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## **Mercy CEO will leave position in spring**

*After 24 years at hospital, Messmer plans to step down soon*

NAMPA — After almost 15 years at the helm of Mercy Medical Center, President and CEO Joe Messmer announced Friday he intends to leave in the spring. “It is with mixed emotions that I am announcing my departure from Mercy Medical Center,” Messmer said in prepared remarks.

The hospital’s longtime top executive expects to see Mercy through its transition to the Trinity Health System, which operates Saint Alphonsus Regional Medical Center in Boise. Messmer and his wife, Marcie, have been deeply involved in the local community for years, with Marcie heading up the Festival of Trees to raise money for Mercy’s Meals on Wheels program.

Nampa Mayor Tom Dale said residents could see Messmer’s involvement in numerous local causes. “Boys & Girls Club fundraisers, Healthy Nampa Healthy Youth programs, (there’s) just so many areas where they volunteered,” Dale said. “He has just been a tremendous community partner.”

The board of directors at Mercy accepted Messmer’s resignation, and Chairman Ned Kerr said the board respects his decision and appreciates his dedication to the local community and hospital. “Under Joe’s leadership, Mercy Medical Center has provided patients with quality, compassionate medical care while leading efforts to improve the health of residents of Nampa and surrounding communities we serve,” Kerr said. “We will truly miss Joe and wish him success in all his future endeavors.” Officials said that to ensure continuity of leadership, Trinity Health and Mercy’s Board of Directors will work closely together to appoint an interim CEO upon Messmer’s departure. Messmer said in an e-mail to his employees that he believes other experiences in health-care leadership will allow him to continue to learn and grow in his field. “I believe that this change will allow both you and Mercy to have a fresh perspective, and that the transfer of sponsorship makes this a good time for my departure,” Messmer wrote.

Almost 24 years ago, he was asked to come to the medical center to participate in the ministry of the Sisters of Mercy. “From a personal standpoint, Marcie and I brought to Nampa two beautiful young children, a six year old daughter and six month old son,” he wrote hospital staff. “Next to me, Marcie is Mercy’s biggest supporter ... Our family has grown in these twenty four years.”

The Messmers have grandchildren now, and Nampa Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Georgia Bowman said she thinks the change is good for him personally. “They’ve helped many many organizations throughout the years with their strong community support,” Bowman said. “I think it sounds like it’s a great time in his life to make a change — and he has certainly served our community well.”

Messmer took some time in his e-mail to thank the Sisters of Mercy and tell his coworkers how much they mean to him. “I have so many great memories of our time together that I will always cherish,” he wrote. “I ask that you all give my successor the tremendous support you all have given me in both the good times and difficult times.”