

# Giving News

June/July 2009

## Friends for Life Honored

John and Susy Vette were the guests of honor at Mercy Health Foundation's annual Friends for Life donor appreciation event held June 2 at the Oshkosh Country Club. Vicki Schorse, Foundation executive Director, described the Vettes as, "informed, articulate supporters and, at times, appropriate critics. They are effective advocates for health care innovation, care for the poor and philanthropy. John and Susy lead by example with their volunteerism, personal and corporate financial support."



The Friends for Life event celebrates all Foundation donors, but is also the venue for recognizing Health Care Heroes—donors who made a major gift of \$10,000 or more during the previous year. The 2009 honorees were:

Issam Al-Bitar, MD	David and Sue Leach
Mercy Medical Center Auxiliary	Herman Schultz
Donna Zmolek	Estate of Betty Rasmussen

Additionally, two couples—John and Nancy Piencikowski (posthumously) and Thomas Feavel and Margaret Bekkers--were inducted as Signature Society members. Signature Society status is given to donors who sign a non-binding statement of intent to include Mercy Health Foundation in their estate plan.

## Remembering a Friend: Nancy Piencikowski

There is a Native American proverb that says, "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced. Live your life so that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice." Nancy Piencikowski, a 43-year nurse at Mercy Medical Center, lived this way. She will be remembered for many professional accomplishments, but most importantly, her genuine concern and compassion for others.



Over the past year Nancy and husband, John, finalized their charitable estate plans; creating the *Nancy Piencikowski Endowment for Enterostomal Therapy Excellence* through Nancy's Will. When Nancy died, John requested that the fund be initiated early with memorial contributions. He knew she would be pleased and honored with the expressions of love and respect that this represents.

Proceeds from the endowment fund will provide resources for certification training and continuing education support for Mercy nurses with enterostomal nursing responsibilities.

*To laugh a bit  
and joke a bit  
And grasp a  
friendly hand;  
To love a bit  
and scold a bit  
And know  
they'll understand;  
To tell one's secrets,  
hopes and fears  
And share a  
friendly smile;  
To have a friend  
and be a friend  
Is what makes  
life worthwhile.  
unknown*

*"A faithful friend is the  
medicine of life."  
Apocrypha*



*Phyllis Leach Excellence in Nursing Award winner Vicki Beck, RN, BSN with Dan Neufelder, Bill Calhoun and Ginger Selle.*

## Nurses Week Celebrated

Three outstanding nurses were honored with service excellence awards sponsored by Mercy Health Foundation at the 2009 National Nurse's Week celebration held at Mercy Medical Center on May 5. These three individuals were nominated by their peers and selected by a committee of nurses.

**Vicki Beck, RN, BSN**, was the recipient of the *Phyllis Leach Excellence in Nursing Award* made possible by the David C. Leach Endowment for Continuing Education of Nurses. Vicki is a charge nurse in Mercy's Outpatient Procedure Area and is also a Pain Resource Nurse. She was recognized for her leadership and excellent critical thinking skills.



*Dolores A. Wassmann Nurse Mentor Award winner Kelly Calkins, RN, with Dan Neufelder, Bill Calhoun and Ginger Selle.*

**Kelly Calkins, RN**, a staff nurse in the ICU at Mercy, received the *Dolores A. Wassmann Nurse Mentor Award* for her work as a nursing student preceptor, outstanding teamwork and excellence in clinical practice. The Dolores A. Wassmann Memorial Endowment Fund makes this award possible.

**Susan Reque, RN**, winner of the *Affinity Medical Group (AMG) Southern Region Excellence in Nursing Award*, has been with Mercy and AMG for over 30 years, most of them spent caring for neurology patients. She is currently with the neurology practice at Mercy Oakwood where she is an invaluable source of knowledge for patients and staff. The AMG Southern Region Award is made possible by a grant from Mercy Health Foundation



*Affinity Southern Region Excellence in Nursing Award winner Susan Reque, RN, with AMG manager Katherine O'Krug.*

Each winner received a continuing education scholarship that will allow her to attend a professional seminar or conference of her choice during the next year.

## New Grants from Mercy Health Foundation

The Boys & Girls Club of Oshkosh now has the safety net of an AED defibrillator in its gym, thanks to a grant recently approved by the Mercy Health Foundation Board of Trustees. The grant of \$2,058 covered the cost of an AED defibrillator and needed accessories, including pediatric pads. Although the Boys & Girls Club serves children, its gym is also frequently used by adult organizations from the community, making the defibrillator a valuable addition. Affinity Health System will provide initial training for staff as an in-kind service.

A \$1,450 grant to the Spiritual Services Department at Mercy Medical Center will provide funds to purchase a stone memorial bench for Riverside Cemetery, Oshkosh, to mark the burial site of the cremated remains of pregnancy loss from patients at Mercy Medical Center. As part of the Pathway to Peace program, Spiritual Services conducts a memorial service twice a year at the gravesite for grieving individuals and families who have experienced pregnancy loss.

## Tribute Gifts

### In Honor of:

**Dr. Elizabeth**

**Kimbrough**

**Dr. Jennifer Norden**

**Wayne Trembly**

### In Memory of:

**Nancy Piencikowski**

**Andrea Werzinske**

**Richard O. Esser**