

Mercy Groos

Annual Report 2019



mercy
NEIGHBORHOOD MINISTRIES
PHILADELPHIA



Heart of the Neighborhood

1990

Childcare programming, "Project Mercy" begins with 2 children.

1997

Mercy Collaborative Ministries forms in the Tioga neighborhood.

2003

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia, Inc. officially becomes an independent nonprofit entity.

2005

The future site of the Mercy Family Center is purchased.

2009

Mercy Family Center opens.

2011

Adult Education programming is added.

2013

Pre-K services begin at the request of our families.

Head Start is added to make quality Pre-K more available to our community.

2015

Pre-K Counts is added due to recognition by the City of Philadelphia & State of Pennsylvania.

2016

STEM Programming is officially integrated into the after-school curriculum.

We are granted Keystone STARS Level 4 accreditation – the highest quality of childcare in PA.

2018

Our second location opens at Face to Face in Germantown with 60 seats of Pre-K Head Start. The Burton R. Cohen Education Center opens in the Mercy Family Center. Adult Day embraces iPad technology to combat memory loss.

2019

Mercy receives Keystone STARS Level 4 accreditation at our second location.



Our after-school students take their first look at their future learning space circa 2007.



Students in Germantown carrying on a tradition of smiles in Mercy Pre-K at Face to Face.



Neighbors and developers tour the site of Mercy Family Center during the early stages of construction.



Founders Sr. Ann Provost, RSM and Sr. Margery Lowry, RSM, laugh with our students in the after-school program.



The Mercy Family Center brightening Venango Street.



Ms. Alice McCall, who started our childcare program in 1990, reflects on her career at Mercy during her retirement party.



Sr. Ann ushers in a new era with the addition of Head Start programming.

Letter from our Executive Director



Thank you for your continued belief in and generous support of our mission. You have lived our motto, “Transforming lives, one person at a time” and over the past year, we’ve transformed as an organization. With a new look, new learning spaces, new services, and new families brightening our centers, we have indeed entered a new era. These achievements are the results of nearly three decades of working with our community members to develop mutual trust to meet their needs. We also understand that those needs may change and our work should be malleable.

To ensure that we can adapt to a changing neighborhood, our mission is to respond in a spirit of Mercy to the needs of the underserved in our community.

While we continue to be the heart of our Tioga community, our love and good works spread throughout the city. Germantown has welcomed us and North Philadelphia as a whole recognizes the necessity of our quality. Our city is changing. Our neighborhood will be defined as the “Health District” by 2030. Vibrant, civic-minded, Philadelphians are bringing solutions to the problems that have for far too long been viewed as symptoms of poverty instead of its root causes. Early intervention for our children, proper care for our seniors, and job opportunities for our families are the best medicines we have at our disposal. Patience is required and the results will not be immediate, but knowing that we are surrounded by people who share our vision will make this journey worthwhile.

In the 2019 fiscal year, donations to Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia, Inc. totaled **\$609,920**. For the fifth consecutive year, your generosity and the fiscal responsibility of our board are reflected in our financial stability.

Each year, this Annual Report serves as a celebration of our achievements. Thank you for making them possible.

In mercy,

Ann Provost, RSM
Executive Director

A New Look at Mercy

Throughout the spring and summer of this year, the development team at Mercy worked closely with local branding agency Push10 to refresh the overall look for Mercy. We felt, as we enter a new era of growth for our organization, it was important to reflect the changes we are experiencing with an update to our logo and marketing. To do that, Push10 learned more about who we are through meeting with us, surveying different stakeholders in our network (staff, volunteers, parents, etc.) and visiting our Mercy Family Center. With an openness to where the process would take us and genuine collaboration on both sides, we have chosen a logo and look we feel captures who we are in an appealing, genuine way.



As our neighborhood and city cannot truly be described with just one word, the same can be said here at Mercy. To completely represent what we do and who we are, a series of icons were created. On their own, they each symbolize the individual programs and aspects that make up Mercy but, together, represent the spirit of the organization. The colors and fonts are used to speak to the playful, more comforting feeling people get when they think of us.

Early Education & Youth Development

Always looking to expand the experiences and perspectives of our students, our childcare program has seen tremendous growth with exciting new initiatives added to the curriculum. Our new athletics programming is something we have wanted to provide for a long time.

With initial funding from the National Recreation Foundation, we incorporated weekly fitness classes led by our partners UGOT Active Kids and soccer clinics organized by Starfinder Foundation.

STEM programming continues to thrive through our partnerships with SPARKmakers, River Bend Environmental Center, and the United States Navy's SPAWAR program.

With our first year at our Germantown location in the books, we continue to grow and build community connections for this new space.

We operate two locations in the City of Philadelphia. Both have Keystone STARS Level 4 accreditation for childcare – the highest in the State of Pennsylvania.

We are a proud participant in Head Start and Pre-K counts, enabling us to bring high-quality early education to communities lacking these services.

We are licensed to serve 149 students in Pre-K and 69 students in grades K-8 during the school year.

We serve over 200 students in grades Pre-K through 8 during summer camp.

The apple to represent Pre-K: In the United States, specifically during the Great Depression, families of students were responsible for feeding and housing teachers. Farmers often provided them with apples, just as poor families used apples as a form of payment for teachers in 1700s Europe.

Today, our teachers nourish the young minds of the students in their classrooms.





Mercy Students celebrate a \$65,000 grant from the National Recreation Foundation to initiate sports programming.



Meridian Bank supports Mercy programs with a \$10,000 donation through the State of Pennsylvania's EITC program.



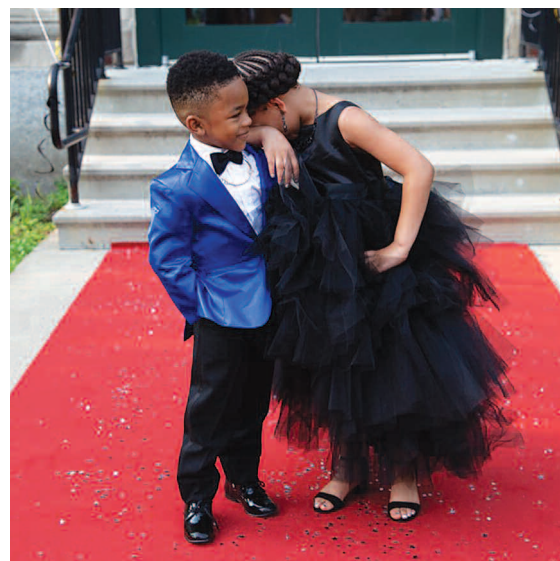
The young ladies of Mercy are ready for exciting after-school programs. (Courtesy of Wanda Thomas Photography)



The first day of soccer kicks off at Tioga field with our partners at the Starfinder Foundation.



(from left) Ms. Jarese Long, Ms. Daniele Smith, and Ms. Brenda Willis gather their elves and snowmen for their holiday show performance at Face to Face.



Sometimes, the cameras are too much and you just have to laugh. (Courtesy of Wanda Thomas Photography)

The Gift of Mercy - 2018-2019 Donations

The Annual Report recognizes gifts made between September 1, 2018 and August 31, 2019.

Neighborhood Innovators (\$50,000+)

The Edna G. Kynett Memorial Foundation, Inc.
National Recreation Foundation

Ministries Society (\$30,000+)

Richard G. & Audrey A. Brinkman Foundation
The Burton & Mindy Cohen Foundation
The McLean Contributionship

Philadelphia Society (25,000+)

Maguire Foundation
Patriarch Family Foundation

McAuley Club (\$20,000+)

The Patricia Kind Family Foundation
Rite Aid Foundation KidCents



Students shining at the annual Mercy Prom.

Transformation Society (15,000+)

IGN Foundation
Phillies Charities, Inc.
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Vision Society (\$10,000+)

Leah Chaplin & Eileen Gildea
Crowley Family Foundation
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Mission Society (\$5,000+)

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Tioga Society (\$4,000+)

Catholic Human Services Foundation
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Mary Provost & Sjef Keularts

Germantown Society (\$3,000+)

Henrietta Tower Wurts Memorial Fund
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Early Education Neighbors (\$2,000+)

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Adult Day Neighbors (\$1,000+)

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Maribeth & William Wechsler

Adult Education Neighbors (500+)

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 Public Health Management Corporation
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 John Erickson
 Eileen Flanagan



Our Friday Speaker Series welcomes Dr. Brandi Baldwin, CEO of Millennial Ventures.

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 Eileen Gildea
 Kri Gore
 Hilary Hannan Saylor
 Rita Hart
 Theresa Hart
 Russell & Ellen Hendrickson
 Jennifer Hsieh
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 Virginia Hasson, RSM
 Regina Ward, RSM
 Venice Williams
 Claudie Williams

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Adult Day staff brightening the day of our community members.

Daniel J. Derocher	Marybeth Malloy
Donna Dodderidge	Crystal Marcanian
Marie Donnelly, RSM	Nancy Mayer
Andrew & Mary Ann Dougherty	Michele McAllister
M. Eileen Dougherty	Brandon McCoy
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Gia Guglielmelli	Anne O'Sullivan
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Latoyia Hawkins	Beatrice Plant
Charlie & Diana Haydt	James & Estella Plewes
Veronica Marie Hilyard	Frances A. Pollock
Barbara Hoffman, RSM	Rosalie Pronsati
Dominique Howard	Catherine Rawley, RSM
Lorraine Incollingo	Therese Raymond
Theresa Johnson	Karen Reilly
Jane Johnston	Charnise Rivers
Joseph Kennedy	Quiana Rowe Torres
Muriel Kershaw, RSM	Mary Jane Rudi
James & Barbara Klotz	Patricia Sack
Carol Larkin	Theresa Saetta, RSM
Miriam Lavelle, RSM	Candace Saunders
Theresa Lohoefer	Margi Savage, SSJ
Dr. Vivian Lotz	Elaine Schaeffer, RSM
Margery Lowry, RSM	Deborah Schultheis
Keshia Lynch	Jennifer Scotese
Marie Lynch, RSM	Mia Scott
Kevin Lyons	Jeff Seidl
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Clowning around during a visit from the Philadelphia Union.

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 St. Matthias Knitters
 Dick & Kathy Target
 Wanda Thomas Photography
 Wawa
 William & Maribeth Wechsler, Esq.

Statistics

15,000

Nonprofits operate in the Greater Philadelphia Area.

\$2,641,697

Invested in services to the Tioga & Germantown communities in 2019.

446

Donors made contributions totaling \$609,920 to Mercy programs.

300

Families were touched by Mercy services throughout the year.

100

Students participated in soccer programming at summer camp.



Our students waiting outside the "high five tunnel" during Mercy Night at the Sixers.



A typical day at Face to Face.



Behind the scenes at Move Up Day.

148

families were brought Mercy Meals since May of 2019.

80

Students are enrolled in Pre-K Head Start.

20

Students are enrolled in Pre-K Counts.

35

Neighbors are enrolled in our Adult Day program.

20

Tutors dedicate their time to Adult Education weekly.

2019 Mercy Neighbor Award



Sister Ann with 2019 Mercy Neighbor Award recipient, Senator Bob Casey.



The Mercy Staff celebrating a successful year.



Board Chair Bob Graham and Program Director Ms. Barbara Coleman sharing Mercy's vision for the future and facts about our programs with our faithful supporters.

(Pictures courtesy of Wanda Thomas Photography, LLC.)

Adult Education & Workforce Development

This year, our Adult Learners found a permanent home and space in our Mercy Family Center. The Burton R. Cohen Education Center had its grand opening in December 2018 where graduates, tutors, administration and supporters gathered to unveil the renovated space in the lower level of our Mercy Family Center. Already, this space designated specifically for them has brought a new sense of energy to the students and program overall.



Bob & Mindy Cohen officially open The Burton R. Cohen Education Center at Mercy Family Center.

Nearly 15% of the population of the City of Philadelphia does not have a high school diploma. Through our teaching and collaborations, we are working to mitigate this problem while preparing learners for their next steps in life.

The graduation cap, or mortarboard: a universal symbol of academic dress. Our students are focused on the goal of completing their education and this serves as encouragement to stay the course.



Our students wish Mr. Cohen a Happy Birthday at the classroom grand opening.



Graduate Donte White returns to Mercy and speaks with Adult Education Coordinator, Sister Maureen Conklin, RSM.



Adult Education graduates Jose Figueroa and Antoinette Ealy express their appreciation for this new space and reminisce on their time without it when working toward their diplomas.



Mercy parent LaToya Anderson works with tutor Anne Marie Campbell in Mercy's new adult education space. LaToya will be returning to college to finish several credits and is using Mercy's Adult Education program as a resource.

Adult Day Care

Our seniors have stayed busy with different events, activities and visitors to the program throughout the year. To celebrate the history of Adult Day, we held a program celebration event that gave participants, staff and friends of the program an opportunity to reminisce on the good memories created with one another over the years. There was food, discussion and a moment highlighting 5 current program participants who have been in the program since its inception.

In addition to our day to day programming, our dedicated Adult Day staff works to provide our community with varied resources. An Alzheimer's Caregivers Support Group meets monthly, Health Symposia are hosted here by the City of Philadelphia and free flu shots are routinely offered to our community.

The butterfly for Adult Day: Our neighbors have reached a phase of their lives where the beauty of their wisdom comes through transformation. We cherish our elders and look to them as an example of growth and maturity.



Our neighbors playing games during "Casino Day."



Weekly sessions from the Claymobile, funded by the SSJ Mission Grant, have been a welcome addition to the Adult Day program.





We wish our longtime volunteer, friend and Mercy Associate, Nurse Penne Wood, a relaxing retirement. We know we'll see her often at Mercy Family Center.



Some days, a stroll in the park is all we need.



Adult Day staff and neighbors celebrate United Nations Day.



Our "original" Adult Day clients remain dedicated members of the Mercy Family.

In Memoriam

Alice G. Krause

Jay & Marge Buckwalter
Gerard & Judy Davies
Elizabeth Derocher
Daniel J. Derocher
Donna Dodderidge
Jane Johnston
James Murphy
Robert Needle
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Mary Jac

Maryellen Bucci

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Catherine McAuley, RSM

Elaine Schaeffer

Christopher Pawlowksi

James & Estella Plewes

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Regina Ward, RSM

Janet M. Lamb, RSM

Lynn Steidle

Dorothea Pressey

Richard & Kathy Target

Clara Mae Coleman

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Mark S. Conway

Shirley Watts



In Honor Of

Kathleen Boyce, RSM**Joan Freney, RSM****Kathleen Gennett, RSM****Janet Henry****MaryAnn Horan****Marie Bernadette Kinniry****Louise Marie Luby****Eleanor McCann****Maureen Murray****Barbara Anne Newton****Katherine O'Donnell****Ann Quigley****Joan Scary****Margaret Taylor****Anne Woodeshick****Anna Saltzman, RSM****Mary Anne Basile, RSM****Jubilarians**

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Maureen Murray, RSM



Our campers gathered in Ms. Coleman's Courtyard before their first field trip of the summer.

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Mercy Meals

Through a grant from the The Edna G. Kynett Memorial Foundation and collaborations with Jefferson University and SHARE Food Program, we launched the Mercy Meals Program in May to address an issue most important to our neighbors - access to healthy and affordable fresh foods. SHARE creates and provides food packages at half the cost one would normally pay on a shopping trip to a traditional grocery store. Each box is filled with a variety of items based on the specific box theme and seasonal availability - chicken, beef, ham, sweet potatoes, mango, watermelon, onions, mushrooms and many other items. This program has been a great value to our neighbors, and through the generosity of donors like you, we have also received donated boxes to distribute to families in our community.



Be Our Neighbor Donate

Your generosity enables us to provide our services to those who would otherwise not have access to them. For many of our families, the works of Mercy are essential in their pursuit of a better quality of life.

Contact Steven Ziegler,
Director of Philanthropy at
215.227.4393 or
sziegler@mercyneighbors.org

You can also visit
www.mercyneighbors.org/donate
United Way Code: 15153

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Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia, Inc.

CHILD CARE | ADULT DAY CARE | EDUCATION | SOCIAL SERVICES | WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The official registration and financial information of Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

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www.MercyNeighbors.org
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Ways To Give

Online: Gifts can be made online by visiting www.mercyneighbors.org/donate

Traditional Mail: Complete the information on the enclosed envelope with a check made out to Mercy Neighborhood Ministries to submit your gift for this year.

Appreciated Securities: A gift of appreciated securities, stocks or bonds can provide significant tax savings. Please call (215)-227-4393 for more information and ask for Steve Ziegler.

Matching Gifts: One gift can give twice! Many companies match gifts made by their employees. Please check with your employer and include the matching gift form with your donation.