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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Mercy Auxiliary to host Bloomin' Brunch celebration highlighting cancer survivorship support

**CEDAR RAPIDS, IA (May 7, 2026)** – The Mercy Auxiliary will host its annual Bloomin' Brunch celebration on Tues., May 19 at Hallagan Education Center at Mercy Medical Center, celebrating the Auxiliary's ongoing service and support of Mercy and unveiling the projects it has funded in 2026.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m., with brunch following. The event will include a fundraising reveal and announcement of 2026 funded projects, followed by a featured program from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m.

This year's program, "Thriving After Cancer – Closing the Gap," will focus on cancer survivorship and the importance of coordinated, patient-centered care beyond treatment. Presenters include Traci Ridgway, ARNP, survivorship coordinator, and Alissa McEowen, director of oncology clinic operations at Mercy's Hall-Perrine Cancer Center.

**RSVP by May 12** to Gretchen Paricka at (319) 398-6286 or [gparicka@mercyare.org](mailto:gparicka@mercyare.org).

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#### About Mercy

*Mercy Cedar Rapids is a Catholic healthcare system serving patients and families in eastern Iowa. In addition to Mercy Medical Center (its fully accredited, 424-licensed-bed hospital in downtown Cedar*

*Rapids, Iowa), the system also has an established network of specialty clinics, and MercyCare primary and urgent care clinics located throughout Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities. PINC AI™ and Fortune have named Mercy Medical Center among the nation's 100 Top Hospitals multiple times in the last 20 years based on clinical, operational, financial and patient satisfaction data. Founded in 1900 by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy remains dedicated to its mission of caring for the sick and enhancing the health of the communities it serves. For more information, visit [www.mercycare.org](http://www.mercycare.org), or follow Mercy on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, TikTok or YouTube.*