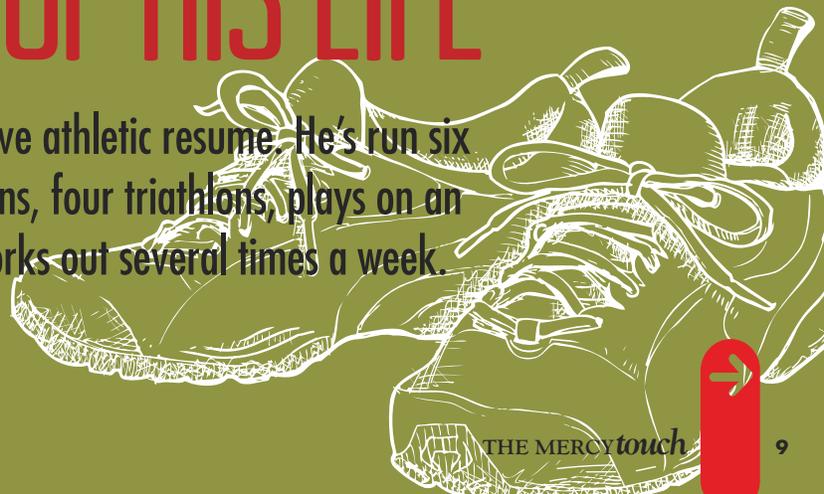




WINNING

THE RACE OF HIS LIFE

Don Kearney has an impressive athletic resume. He's run six marathons, six half-marathons, four triathlons, plays on an adult hockey league and works out several times a week.





Dr. Cam Campbell, MD
Medical Director
Mercy Cardiovascular Services

"I JUST FELT LIKE I WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE AND THEY WERE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF ME. AND THEY DID."

Don Kearney, Heart patient

From all appearances he's the picture of health. But, in early 2014, his family history caught up with him.

"Both my brother and my dad have had heart attacks. I knew because of my family history I was going to be hit sometime; I just didn't really know when," says Don.

"When" came on January 21 after his morning workout at the Rockwell Rec Center.

"As I was in the showers, I started to feel a burning sensation in center of my chest. I didn't think much about it; I thought maybe it was heartburn."

It wasn't heartburn. Don collapsed in the foyer as he was leaving the gym.

"As I walked out the door, I thought I was passing out. The next thing I knew I was waking up with Rockwell's Emergency Response Team standing over the top of me and explaining that I just had a heart attack."

Rockwell's team called 911 and used an on-site defibrillator to shock Don's heart while they waited for an ambulance. At the same time, Mercy's heart team quickly assembled in anticipation of Don's arrival, setting into action a seamless and well-coordinated treatment plan for cardiac emergencies. That plan starts in the field, when ambulance crews relay critical information such as EKG results back to the hospital.

Mercy's team was able to assess Don's condition even before he arrived at the Emergency Department. They had a plan in place when he came through the door.

"I remember distinctly one of the nurses saying to my wife, 'Try to keep up with us because we are on our way to the cath lab.' I just remember seeing the ceiling tiles blowing by as we were going down the hallway," Don recalls.

Once in the cath lab doctors placed a stent to open Don's blocked artery.

Don's is a case in point for Mercy's exemplary care of heart attack patients. In fact, Mercy is the area's only hospital, and perhaps the only in the nation, to treat 100 percent of its cardiac patients with 'Door-to-Balloon' times of less than the national standard of 90 minutes for more than five consecutive years.

Dr. Cam Campbell, Medical Director of Cardiovascular Services at Mercy, explains, "Door-to-Balloon time is measured from the time a patient comes through the doors of the ER until there's a balloon inside the heart artery to open it up. I'm not aware of any other hospital that can claim that type of success for five years now. We've been successful 100 percent of the time in getting those arteries open in less than 90 minutes."

Don says he's thankful to have benefitted from the expertise of Mercy's heart team. "I just felt like I was in the right place and they were going to take care of me. And they did."

"In order to make the process work and make it work day after day, night after night, five years in a row, it takes dedication and it takes discipline. That's what we've been able to achieve," said Campbell.

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*Dr. Cam Campbell, Medical Director,
Mercy Cardiovascular Services*

DON KEARNEY IS BACK TO HIS WORK-OUTS AT ROCKWELL REC CENTER AFTER HAVING A HEART ATTACK IN JANUARY 2014.

To hear more about Don's story, watch the video, "Patient Experiences Mercy's Fast Response to Heart Attack," at mercy.org/services/heart.

