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Q1: Staff person submitting this nomination.

Name:	Connie Kuennen
Title:	Administrator, Community Health, HR, Community Relations
Hospital/System:	Regional Health Services of Howard County
Address:	235 8th Ave West
City:	Cresco
State:	Iowa
ZIP Code:	52136
Email Address:	kuennenc@mercyhealth.com
Telephone Number:	563-547-6335

Q2: Name of Volunteer Program.

Annual Auxiliary Quilt Auction

Q3: Program Category: Select one of the four program categories.

Fundraising – programs that designed and implemented an innovative approach to fundraising that benefited the health care organization or the community.

Q4: Provide the date the program was implemented.

08/01/1977

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Q5: Provide a brief description of the program, including its goals and outcomes. (600 words max)

The Annual Regional Health Services of Howard County (RHSHC) Hospital Auxiliary Quilt Auction has been taking place since 1977 with the continued support of countless volunteers. Over the years, this major fundraiser for the Auxiliary has raised over half a million dollars for the hospital. A wide variety of medical equipment has been purchased with proceeds from this event, including fetal heart monitors, birthing beds, defibrillators, emergency and cardiac equipment, a helipad for medical helicopters to land on, radiology and surgical equipment. Quilts are made and donated by churchwomen, service organizations, RHSHC employees and private businesses and individuals who have been unfailingly generous with their time, talents and creativity.

As quilts come in, they are photographed to display on the Regional Health Services of Howard County web site at www.rhshc.com. During the week prior to the auction, quilts are displayed throughout store windows in downtown Cresco to give potential bidders a chance to look over all of the beautiful pieces. Between 75 and 100 items are donated every year.

Each year the Auxiliary Board votes to accept a project to support with the proceeds of the Quilt Auction. The goal of the first auction in 1977 was to fund surgical instruments and an overhead projector for a total of \$580.14. In 2013, the goal was \$21,364 for a central monitoring system for the Emergency Room. The auction raised \$25,465. The generosity of the Cresco community and surrounding areas is overwhelming and greatly appreciated.

PAGE 4: Details of Nominated Program

Q6: Describe the role of volunteers in planning, developing, implementing and maintaining the program. (400 words max)

Volunteers completely own the Quilt Auction. They have developed a process to prepare for and carry out the auction smoothly and successfully year after year. There are two co-chairs who direct all other volunteers beginning with solicitation letters to artisan contributors in March. Quilts are accepted at the hospital, where volunteers come to measure, write a description and photograph the quilts so they may be displayed on the RSHHC website. Volunteers have gotten the support of the whole community! Not only do local church groups, services organizations, businesses and individuals work together to donate their beautiful quilted work of art, the downtown businesses also give up a portion of their storefront windows to display the quilt the week before the auction. The Auxiliary volunteers work to place the quilts in the windows, then collect them for the auction.

The day of the auction, the quilts are put out for display on tables in the auction arena and the crowd gets an up-close view of their favorites. Approximately 30 people volunteer on the day of the auction. High school students hold the quilts up on the stage for the bidders to view during the bidding. Employee volunteers and their family members record winning bids and accept payments. A half dozen local, professional auctioneers take turns working the crowd and creating an exciting, humorous and supportive atmosphere.

Many volunteers have served as Chairs for the Quilt Auction and have graciously helped to train new volunteers to carry on the tradition. Binders and boxes of information and equipment accompany the duties assigned to the new leader.

Q7: Describe how this program is unique and/or innovative.(400 words max)

What makes this program unique is a long-running history of success, the extensive community involvement and the impressive number of volunteer hours that are dedicated each and every year in the creation and sale of these quilts. While methods have evolved over time—such as posting photos of the items on the web—what has remained constant is the commitment to the hospital over so many years.

One year a motorcyclist was driving through Cresco and saw a large crowd gathered in the park. He stopped and before long he found himself the owner of one of the quilts. Many years, supporters of the Quilt Auction who cannot be present bid for their favorite quilts over the phone, or by proxy. There is one very popular quilt that is made and donated each year by the Cresco United Methodist Church Women. Each square of the hand quilted Biblical Quilt represents a story from the Bible. One local couple had taken it upon themselves to acquire a Biblical Quilt for each of their children. As sometimes happens in a small town, some friendly but mischievous neighbors heard about this plan and took to bidding up the quilt. In 2007, the Biblical Quilt brought a top bid of \$10,500! The excitement and drama of the bidding swept over the crowd and the day ended with total proceeds of \$36,880. The year with the highest proceeds was 2006, when an anonymous donor handed in a large check right after the auction to boost the total to \$51,830.

For years, the auction was held in the open air of Beadle Park and the volunteers worried constantly that the rain would come and ruin the quilts. Rolls of plastic were kept on hand for just such an emergency. After being invited into the historic Cresco Opera House and movie theatre for a couple of years, the event is now being held in the "Big Tent" in the center of the Norman Borlaug Harvest Fest.

Q8: Describe how the program benefits the service recipients, the health care organization and/or the community. (400 words max)

Not only does the Annual Quilt Auction benefit Regional Health Services of Howard County in the obvious financial donation that is made (see below), but the whole community benefits from the camaraderie, goodwill and sense of accomplishment that is shared by all involved. Howard County has a significant Mennonite population, but most interaction with that group is confined to Farmer's Market transactions. A few years ago, that all changed when the Lime Springs Mennonite Sewing Circle mentioned their interest in contributing to the quilt auction with their own handmade creation. This year their "Tree of Life" hand quilted piece brought in \$1,350. Together, we met and surpassed the goal that had been set to meet a need in our local healthcare facility.

QUILT AUCTION PROJECTS

- 1977 Overhead projector and surgical instruments \$580.14
- 1978/79 Fetal heart monitor \$5,500.00
- 1980 Closed circuit TV \$2,600.00
- 1981 Britcher cautery machine \$3,062.00
- 1982 Electric blood pressure monitor and flexible sigmoidoscope \$7295.00
- 1983 Physical therapy ultrasound and PT traction table \$5645.90
- 1984 Gastroscope \$8,970.00
- 1985 Life Pak 8, first payment \$5,000.00
- 1986 Life Pak 8, second payment \$3,924.00
- 1987 Infant warmer \$6,800.00
- 1988 Fetal heart monitor, EMT equipment and china for Dietary Dept \$10,426.00
- 1989 Defibrillator and family room furnishings \$9,650.00
- 1990 Helipad \$10,240.00
- 1991 Stress testing equipment \$10,000.00
- 1992 Building fund pledge payment #1 and CPR training equipment \$14,900.00
- 1993 Building fund pledge payment #2, fetal heart monitor, posie sitter \$16,052.99
- 1994 Building fund pledge payment #3, portable radios and cot for Ambulance \$14,018.78
- 1995 Four pagers for Ambulance Dept. and two glider rockers for OB \$1,505.80
- 1995/96 EKG monitor \$13,647.50
- 1997 Mammography equipment \$11,945.00
- 1998 Life Pak Defibrillator \$11,108.00
- 1999 Fetal heart monitor \$14,155.00
- 2000 Video sigmoidoscope \$16,905.00
- 2001 Anesthesia monitoring equipment \$13,860.00
- 2002 Portable x-ray machine \$19,440.00
- 2003 Fetal heart monitor \$22,375.00
- 2004 Pneumatic tourniquet system & datascope \$21,200.00
- 2005 Cardiac equipment \$29,415.00
- 2006 Surgical table \$51,780.00
- 2007 Fetal heart monitor \$37,000.00
- 2008 Coagulation instrument for hospital lab \$19,081.00
- 2009 Birthing bed for Hospital OB Dept. \$21,625.00
- 2010 Items for inpatient rooms, obstetrical patient rooms \$21,815.00
- 2011 Auto Pulse for ER \$17,160.00
- 2012 Remodel bathrooms of obstetrical suites to include private whirlpool \$26,545.00
- 2013 Central patient monitoring system for Emergency Room \$25,465.00
- TOTAL \$530,692.11

PAGE 5: Contacts

Q9: Chief Executive Officer of the nominated hospital/system.

Name	Robin Schluter
Title	CEO
Email Address	schlutrm@mercyhealth.com
Telephone Number	563-547-6355

Q10: CEO Support.

Checked box confirms that your CEO supports the submission of the nominated program.

Q11: Administrative Assistant to the CEO.

Name	Amy Stephenson
Title	Administrative Assistant
Email Address	stepheas@mercyhealth.com
Telephone Number	563-547-6353

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Q12: Name of the volunteer or auxilian who will be representing the program at the AHA Annual Meeting, May 5, 2014.

Name	Carol Foley
Title	Auxiliary Past President and Quilt Auction Chair
Home Address	515 7th Ave East
City	Cresco
State	IA
ZIP Code	52136
Email Address	gramacf@aol.com
Telephone Number	563-547-2518

Q13: Volunteer Service Professional/Manager.

Name	Connie Kuennen
Title	Administrator, Community Health, HR, Community Relations
Email	kuennenc@mercyhealth.com
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