



IAAS Walks of Life 2012

Janice G. Murphy

Until two months ago, Janice G. Murphy was president of two West Side hospitals with 6,600 employees and a medical staff exceeding 1,800 doctors. Now her responsibility is focused on one -- Fairview Hospital. Murphy, president of Fairview since 2007, three years ago was asked by Cleveland Clinic, owner of the two hospitals, to also serve as president of Lakewood Hospital as the Clinic integrated services and reduced duplication at the two hospitals, which are only three miles apart.

Her career in medicine began in the convent. She was a nun teaching grade school when her order, the Sisters of Notre Dame, thought she would be a good candidate for nursing school because they needed a nurse for their Infirmary at the mother house in Chardon.

Ten year earlier, when she was a freshman at St. Joseph Academy, her brother, James Crossen, was critically burned when his clothes ignited while he was trying to light a candle at Our Lady of the Highways Shrine. He spent the summer in the intensive care unit of Fairview, and his sister, during her frequent visits, was awed by the caring treatment he received from the hospital's nurses.

By 1978, Sister Therese Mary, as she was then known, decided that nursing was her true vocation. She left the convent and entered Fairview Hospital's School of Nursing. She received a bachelor's degree in nursing at Bowling Green State University and a master's at the University of Akron.

After returning from a vacation in Ireland in 1984, she was surprised by Richard T. Murphy, a man she had dated for only two months. He told her he missed her so much when she was in Ireland that he wanted to marry her. They were married 24 years until Richard's death in July 2009 while awaiting a heart transplant at Fairview.

Murphy, the oldest of nine children, said her Irish lineage dates back to her great-grandfather, who grew up in Nori, Donegal, and came to America in 1899.

Murphy now serves on the Ursuline Community Advisory Board and the boards of North Coast Health Ministry, St. Joseph Academy, and Hospice of Western Reserve. She also is Northern Ohio regent for the American College of Health Care Executives. In 2006, she received the Cleveland Clinic Western Region Leadership Award and two years ago received the Baldwin Wallace Healthcare Award for her innovative leadership.

Under her guidance, Fairview has consistently ranked highest in patient satisfaction scores across the Cleveland Clinic region. She also led Fairview to Magnet status, a recognition given to hospitals that fulfill a set of standards designed to measure the strength and quality of their nursing care.

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