

2018 MercyOne Legend Barb McCaulley, VP of Mission Integration

The MercyOne Legend Award honors a colleague who lives Mercy'One's Mission, Values, and Guiding Behaviors. We are happy to present the 2018 MercyOne Legend award to Barb McCaulley, Vice President of Mission Integration.

One of the definitions of a Legend is a "leading light" and that's how many who know Barb would describe her. Many other descriptions of Barb would include caring, loving, selfless, gracious, compassionate, grounded, a blessing, servant leader, role model, a pastor at her core, encouraging mentor, educator, and friend. Barb leads with her heart... the trademark of a Legend.

Barb instinctively shares how faith lies at the foundation of our organizational decisions and processes. Barb once spoke these words, "when the world's greatest needs and our passions intersect, real ministry happens."

Along with all the sacred work that Barb has done at MercyOne she has continued to serve as Priest Associate at St. John's Episcopal Church and a past board member for Northern Lights Homeless Shelter for many years. These callings have kept Barb very connected to the spiritual and logistical needs of our community, including those who are most vulnerable. Barb is passionate about serving all people but is drawn to those less fortunate, incarcerated, or without means.

Barb is a servant leader. In her leadership she is a role model, mentor, educator, confidant and friend. She serves others selflessly and asks for nothing in return. She is gentle in her words of correction if warranted, she prays with us, and for us. She asks each of us to use our gifts, be our best, display love and kindness to ourselves, and each other - to be forgiving, accepting and blessed each day.

A Legend recognizes when the leaders in our organization are tired and will look for ways to help them renew. Barb was instrumental in starting monthly Refresh / No-Meeting Days – a day in which no meetings can occur and our leaders are freed up to work on things of their choice with no obligation, no guilt and no worries that someone will rob their precious time that day. It takes courage, compassion and a little bit of grit to champion an idea like this, but that is just what Barb did. Barb's vision to have a day to be inspired, find joy and refresh one's soul is something leaders look forward to; there is rarely a month where a leader does not express gratitude for these 'no meeting' days.

Just as Barb is out in front leading with her heart and passion, she is probably better known for working behind the scenes doing things to make our organization, our people, our community and even our world a much better place. On more than one occasion, I knew that she was working in the background in ways that few needed to know about; in an effort to improve a situation or undo a wrong to make sure it never happens again.

Giving a warm hug is nothing new to Barb. I once saw Barb hug a colleague. Working in dietary, the employee had sung to a patient while delivering her food. Unfortunately, the patient passed away later that same day. Barb's hug was a show of gratitude as well as comfort. Her sense of being present is unbelievable.

I can't think of a better person to be honored as this year's MercyOne Legend.