



Unlocking the incredible power of human potential

Our Vision

Mercy Home envisions a world of fairness and equality in which people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can live more fully integrated within the community.

Our Work

We are committed to the people we support and to elevating each person's inherent dignity, enabling a life filled with learning and love. We host and manage 13 homes in Brooklyn, Queens, and Nassau County and provide Respite and Habilitation services to women, children, and men with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Our Homes

Each home and apartment is designed to promote the independence and autonomy of the people we support. Our professional and loving staff work closely with the people in our homes to foster skills. Individuals, also participate at special activities like BBQs, Family Spirit Day, concerts, sporting events, and more.



Respite

Every Saturday beginning in September, almost 100 youth and adults attend our Respite program designed to help participants explore the community, enjoy recreational and social activities, and make and reconnect with friends. We also offer In-Home Respite where a staff member visits a family's home and works one-on-one to create goals that help them enjoy experiences in their neighborhoods and around the city while developing socialization skills.



Day Hab without Walls

For men and women that are supported by Mercy Home and prefer not to attend a traditional day program, Day Hab without Walls is a wonderful option. Along with Mercy Home Day Habilitation coordinators, participants plan activities that get them out in the community by volunteering, attending a class or a show, or by participating in our Plant-Grow-Give organic farming program.

Our History



When five boys orphaned by fire sought solace and safety on the Brooklyn doorstep of the Sisters of Mercy in 1862, the young nuns opened their door beginning a 157-year tradition of service. Twenty years later, the Sisters of Mercy successfully provided a safe and loving environment to 600 children and completed the children's wing of the convent on Willoughby Avenue in Clinton Hill, Brooklyn.

By 1976, the Sisters began to focus on children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and created spaces for them to grow and thrive. Within two years, they established the first Developmental Therapy Unit in New York City for children with autism spectrum disorder and opened the first residential home in Red Hook, Brooklyn. Today, the Sisters of Mercy serve as advisors and friends to Mercy Home and the people we support.

Mercy Home in the Community



Creative Arts

The **Creative Arts Therapy (CAT)** program has served hundreds of children with autism spectrum disorder and other intellectual and developmental disabilities. Each Saturday, from September to June, children ages 4-18 participate in art, music, drama, horticultural, and yoga therapy guided by licensed therapists. The program is designed to help children and young people learn how to manage their emotions, socialize, and gain skills that encourage independence. During CAT, caregivers have the opportunity to participate in Parent Engagement Workshops that give them a chance to converse with peers or participate in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction.



Plant-Grow-Give

Throughout the year, individuals manage and maintain nine organic urban farms that harvest herbs, fruits, and vegetables. Since its inception in 2012, over 6,000 pounds of food has been donated to local food pantries and used to create healthy meals for people in their homes. With guidance from the horticultural therapist, each garden is fully accessible, and individuals participate in workshops and programs that highlight the healing properties of plants while helping to manage stress and develop vital social skills.



Melodic Soul

Music has always been a part of Mercy Home, and the love of it sparked the creation of the Melodic Soul house band. Individuals with a passion for music rehearse together to write and perform original songs or pop favorites from groups like the Beatles. The band, inspired by the spirit of Mercy, perform for nursing homes, local organizations, and around the city.



Gifted Artists

With a licensed art therapist, the people we support join us each week to share their ideas and join their friends to create works of art in the **Gifted Arts** program. Selected work is displayed during our annual **#ABILITYOVERDISABILITY** art show and reception.



Mercy Buddies

In partnership with pet therapy groups, Mercy Buddies is our new therapy project. By building a relationship with dogs and other animals, individuals that have difficulty expressing themselves verbally or experience anxiety, learn how to process their emotions.

Executive Team

Janice Aris
Executive Director

Elinor LaTouche
Chief Operating Officer

Monique Porter
Chief Residential Process Officer

How You Can Help

- Visit our website at mercyhomeny.org and join our email list.
- Make a donation to support our programs.
- Volunteer by emailing info@mercyhomeny.org.
- Become a corporate partner by emailing hstewart@mercyhomeny.org.

Interested in participating in one of the respite programs?

Visit our website or email info@mercyhomeny.org.

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