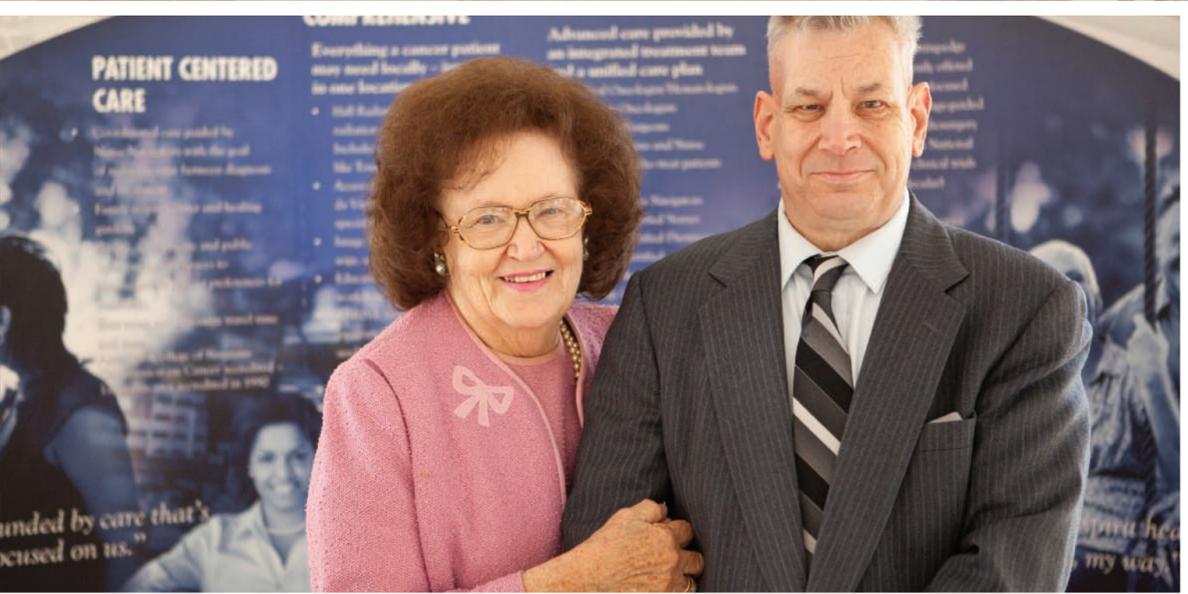




REBECCA JACOBS, SENIOR DIRECTOR OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES AND A CANCER SURVIVOR, OPENED THE GROUNDBREAKING EVENT BY RINGING THE BELL FROM HALL RADIATION CENTER.

# Living proof



TIM CHARLES, PRESIDENT & CEO, ASKED JOHN BELDING TO STAND UP AND BE RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE FIRST PATIENTS TO RECEIVE RADIATION AT HALL RADIATION CENTER.

## John Belding is proof that cancer does not have to win.

Now 59, John is a 57-year cancer survivor. At age 2, he was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. His mother, Pauline, was told the treatment available then could not save him.

Together the Beldings, armed with leading-edge cancer treatment from Mercy's Hall Radiation Center, proved medical predictions wrong.

MERCY'S SHARED LEGACY WITH THE HALL AND FERRINE FAMILIES IN PROVIDING THE BEST POSSIBLE CANCER CARE IN OUR COMMUNITY BEGAN IN 1956, WHEN MERCY BECAME THE FIRST TREATMENT CENTER WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI TO OFFER COBALT-BEAM RADIATION TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY, DUE TO THE GENEROSITY OF HOWARD HALL.

As an experienced RN, Pauline devoted herself to giving her son every possible chance to overcome the 110-degree fevers and comas. Royce and Pauline Belding packed their son in ice and kept him on oxygen and IVs, providing as much medical support for him at home as they could. "The scariest thing in my life was putting in a feeding tube," Pauline recalls.

John

'Bacon.'" The Mercy nuns scrambled to make him some, and John's recovery was under way. He thrived in school and played three musical instruments. Today, he helps run his family's business, Belding Furniture Restoration. "He's done really, really well," Pauline notes with pride.

Mercy's leadership in bringing cancer technology to Cedar Rapids was critical to John's care and recovery, she adds.



SR. SUSAN O'CONNOR, VICE PRESIDENT OF MISSION INTEGRATION, LED EVERYONE IN A PRAYER AND FACILITATED THE BLESSING OF SPECIAL MEDALS BY ALL THE SISTERS OF MERCY IN ATTENDANCE.

persevered through seven brain surgeries over three years to ease fluid build-up around his brain, and another two years of X-ray therapy, a precursor to cobalt treatment. John was in and out of comas for months; the tumor kept growing. "He was so bad, they expected him to die day-to-day," Pauline says.

Fortunately, Mercy's Hall Radiation Center was built in 1956, the first community hospital-based cobalt unit west of the Mississippi River. And John Belding was the first child patient to undergo radiation there. He lost his hair. Two weeks after his first treatment, says Pauline, "he woke up at 2:30 a.m. and said one word:

"We know that Mercy's cobalt unit saved his life," Pauline says, and having that care so close to home, with first-rate expertise, meant a great deal.

Today, John attends opening ceremonies, like the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center groundbreaking event, celebrating expansions and new developments of Mercy's cancer care facilities. He and Pauline feel like part of the Mercy family, both say.

"I've been cleared of any cancer since 1964," John points out. "I do believe it was a miracle that the radiation center was built at that time because I was terminal. If I hadn't had that cobalt treatment, I wouldn't be here."



THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2011 WAS A SPECIAL DAY IN MERCY'S HISTORY AS THE OFFICIAL GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY WAS HELD FOR THE HALL-PERRINE CANCER CENTER.

# Navigating cancer care

Mercy's Nurse Navigators help cancer patients and their families steer through the journey of cancer treatment – from diagnosis to treatment and follow-up care.

In the past, Mercy has utilized Breast Health Specialists to provide guidance and assistance to breast cancer patients. The newly designated Nurse Navigators have an expanded role that includes all cancers, just one example of ongoing cancer program improvements and enhancements as Mercy prepares for the opening of the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center next year.

Nurse Navigators coordinate care and reduce the amount of time between a diagnosis and the beginning of treatment. Key members of Mercy's multi-disciplinary cancer care team, nurse navigators provide the best and most integrated care by streamlining appointments, assisting with paperwork, providing education and emotional support, and directing

patients to a wide variety of resources and support services within the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center and throughout the community. Mercy's Nurse Navigators are able to tap into community resources provided through American Cancer Society's Patient Navigators.

Two veteran Mercy nurses (and winners of 100 Great Iowa Nurse awards) are the first to assume the role of Nurse Navigator. One is Kris Sargent, RN, OCN, who has worked in the oncology field for more than 25 years and was the 2008 recipient of the annual Lane Adams Quality of Life Award from the American Cancer Society.

Sallie Buelow, RN, BSN, CBCN, was certified as a breast health specialist in 2001 and worked in the Women's Center for the past 16 years. Recently she was certified through the Oncology Nursing Society as a breast care nurse.

"Every patient who comes through the Hall-Perrine Cancer Center will be offered access to one of us and we'll stay with them through the full course of treatment," says Kris.



Kris Sargent  
RN, OCN  
Oncology Nurse Navigator



Sallie Buelow  
RN, BSN, CBCN  
Oncology Nurse Navigator

