

Annual Report 2018-2019



Mercy Home for Children
273 Willoughby Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11205

A Sisters of Mercy Ministry
since 1862
Mercyhomeny.org



Dear Friends,

Your partnership has created magical moments and innovative offerings for Mercy Home. Together, we've been able to empower those who are marginalized, particularly women, men, and children with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, or other developmental disabilities. Thanks to you, we've successfully offered fun, creative moments that give them a voice and individual choice. You've played such an essential role in our work, providing them the opportunity to participate in great programming.

Letter from the Executive Director

With the guidance of the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Home has been working with vulnerable individuals for more than 150 years. Every year we support the exploration of talented artists in our Music Therapy program, offer therapeutic growth and discovery in our Creative Arts Therapy program, and curate the beauty found in nature by nurturing life in Plant-Grow-Give.

As we share highlights of the past fiscal year, we are reminded of the tremendous outpouring of love and dedication from our supporters, as we promote inclusion and boost self-confidence in the children, women, and men we support.

While we continue to elevate the dignity and health outcomes of the people in our care, our programs themselves have a beneficial impact in the neighborhoods where our homes are located. Not only will we employ residents, our gardens will produce herbs and vegetables promoting nutrition and healthful eating. The spirit and energy of the youth and adults in our programs will also be a transformative, life giving force in their communities as they make friends, interact, and claim a place in the hearts of neighbors.

Your friendship means so much to the families and people we support. Thank you for being there and believing in our mission. We hope you enjoy learning about all we achieved, and we look forward to continuing the work and changing the world's view of those we support as we help them discover their individual gifts and abilities.

Sincerely,

Janice Aris

Executive Director



Who We Are, What We Do, Who We Serve

At the center of Mercy Home's programs are our homes – standalone residences and apartments that are designed to give greater independence and autonomy to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. We currently have 13 homes in Brooklyn, Queens and Nassau County, each for 108 residents and a staff of professional nurses and therapists working across the homes.

Mercy Home residences are the clearest expression of the lifelong support given to individuals through our programs. Oftentimes, the caregiver for a person with an intellectual or developmental disability is a parent – who, as time passes or due to the severity of a particular disability or disabilities, may no longer be capable of providing necessary support and care. That's where the expertise of Mercy Home staff – underscored by compassion and respect – becomes indispensable.

Along with our supportive programming, Mercy Home also provides Day Habilitation and Community Habilitation services, in which individuals work with staff to build or enhance the skills they need to live independently in their homes and communities. These kinds of life skill building opportunities help our residents develop a greater sense of autonomy, while also driving their connections with the broader community and helping build awareness and compassion in society.

It is critical to our team that the individuals in our homes know that they can rely on us for as long as they need. Also essential to our intent of helping individuals build a joyful, fulfilling life are additional social and community activities, like BBQs, Family Spirit Day, concerts, sporting events and more.

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*Board and staff listed represents Mercy Home employees from July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Donors

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Alex Weiss	Darren Harter	Shivaun Prendergast
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The Accordino Fellone Family Trust	Shea Kerr	Thomas Seminar
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CORPORATE DONORS

Caring Therapy Services	Merrick Pharmacy
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DESALES Media Group, Inc	Skyline Scaffolding
Flag Waterproofing & Restoration	StationMD
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Knights of Columbus Hudson Council #3701	Warren and Warren, P.C.
Lamb Insurance Services	Wells Fargo

FOUNDATIONS

FSC Foundation - Christian Brothers Services	Sisters of Mercy of The Americas - Mid Atlantic
The Future's Project	Community (Merion, PA)
The McKeen Fund	Sisters of Mercy of The Americas
Rose M. Badgeley Charitable Trust Services	Studio One
RSM US Foundation	The Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation
Santulli Family Foundation	

* In Memoriam

Donations above reflect gifts of over \$750 that were received during our 2018-2019 fiscal year, which began July 1, 2018, and concluded on June 30, 2019.

Grace's Boys: Evan & Zach

1 in 59 children in the United States have autism, a lifelong developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior. Please take a minute to meet Grace, whose sons Evan and Zachery have participated in Mercy Home's Creative Arts and Music Therapy programs since 2006.

Eighteen years ago, Grace and Cosimo were thrilled to discover that they would be parents of triplets. Three tiny sons – Frankie Junior (Frankie), Evan, and Zachery – were born eight weeks early, the largest weighing no more than four pounds and the smallest around three.

Because they were premature and multiples, the medical team at Cornell Hospital, where Grace gave birth through an emergency C-section, studied them closely. Evan was slower to breathe on his own than his brothers. He and Zachery took longer to feed. By contrast, Frankie progressed normally, reaching infant milestones of feeding, talking, and walking per medical guidelines. When the boys were 13 months old, Grace knew that Evan and Zach would be atypical babies.

"It's clear they were lagging," Grace recalls. "Even by preemie standards, they weren't hitting the benchmarks like they should have."

The diagnosis: Evan and Zach both had autism. Evan didn't speak until age 7 and, when he did, he suffered from poor articulation because his vocal muscles were weak. Zach had no problem talking, but he exhibited classic symptoms of repeating words and phrases known as echolalia.

Grace was determined that Evan and Zach would learn how to read and write and enjoy art, music, sports, and holiday parties. She also wanted to make sure that Frankie had his social and academic needs met. It was a delicate balance, a daily struggle between the lives she wanted her sons to lead, and the reality of raising two children with autism.

When her boys were eight, Grace saw a flyer for a new weekly Creative Arts program offered by Mercy Home. Evan and Zach were selected to join and they look forward to returning each year. Mercy Home's Saturday classes are a safe, creative, and loving environment where individual strengths and challenges are celebrated. Each week, in small class sizes and guided by licensed therapists, they participate in art, music, drama and now yoga therapy. Because of your past support, Grace and the rest of her family, were able to rest on Saturday afternoons. They took Frankie to chess club or just relaxed with other parents over a cup of coffee. The program offered Grace another gift, perhaps the most important of them all: to see her sons Evan and Zach for who they are.

"One day I just said 'enough,'" recalls Grace. "They are autistic, they will always be autistic. But they're also

great guys. They're kind, loving, wonderful, and affectionate. They want to go out, to do things, to learn things. Mercy Home helped me to actually look at them. They aren't a project or something to fix. They are my boys."

Grace's resolution to provide an active life for her boys reflects Mercy Home's dedication to help men and women with intellectual and developmental disabilities reach their God-given potential.

"But the reality of autism is that it doesn't go away," Grace said. "I realized that their best chance was to make them independent, to eat at the table, clear up their dishes, dress themselves: the fundamental things you'd expect from any child."

Frankie, is currently an engineering major at New York University. The three brothers are incredibly close-knit and shared the same bedroom for years. Frankie will most likely move out of the family home when he graduates, but Grace knows that Evan and Zach aren't able to live on their own – and for now, she's not ready for them to leave the nest.

"When I'm ready to start looking over their options, my hope is that there will be a place for them – together – at Mercy Home," says Grace. "They are so loving to my boys. The options are fewer as they get older, and as long as they are living at home, I hope they will be in the Creative Arts program, either in the children or the adult program."

Thank you for letting us share Grace's story. Because of you #ABILITYOVERDISABILITY isn't a hashtag, but a way of life at Mercy Home. With your partnership, Mercy Home will be able expand services for more children with autism and their families.

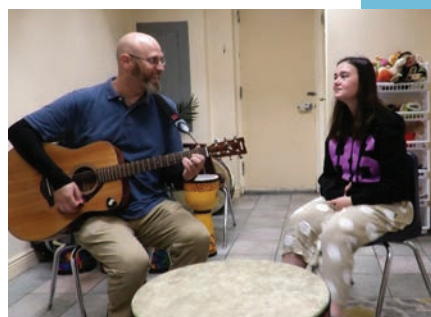
Independence, creativity, communication, and community are encouraged, and for Evan and Zach, their brother Frankie, and parents Grace and Cosimo, Mercy Home's weekly Respite arts program has been nothing short of a miracle. With your continued support, we can help even more children like Evan and Zach grow and prosper.



Creative Arts Therapy

Using the Arts to Empower

Art is a very special form of nonverbal expression – a powerful and non-threatening medium. Handmade works of art reveal something special about the inner lives of their creators. Nearly 100 children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder or other developmental disabilities that have trouble in learning or with verbal expression participated in CAT every Saturday since September. Children on the spectrum crave sensory experiences and our therapists create opportunities for them to learn new things without even realizing that they are learning. Each week they practice transferable skills such as sharing, communicating, waiting, and listening.



Music Therapy

Melodies and Music

Music is a language that transcends. Each Saturday we make music together in a powerful force that fosters learning, growth, friendship, and understanding. In Music Therapy and in the house band Melodic Soul, over 80 children, youth, and adults are guided through musical interactions, learning musical instruments and exploring the moods and the spirit of music. Teaching music is a compelling way of encouraging young people to express themselves and release energy.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction

Paying Attention – Mindfully

Parents of special needs children often forget to take care of themselves in the rush and bustle of life. Thanks to an exciting new partnership with the William J. and Dorothy K. O'Neill Foundation, The McKeen Fund, the FSC Foundation, and donors like you, this past year families learned important stress relief and mindfulness techniques in Mercy Home's Parent Empowerment Workshops. More than 70 parents and caregivers learned skills to decrease stress.



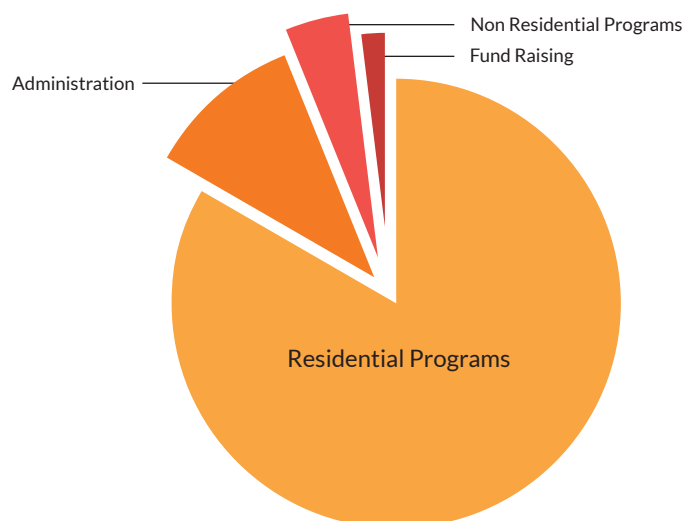
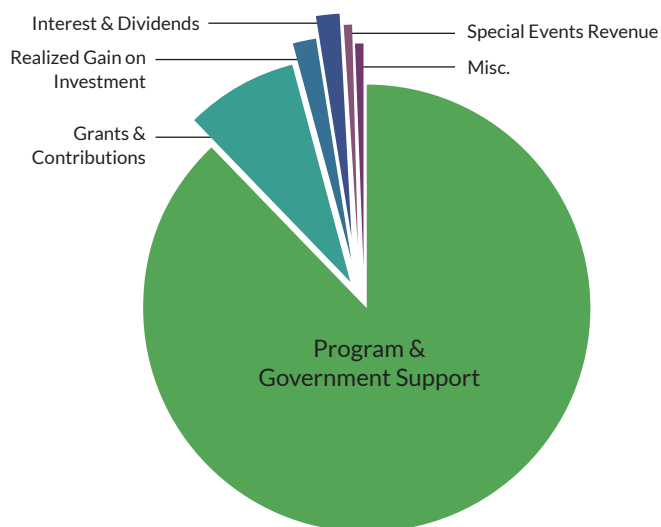
Plant-Grow-Give

Highlighting the Wonder of Growth

Plant-Grow-Give continues to grow and flourish, providing learning opportunities for children and youth in our greenhouse and for adults at our homes in the community. We were able to bring in a horticultural therapist. She began by visiting the gardens in order to plan new activities. In the coming year, we'll begin using terrarium habitats, raising butterflies, and worm composting, in which the worms are nurtured and cultivated to create fertile soil.

Financials & Residences

Statement of Activities



Support Revenue

Program & Government Support	\$17,896,029.00
Grants & Contributions	\$1,651,245.00
Realized Gain on Investment	\$357,110.00
Interest & Dividends	\$333,596.00
Special Events Revenue	\$63,827.00
Misc.	\$63,826.00

TOTAL REVENUE **\$20,365,633.00**

Supporting Expenses

Residential Programs	\$15,936,130.00
Administration	\$1,998,861.00
Non Residential Programs	\$773,688.00
Fund Raising	\$353,031.00

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$19,061,710.00**

Residences

Brooklyn, NY

Gail Addeo Residence
Augusta Residence
Herkimer Residence
Joseph's Residence
Littlejohn Residence
Rev. Michael J. McGivney Residence
Richard T. Santulli Residence
Visitation Residence
Harold Warren Residence

Nassau County

Mary E. Casey Residence

Queens

Chrys Residence
Franks' Residence
Kevin Keating Residence

Supporting Programs

Day Habilitation
In Home Respite
Creative Arts Program
Respite for Teens and Adults
Plant-Grow-Give & Horticultural Therapy
Mercy Buddies Pet Therapy
Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction

Mercy Home Events & Programs



MLK Day 2019



Center of Discovery



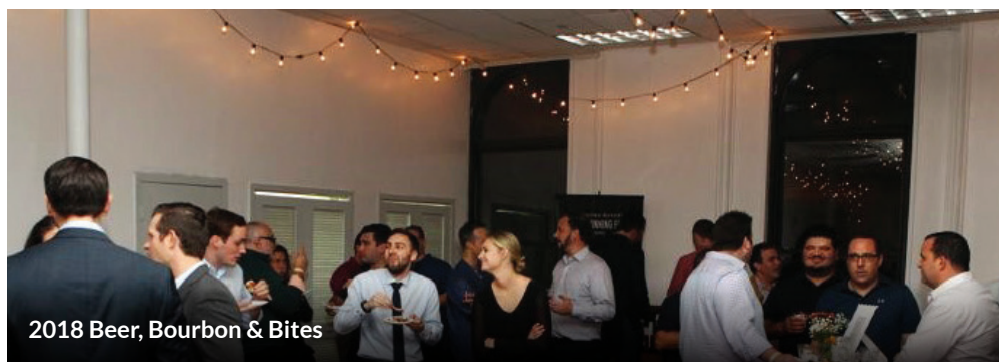
JP Morgan Chase
Goodwill Volunteer Day



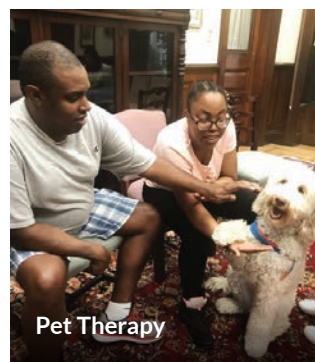
A Tree Grows in Brooklyn



2019 June Fundraising Dinner



2018 Beer, Bourbon & Bites



Pet Therapy



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It is the mission of Mercy Home to assure the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities through the recognition of each person's inherent dignity and absolute right to a life filled with learning and love.

The mission is fulfilled by practicing the Core Values of Respect, Trust, Teamwork, Care and Compassion.

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