September 3, 2020

**JOURNEY OF ONENESS UPDATE: Mission Advancement**

**Two West Midwest staffers take on new positions**

Two staff members of the mission advancement office of the West Midwest—Lynn Poly and Amanda Doty—not only began working for Mercy on the same day in August 2012, but also share the same start date in 2020 for their new positions.

On August 1, Lynn Poly was named director of advancement for West Midwest and South Central, assuming the direction and coordination of advancement activities for both of these former communities. Amanda Doty, the current development resource manager for West Midwest, became the first Institute advancement database manager on the same date. Both will continue to be based in Omaha, Nebraska.

An advancement professional for 20 years, Lynn first served Mercy as director of annual giving, West Midwest. With the help of many sister volunteers and the advancement staff, Lynn has successfully grown and established relationships to increase financial support for the Sisters of Mercy. Lynn, who was born in the Omaha area, and her husband, Dennis, are the parents of three children and doting grandparents of Caleb.

Amanda brings 18 years of experience working with fundraising software and databases to her new position. She joined the West Midwest advancement team as a database specialist and expanded her role to development resource manager in 2016, managing all operations of the fundraising database and the online giving software. Amanda previously worked at Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha’s botanical garden and arboretum, for 11 years, advancing from administrative work to management to the executive suite. Born in New Hampton, Iowa, she is the youngest of seven siblings. She and her husband, Aaron, have lived in Omaha since 2001 and are the proud (and exhausted!) parents of a very vivacious 5-year-old, Daniel.

“Both of these professionals are an integral part of our Institute advancement team,” says Colleen Maher, the Institute’s advancement officer, who noted that their expanded responsibilities will include seamlessly reaching more and more-diverse donors across different cultures and settings. “Using their skills and expertise in new ways will enable us to increase
financial support to the Sisters of Mercy, continue their mission and serve more people in need.”