Kim added, “To my knowledge, Mercy is the only Stark County provider of in-home mental health nursing. And it is so important. Beyond physical issues and medication regulation, so many patients and their families need support, positive ways to handle difficult behaviors and connection to community resources and respite. Although Mercy Homecare doesn’t offer long-term care, we can help get all that in place for families.”

Kim is available as a resource on mental health nursing issues for long-term care, we can help get all that in place for families.”

Deeply Confused
Alzheimer’s has become nation’s third most expensive disease
Maybe the last time you forgot where you put your keys, you were tempted to think senility was “setting in.” But, for millions of Americans who have dementia and their families, the sense of frustration goes much deeper. Dementia, a general term for the progressive decline of mental abilities, eventually impairs an individual’s capacity to complete everyday activities and even personal care such as bathing, dressing, and feeding. Although it can be linked to a number of medical conditions (including stroke, trauma, HIV and substance abuse), the leading cause of dementia is Alzheimer’s disease. Affecting approximately one out of every five Americans between the ages of 75 and 85 – about 4.5 million individuals – Alzheimer’s ranks as the nation’s third most expensive disease, costing the U.S. $100 billion each year.

Mercy’s Kim Gednett, R.N., B.S.N., certified mental health nurse, works with patients throughout Stark and surrounding counties who suffer from Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia. “Many people think it’s an epidemic, but it just seems that way because people are living longer, which increases the risk of developing the disease,” she said.

Look for Recurring Symptoms
Alzheimer’s is often evidenced by the consistent loss of abstract thinking, impulse control, judgment and inhibitions. Symptoms can also include changes in personality, mood and personal hygiene.

*If someone you care about begins to... (continued on page 6)
In Touch with Mercy

Mercy Kicks Off Centennial Celebration
On Sept. 24, Mercy will begin its year-long celebration of a century of compassion and caring. A series of commemorative events and endeavors — many which will be open to the community — is currently being planned. A schedule will be available in the near future at CantonMercy.com.

Mercy Offers Free Mental Health Screenings
As part of National Mental Health Screening Day, Mercy will offer free mental health screenings on Thurs., Oct. 11, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the hospital (1320 Mercy Dr. N.W. in Canton). Appointments are required. Established 17 years ago, National Mental Health Screening Day was created to help screen individuals for the most common mental disorders, including depression, bipolar disorder, generalized anxiety and post-traumatic stress disorder. For more information about Mercy’s free screenings or to make an appointment, call the Mercy Healthcare Connection at (330) 489-1333 or (800) 223-8662.

Harvest Treasures Faire Slated for Oct. 12 – 13
The annual Harvest Treasures Merchant & Artisan Shopping Faire, sponsored by the Mercy Service League, will be held Fri., Oct. 12, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sat., Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Canton Memorial Civic Center’s McKinley Room. The elegant shopping experience will offer unique and unusual treasures from a variety of merchants and artisans. A wine and beer tasting event is scheduled for Fri., Oct. 12, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Admission and parking are free, and refreshments will be available at Mercy Bistro. All Harvest Treasures proceeds will support the expanded services of Mercy Hospice. For more information, call (330) 471-5964.

Mercy Needs Volunteers
Mercy is seeking volunteers for many areas in the hospital. To learn how you can help, please call the Mercy Volunteer Office at (330) 489-1106.

Dental Clinic Taking New Patients
The Mercy Dental Clinic, the area’s only hospital-based dental program and general practice residency, is accepting new patients. Offering preventive, diagnostic, restorative and emergency dental care for all ages, the dental clinic uses a sliding-fee scale that is based on household income and size. Discounts are available for incomes up to 250 percent of the federal policy guidelines. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (330) 471-5950.

Mercy Established the follow-up clinic more than five years ago to spur early identification and treatment of common problems that affect premature infants. Clinic staff members evaluate infant feeding abilities, as well as the need for physical therapy, occupational therapy and (beginning at six months of age) speech therapy. To find out more about Mercy’s Special Care Nursery Follow-Up Clinic, call (310) 968-8614.

Mercy Boutique Helps Cancer Survivors In Need
The Mercy Boutique offers gently used wigs, breast prostheses, mastectomy forms, turbans and hats to individuals with cancer who cannot afford them. This program is available to any cancer patient in need in the community. Created as a sanctuary of hope and healing for cancer survivors and individuals with other medical conditions, the Mercy boutique also offers bras, swim suits and swim forms, scar reduction sheets, lymphedema care, skin care products, jewelry, note cards and other gift items. The Boutique is located at the hospital’s main campus, adjacent to the Mercy Cancer Center. To learn more about the Boutique, call (330) 456-9960.