way of Greater Stark County
- Mercy Medical Center Classic (Proceeds benefit Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Program)
- Canton Rotary
- Massillon Rotary
- Beacon Charitable Pharmacy
- Area Chambers of Commerce
- Women's Impact Inc.

# Mercy is Area's First to Offer 'Grow With Us' Program

Mercy was proud to partner this past spring with Stark State College to provide qualified Mercy employees with a new opportunity to pursue careers in health care. Through the new "Grow With Us" program, Mercy employees will receive full paid tuition at Stark State College for targeted health care careers, including respiratory care, Medical assisting, phlebotomy technician, EMT, nursing, and more.

# Mercy Honors Three Physicians for Service to Patients, Community

As part of its 2019 Society of St. Luke Induction Ceremony, Mercy honored physicians Frank J. Kaeberlein, MD, FACEP, Margaret F. Kobe, MD, FAAP, and Russell L. Ramey, MD, FACS, for outstanding service to patients, the hospital and the community.

The Society is named after St. Luke, author of the Bible's third gospel and a physician often known as the "patron saint of physicians." In his gospel, St. Luke emphasized Jesus' concern for all people, especially the poor and neglected. Mercy recognizes this compassionate spirit of medicine through the Society of St. Luke.

# Code Honor Commemorates Gift of Life

The walk an organ donor family takes from the intensive care unit (ICU) to the operating room (OR) has been called the "loneliest walk" by families. It is the final walk that they will take as a family as the patient is moved from their room to the OR to become an organ donor.

At Mercy Medical Center, we are committed to doing as much as we can to help families feel supported in knowing that their loved one's heroic last act will leave a lifesaving legacy. Code Honor is an opportunity for hospital staff to acknowledge and honor the gift of life that is being offered.

When a Code Honor is called via the hospital's public address system, available staff members are invited to come and silently line the hallway from the patient's room to the OR. All phones and pagers are silenced for this powerful act of community.

2019 Society of St. Luke distinguished physician honorees: Frank J. Kaeberlein, MD, Margaret F. Kobe, MD, and Russell L. Ramey, MD.



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# **MERCY SERVICE LEAGUE**

When you visit Mercy Medical Center, you will likely encounter something that has been touched by the generosity of the Mercy Service League. Since 1975, Service League volunteers have dedicated their hearts and hands to impact areas throughout the hospital and make a difference in the community.

Mercy Service League celebrated a successful 2018–2019 fundraising year, raising and donating over \$515,000 to the hospital. Benefiting Mercy Women's Cancer Services, patient safety (Xenex robots), and Mercy Maternity Services. Events included Harvest Ball, Celebrity Bartender Night, Souper Bowl, Harvest Treasures, and Wine Women & Shoes.

The group continues to grow and add new members during the year. To learn more about Mercy Service League, visit cantonmercy.org/service-league.

# **Harvest Ball**



Approximately 400 quests attended Mercy Service League's 2018 Harvest Ball, which raised over \$280,000. Mercy Medical Staff Physician Dr. Alfred and Tina Martello and Edward and Louise Mahoney served as honorary co-chairs, and Barbara Frustaci and Linda Ganser served as Mercy Service League co-chairs. Proceeds benefitted the purchase of two Xenex LightStrike™ Germ-Zapping Robots™ to reduce hospital infections, making Mercy an even safer hospital for its patients. Mercy was the first health care facility in Stark County to implement these robots, which destroy even the most dangerous pathogens. Studies show the robots can reduce infection rates by more than 70 percent.

## Wine Women & Shoes

More than 300 area women attended
Mercy Service League's 2019
Wine Women & Shoes fundraising
event, which raised more than
\$300,000 for Women's Cancer Services
at Mercy Medical Center. Of that amount,
the Sole Men contributed \$50,000.



Our deepest thanks to Mercy Service
League co-chairs Audra Milbrandt and
Daphne Thomson and their energetic
group of volunteers, and major sponsors Signet, The Hoover Foundation,
Dr. Farouq Ahmed, Fred F. Silk Foundation,
Interim Healthcare, Dr. Dina Rooney,
and the William C. Meier Foundation.





# 2019-2020 Officers

Mercy Service League installed its 2019–2020 officers at their annual banquet held last May. Pictured (left to right): Tina Linz, assistant treasurer; Erin Shea, treasurer; Daphne Thomson, corresponding secretary; Sally Hoce, recording secretary; Gail Moore, president; and Audra Milbrandt, vice president.



# Souper Bowl

More than 200 attended Mercy Service
League's 6th annual Souper Bowl this past
January. All proceeds benefitted Mercy's
Safe Sleep Initiative, which will help
provide a Halo Sleep Sack for every baby
born at Mercy.



# Area Baseball Coaches, Players Host Jon Harold NICU Classic for Mercy, Akron Children's

Stark, Portage and Summit county high school baseball coaches and players came together last spring to present checks of \$2,880 each to Mercy's Neonatal Special Care Nursery and Akron Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The donations were proceeds from the Jon Harold NICU Classic, a fundraiser started in 2017 by then—Lake High School senior baseball player Jon Harold.

Harold was born three months premature and spent nearly two months in Mercy's Neonatal Special Care Nursery. He had heard the stories about his start in life and the care he received at Mercy, so when it came time to create his National Honor Society community service project, he started the NICU Classic.

Lake High School baseball coach
Joe Anderson's daughter spent six days
in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
at Akron Children's Hospital. He has
helped lead the charge to continue the
fundraiser, which was renamed the
Jon Harold NICU Classic, and this year
included 18 baseball teams. Participating
teams collected donations at games and
raised money through T-shirt sales.



Eighteen high school baseball teams participated in the Jon Harold NICU Classic, an annual fundraiser for Mercy's Neonatal Special Care Nursery and Akron Children's Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

# **Charity Clays**

Mercy Development Foundation hosted its 4th Annual Mercy Charity Clays event at Hill 'N Dale Club in Medina. 2019 sponsors included PNC Bank, Ohio Anesthesia Group, Spectrum Orthopaedics and Comprehensive Pharmacy Services. Experienced and novice shooters enjoyed clay pigeon shooting, great food, and fellowship. Team and individual awards were distributed.

# Annual Golf Outing Supports Mercy International Mission Outreach

This past August, 144 golfers turned out for Mercy Development Foundation's FORE Mercy's Sake Golf Outing at Skyland Pines Golf Course. The event benefits Mercy International Mission Outreach, as well as the hospital's greatest need.



Each year, Mercy International Mission
Outreach coordinates donations of supplies,
medications and recycled instruments and
equipment to send with medical mission
trips that include Mercy physicians and
staff that serve the poor and underserved
in areas around the world. In April, the
Mercy International Mission Outreach Team
completed its annual medical mission trip
to the Dominican Republic. Physicians and
nurses provided 45 surgeries and served
more than 500 patients at two clinic
locations. The team also completed two
home visits for the first time.

# **Founders Day Achievement Award**

On 2018 Founders Day, Mercy Development Foundation's annual donor recognition event, the foundation awarded Jack Liberator its highest honor—the St. Augustine Award for Distinguished Service. This annual award recognizes individuals whose leadership and vision has impacted and helped transform Mercy Medical Center.

A native of Canton Township (Canton South), Liberator developed Ohio's EMS training protocol—the first statewide training program in the country. He was also a charter board member of Mercy Development Foundation and served Mercy Medical Center as a member of its administrative staff for 16 years. During that time, Liberator assisted in the opening of Mercy's state-of-the-art dental clinic and general practice residency program that was structured as a dental safety net program serving the general population, underinsured and underserved in the Stark County area.



Mercy Development Foundation Board Member Thomas Paumier, DDS (right), worked closely with Jack Liberator (left) on the dental clinic project.

# 2018 PHILANTHROPIC & GOVERNMENT GRANTS

# 15 GRANT AWARDS FOR \$1.120.809.52

GENEROUS GRANT SUPPORT FROM LOCAL AND REGIONAL PHILANTHROPIC FOUNDATIONS, AS WELL AS GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCES, PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FOR THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT SUPPORT THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF MERCY MEDICAL CENTER. GRANT AWARDS HONOR THE HARD WORK AND SUPPORT OF OUR COMMUNITY AND THE UNWAVERING COMMITMENT WE PLACE ON BEING ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL.

**Ohio Department of** 

**Operational Support** 

**Dental Wellness Bags** 

for Screenings

**Sisters of Charity** 

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Mission Outreach

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of Mary

Immigrant Health Outreach

Pastoral Care Focused Grant

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**Transportation - SARTA** 

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**Breast Cancer Screenings** 

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## **Doris and Floyd Kimble Foundation**

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## **Gessner Family Foundation**

Mercy Health Center and STATCARE - Massillon

## **Ohio Commission on Minority Health**

Minority Health Month 2019-Addressing Diabetes and Cardiac Disease with Exercise

## **Ohio Department of Health**

WIC Program - Carrollton **Dental Safety Net Program** 

11

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# Massillon Health Center Donors

Mr. Mel Herncane and Ms. Ann Brechbuhler Mr. and Mrs. Ted Herncane

# **Heart Hospital Initiates Cardiac Health Series**

in Massillon This past August, the Heart Hospital at Mercy began a grant-funded cardiac health outreach program

in Massillon. Members of the Mercy Cardiovascular Institute speak on a heart health-related topic once a month at the Mercy Health Center of Massillon, and guests receive a voucher for free lab screenings and can sign up for a free heart screening program.

Ann D. Black Charitable Trust George Lee Miller Memorial Trust Account Stark County Dental Society

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Mercy Medical Center was the only hospital in Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Carroll counties to receive a 4-Star rating from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Learn more at medicare.gov/hospitalcompare.



Mercy Medical Center was awarded an 'A' from The Leapfrog Group's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grade. The designation recognizes Mercy Medical Center's efforts in protecting patients from harm and meeting the highest safety standards in the United States. The Leapfrog Group is a national organization committed to improving health care quality and safety for consumers and purchasers.

Mercy Medical Center Is Leading Ohio Hospital in Statewide Initiative to Reduce Sepsis Mortality. Sepsis is currently the third leading cause of death in the United States. At Mercy, the rapid identification and treatment of sepsis is helping us save lives and become a leading Ohio hospital in a statewide initiative to reduce sepsis mortality.



year reaccreditation from the American Board for Certification in Orthotics. Prosthetics & Pedorthics (ABC).

Mercy Medical Center received the 2017 Healthy Worksite SILVER Level Award from the Healthy Business Council of Ohio for demonstrating a commitment to the health and wellbeing of its employees.

Mercy Cancer Center was accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer with a full threeyear accreditation with commendation. Among bronze, silver and gold levels Mercy Medical Center received of commendation, Mercy received the most significant standards.

Mercy Outpatient Diabetes The award recognizes the hospital's Education program was awarded continued recognition from the American Diabetes Association (ADA). Programs that achieve this status have a staff of knowledgeable health professionals who can provide the latest information

Mercy Boutique received its three- Mercy Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine was accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

> Mercy Cancer Center was presented with the 2017 Outstanding Achievement Award by the Commission on Cancer (CoC) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). Mercy Medical Center is one of a select group of only 32 U.S. health care facilities with accredited cancer programs to receive this national honor for surveys performed last year.

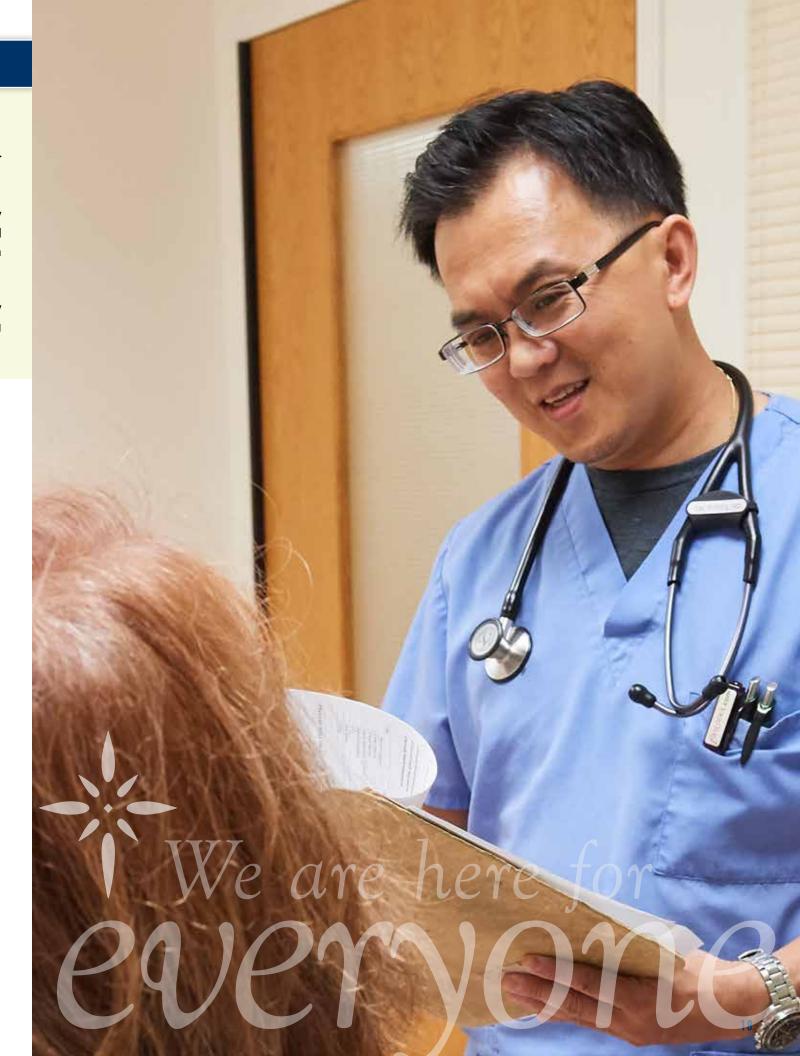
the American Heart Association/ highest gold status on all seven of the American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.

about diabetes management for patients. Mercy Heart Center received the American College of Cardiology's NCDR **ACTION Registry Platinum Performance** Achievement Award for 2018. Mercy is one of only 203 hospitals nationwide to receive the honor.

Mercy Medical Center received the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Heart Failure Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring heart failure patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines founded in the latest scientific evidence.

The Trauma Center at Mercy Medical Center Emergency Services was again verified as a Level II Trauma Center by the Verification Review Committee (VRC), an ad hoc committee of the Committee on Trauma (COT) of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This achievement recognizes Mercy's dedication to providing optimal care for injured patients.

For the 10th consecutive year, Mercy Medical Center was again awarded the U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR certification—one of only three hospitals in the U.S., and the only one in Ohio, to earn this designation.





Thank you for your support.

