



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: June 28, 2018

Contact: Anne G. Hagney  
Public Relations Specialist  
(815) 971-4144

### **Mercyhealth Women's Center to Receive Funds for Mammography Program**

*\$6,750 donation will help patients fighting cancer*

ROCKFORD, Illinois - The Mercyhealth Development Foundation is excited to announce that a significant gift is being made to the Mercyhealth Women's Center mammography program. The Rockford Register Star Victory Lap Committee will be presenting a \$6,750 donation to Mercyhealth's mammography program at a ceremony and news conference on **Friday, June 29, at 3 pm at the Women's Center, 7180 Spring Brook Rd., Rockford.**

The Victory Lap Committee donation comes from monies raised through its 2017 events aimed at raising awareness and funds to help those facing cancer. Events include the Victory Lap Brunch following the annual *Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk* in October, moonlight bowling, and a motorcycle ride. Since the Victory Lap Committee was established in 2006, it has donated nearly \$140,000 to various groups within the community.

Longtime Victory Lap Committee Member Judy Emerson founded the charitable initiative while celebrating her 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a breast cancer survivor. Emerson said Victory Lap started as a small brunch event with about 100 people and has grown in attendance to attract as many as 750 in recent years.

"This was something I wanted to do as a survivor," said Emerson. "Half of our committee is made up of cancer survivors and we've always donated our money for people fighting any type of cancer."

Emerson said the criteria for distributing the funds include keeping it local so it helps those close to home. In 2007, the Rockford Register Star took ownership of the event.

"We've always selected recipients who are using the funds for direct patient services, whether screening, mammography, follow-up care or comfort items," said Emerson.

Jennifer Johns, Director of the Mercyhealth Development Foundation, expressed her gratitude for this important gift.

"We are delighted to have been named the recipient of this great community-wide effort," said Johns. "Our Women's Center will use these funds to support exceptional care to women in this region."

The Mercyhealth Women's Centers in Illinois and Wisconsin offers women the latest technology, including 3D and digital mammography, breast ultrasound, stereotactic biopsy, genetic testing, urogynecological services, and osteoporosis testing, in a patient-centered setting.

-END-