

Thomas J. Hesselmann Memorial Scholarship

Thomas J. Hesselmann was president and CEO of Mercy Medical Center - Clinton, retiring in 2004 after a long and vibrant career in health care management spanning several states, including Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, and Iowa. Arriving in Clinton, Iowa in 1986, Tom was hired as the President and CEO of Gateway Health System as it was beginning an arduous process to merge Jane Lamb Health Center and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. The merger was complete in 1989 with the new organization emerging as Samaritan Health System. His strong leadership and caring demeanor were key to successfully bringing the two health care organizations together, leaving a legacy that continues to serve the Clinton area today and for generations to come.



In addition to his leadership, Tom was instrumental in the formation of the MercyOne Clinton Foundation with roots dating back to Gateway Health System. His contributions, both in leadership and philanthropy, established the Foundation with a mission to raise and provide funds to the medical center and its affiliated locations to update medical equipment, offer programs and services, and provide educational assistance to employees.

During his years at Clinton, he oversaw the addition of several new service lines including the radiation oncology cancer center, renal dialysis and advances in cardiac treatment capabilities. He also supported many facilities upgrades including relocating the cancer center to the north campus to allow for greater expansion in treatment services.

Continuing his charitable ways, in July of 2024, his wife Sharon and his family and friends established the Thomas J. Hesselmann Memorial Scholarship after his passing at 82 years of age. The scholarship will be awarded to help MercyOne colleagues pursuing health-related careers or advancing their education in the medical field. The scholarship will be awarded in the spring.

To apply for the Thomas J. Hesselmann Memorial Scholarship, MercyOne colleagues are invited to complete the MercyOne scholarship application and essay questions and submit the application with three references. Applications are due by March 31.

Selection and notification of the Thomas J. Hesselmann Memorial Scholarship winner will be made in April and announced in early May.