Nativity Set a Mercy Holiday Tradition.

A special piece of Mercy Medical Center's history has found a place of honor in the hospital's cafeteria this holiday season. A hand painted nativity set that was rediscovered at the back of a little used closet of the old hospital in 1980, is now proudly displayed behind the glass protection of a curio cabinet.

The nativity set was quite old and in sad condition when it was first found. However, the loving hands of a volunteer, Dolly Pahlow, set to work attaching broken pieces and even recreating an angel wing when needed. She spent months patching and painting the 20 figures in their original colors with the encouragement of former food service director, Bob Brennan.

In the years since, the manger scene has traditionally been displayed in the open in the cafeteria at both the old and new Mercy Medical Center buildings. Kim Kempen, kitchen supervisor, is the current caretaker of the nativity set and made the arrangements to bring in the curio cabinet from the library this year.