

Orthopedic patient mobile after stay at Madonna

The familiar nursery rhyme “Humpty Dumpty” comes to mind as Robert Hughes relates how he came to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. On the night of March 23, Robert, 87, of Lincoln, Neb., was in the midst of planning Easter dinner for his family. He drove to the local HyVee grocery store for some last minute supplies. Robert had his “great fall” in the parking lot, landing face down. He attempted to stand, but fell again, and a bystander called 911.

In place of his holiday meal prep, Robert got an emergency ambulance ride to St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center where doctors repaired his broken right shoulder and hip. The late-night tumble also left Robert with a cut to the head, injured knee and some large bruises. Faced with rehabilitation options, Robert chose Madonna based on recommendations from his friends. “They all claimed Madonna was the best and that’s exactly where I wanted to be for therapy.”

Arriving at Madonna a week later, Robert was starting from square one, relearning to walk. “It was too painful for him to even take one step,” recalled Jennifer Bausch, physical therapist. She added, “Consequently, working on ambulation became the major therapy focus.” Robert began with “baby steps,” using the parallel bars in the Therapy Gym, progressing to a walker and finally mastering a four-legged quad cane.

During one of his therapy sessions, Robert noticed the KFOR banner hanging from the ceiling, proclaiming that Madonna was voted number one in therapy. “I thought to myself, I absolutely would vote you number one after my patient experience here,” Robert shared.

Robert enjoyed his sessions in Independence Square where he practiced negotiating the variable terrains. He felt the staff knew exactly how far to push him to get results. “I wanted to work hard to get back to living independently and was quite willing to



be the student,” said Robert, a former history teacher in the Lincoln Public Schools for 30 years.

Unlike Humpty, Robert had a much more positive outcome from his fall. The morning he discharged on April 23, he was traveling the hallways of Madonna assisted only by his quad cane. “I really think a lot of the entire staff at Madonna – they put me back together again,” said Robert.