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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Mercy announces Chad W. Towner as next president & CEO

*Healthcare leader brings 30 years of experience
and a strong background in mission-driven healthcare*

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA (Oct. 2, 2026) – Mercy has selected Chad W. Towner as its next president & CEO following a thorough national search. Towner will join Mercy on October 19, 2026, succeeding interim president & CEO Greg DeWolf.

Towner brings 30 years of healthcare experience, including nearly two decades in senior executive leadership across Catholic nonprofit and community health systems. His background includes hospital operations, quality improvement, physician alignment, strategic growth, organizational development and community engagement.

He began his career as a physical therapist at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1996. Over the following 20 years, he advanced through several leadership roles, including Chief Operating Officer of St. Joseph Hospital and CEO of Dupont Hospital, both in Fort Wayne. In 2016, he became President and CEO of Saint Joseph Health System and Indiana Market President within Trinity Health. There, he led a Catholic nonprofit regional healthcare ministry encompassing two hospitals, a physician network and a broad continuum of healthcare services. Most recently, he served as CEO of Lutheran Kosciusko Hospital in Warsaw, Indiana.

“Mercy is an extraordinary organization with a remarkable history, and I am deeply honored by the trust its Board has placed in me,” Towner said. “What drew me to Mercy was its Catholic mission, its commitment to compassionate, high-quality care and the unmistakable pride of the

people I met throughout the interview process. I look forward to listening, building relationships and working alongside Mercy's physicians, employees, volunteers and community partners. My responsibility is to honor the foundation that makes Mercy distinctive while helping the organization grow even stronger clinically, financially, culturally and strategically for the generations that follow."

Mercy's Board of Trustees expressed its appreciation to those who participated in the search process and shared their perspectives and expertise. The Board also thanked Greg DeWolf for his steady, thoughtful leadership as interim president & CEO and for his commitment to the important role he will continue to have at Mercy.

"We're excited to welcome Chad to Mercy," said Nancy Kasperek, president of Mercy's Board of Trustees. "His experience, leadership approach and appreciation for mission-driven healthcare aligns well with Mercy's commitment to our patients, our employees and our communities. We look forward to the next chapter of Mercy's journey together."

Towner and his wife, Tonya, are excited to relocate to Cedar Rapids and become part of the Mercy family. Together, they have six adult children, one grandson and two miniature Goldendoodles.

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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, or follow Mercy on Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, TikTok or YouTube.