



"The more light you allow within you, the brighter the world you live in will be."

❖ Shakti Gawain

Mercy Haven's mission is to acknowledge the dignity and potential of people who are homeless, living with mental illness or living in poverty by providing housing, advocacy, education and life skills development.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CHAIR

"The Light you generate simply by BEing radiates out into the world and touches many." . T. Vesotsky

Dear Friends,

Light is a gift that we can take for granted and maybe cherish more in its absence. It is something which radiates energy in all of its stages of brightness. Each of us knows how we change when we feel we've been deprived of light after a number of dull, stormy days. We certainly know how much better we feel when the sun is waiting for us.

We chose the theme of light for this annual report because each of you, and, each of the persons who choose to share their lives with us gift us with light. None of what we do could be done in the same way without your light. We know many will immediately say "I really don't do that much," but the truth is that the light we have throughout Mercy Haven is created by each of the rays that you share. We don't take that "lightly."

Our commitment to compassion, collaboration, justice, respect, integrity, mercy and creativity center us. We are proud to share our story of the outcomes of ongoing recovery, satisfaction and services for our participants and our continued growth

in affordable housing and advocacy. Of course, there are so many intangible ways that our culture of care, reverence and ongoing hope cannot be measured. It has to be experienced.

It is our blessing to see lives unfold because of the light within the community of Mercy Haven.

Thank you for making the difference! We hope you enjoy this report and know how cherished you are.

Sincerely,

S. Patricia Griffith, D. Min., LMSW

Executive Director

Afax

Drody Oxurton Dorothy Overton

Board Chair



"I began my journey with Mercy Haven on May 8, 1999. It was my first opportunity to work with people with a mental illness in a community residence (CR) setting. I met some really interesting people, and many of these wonderful people have touched my life and have been my light.

My time with Mercy Haven has been rewarding in so many ways. To see someone come into the CR in a very fragile state and a few years later move into their own apartment is very heartwarming.

I will store up these memories in my heart forever, some names I will not remember but their faces I will never forget. One thing I do know is that Mercy Haven has had more success than failure in serving our residents. May we, all of us, continue the mission to acknowledge the dignity and potential of people who are homeless, living with mental illness or living in poverty by doing all we can for those LIGHTS who shine on our paths."

OUR HOUSING

It begins with a home...

Mercy Haven began in 1985 with a simple desire to help those who had been released from state psychiatric hospitals without the proper support in the community. Many were without the skills to live independently and without a safe, stable place to call home. That simple desire to help has blossomed into an agency that provides housing and a myriad of support services to those who are homeless, living with mental illness or living in poverty.

Community Residences (CR)

Those who have spent time in the hospital for psychiatric treatment may feel overwhelmed at the prospect of going from a very structured environment to living independently. A Community Residence provides a place where individuals can develop existing skills and learn new skills for independent living in a supportive, structured, yet home-like setting. Our 3 Community Residences, which are licensed by the NYS Office of Mental Health, provide care 24 hours per day, 7 days per week for 34 adults. During their stay, which averages approximately 2 years, our residents work with staff to develop personalized care plans containing goals that will help them move on to live more independently. The skills residents work to develop during their stay include cooking, cleaning, budgeting, socialization, medication management, job readiness assessments and use of public transportation.

CR residents have access to the full range of programs at Mercy Haven including supported employment opportunities, educational workshops and social events. The restorative services we offer enable each resident the ability to recover at their own pace and transition into the community as comfortably as possible.











- 88% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the CR program's methods to help residents live more independently
- 100% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the kinds of services they receive at Mercy Haven
- 96% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the overall quality of Mercy Haven's Services









Our Light After the Storm...

August 13, 2014 is a day that will not be forgotten by those of us at Mercy Haven. During the early morning hours, a record breaking rainfall dropped more than 13 inches of rain. Our most badly damaged site in Bay Shore, two neighboring buildings containing a total of 12 apartments, had all but 4 apartments evacuated. More than \$300,000 in damages was incurred. More distressing than the property damage was the toll the storm took on our fragile residents. More than a dozen had to be relocated to other homes we own while some went to stay with family or friends in the area.

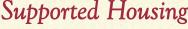
The rainbow after this storm was also the quick and generous response of our staff and supporters when the call for help went out. Our staff went above and beyond the call of duty on this day, as they ventured out into flooded roads to care for our residents. In addition, the response of our supporters to Sister Pat's emergency email appeal raised approximately \$85,000 toward the restoration. These donations, notes of sympathy and letters of encouragement we received were sources of strength during this difficult time. Through a combination of funding from the State of New York Homeless Housing Assistance Corporation, insurance and donations raised through our appeal we began the repairs and renovations and planned to move residents back to their homes by mid-Spring of 2015.



"Mercy Haven has been a light in our lives by giving us a chance to reform our lives to make a better life. Mercy Haven helped us when we needed it and they're very supportive. They always try their best to meet the needs of the tenants and for that we are forever grateful."

OUR HOUSING

Supported Housing









2014 Highlights

- 81% maintained stable housing for 1 year or more
- 97% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the professionalism and courtesy of Mercy Haven's Staff
- 90% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with methods to help them live more independently
- 96% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the overall quality of Mercy Haven's Services

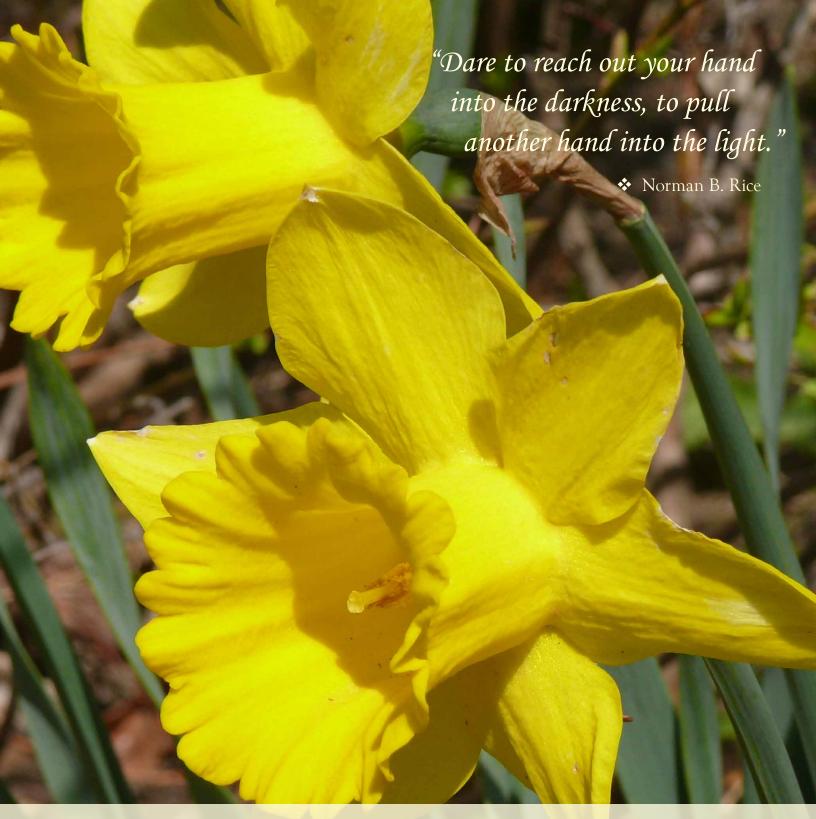


In communities all throughout Long Island, those who are living with mental illness or who have been homeless are maintaining stable housing with the support and encouragement of our staff. Our Supported Housing program, known as HEARTH (Healed, Encouraged And Renewed Through Housing), is the largest component of our housing with 212 residents, including 61 children. HEARTH offers permanent housing with varying levels of support that are based on the needs of the individual or family. While these residents are able to live more independently than those in our Community Residence program, there are a number of services available to help them establish and maintain stable housing. Our Housing Specialists visit our residents a minimum of once per month to provide resources and support with tasks such as budgeting, establishing community supports, job readiness evaluation and health management. These skills are the building blocks to stable housing and long-term success for our residents.

"Being homeless for a single mother can be the most devastating situation. After I lost my home and was placed in a shelter, I was feeling hopelessness, despair, and depressed... This was my darkest moment and I gave up... After 12 attempts to find permanent housing, Mercy Haven gave me the keys to our present home. I will never forget the wonderful staff that showed me love, kindness, and gave us a home. Thank you Mercy Haven for being the light for homelessness." * Michelle T.







"I have always lived with someone - my mom and dad, my husband, my children - and once they grew up, I was alone. Mercy Haven took me out of the darkness of being alone and provided me with lots of new friends, a steady and safe place to live and a new light. I do not think I could ever live alone because I have always lived with family. Mercy Haven is my new family. I love Sister Kathy and Sister Pat. They made me feel welcomed and gave me a home when I needed it. I love being here."

OUR HOUSING

Pleasant Gardens Adult Home

A Right That Shines

Pleasant Gardens, our Adult Home licensed by the Department of Health, provides a home for 26 older adults who are unable to live independently. Residents at Pleasant Gardens enjoy services that include cooking, cleaning, laundry service, and medication management that are provided by staff who are on-site 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. There are also ample social and recreational programs to keep residents engaged and entertained, including regular outings, shopping trips, movies and in-house activities. Visits from a medical doctor and other specialists complete the care that is provided.

We take pride in the care and upkeep of all of our homes, and this is especially true at Pleasant Gardens, as the original part of the house dates back to the mid-1800's. In 2014, with funds we received from the New York State Department of Health "EQUAL" program, improvements were made to the home including new countertops in the kitchen and new flooring in the dining room, new doors, and new furniture in the living room along with a new TV. In addition, help from volunteer groups enhanced the beauty of the grounds at Pleasant Gardens. Projects included painting the porch and curbs around our large driveway.

- 95% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the professionalism and courtesy of Mercy Haven's Staff
- 86% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the kinds of services they receive at Mercy Haven
- 100% were Satisfied or Very Satisfied with the overall quality of Mercy Haven's Services







"Look at how a single candle can both defy and define the darkness."

Anne Frank



We Are More Than Housing...

We know that having a home is only the first step on the journey from homelessness to permanent housing. Developing the building blocks necessary for maintaining housing and self-sufficiency is key to the success of our residents. Throughout the years, we have responded to their needs by developing programs that remove the barriers to permanent housing and foster growth and independence. The activities detailed on the next several pages demonstrate Mercy Haven's commitment to the advocacy, education and life skills development that are so important to the success of our residents.

The Mercy Advocacy Program (MAP) provides free legal assistance to our residents on their civil legal emergencies. These emergencies often include threats to our residents' subsistence income (public assistance, SSI, SSD), their access to health care (Medicare and Medicaid), or their access to basic nutrition (food stamps). MAP also works for systemic change through its participation in class action suits on behalf of low-income people across New York State.

MERCY ADVOCACY PROGRAM (MAP)



MAP's Advocacy in 2014 - Just a few examples from this year's 110 cases ...

Preserving Subsistence Income: MAP was successful in preserving Social Security Income for several of our residents who had their benefits reduced or eliminated. In one case MAP secured the reversal of an SSI underpayment of \$3,518.90. In another instance, MAP persevered for 11 months to secure a correction of an SSI underpayment of \$4,481.81 for one of our residents. Another resident was overpaid by SSI in the amount of \$552.34. However, he was granted a waiver because he demonstrated, with help from staff, that he was "without fault" in having caused the overpayment.

Removing barriers to health care: One of the key barriers to healthcare for our residents is the failure of Medicaid to act upon its responsibility to cover the payment of monthly Medicare Part B premiums of \$104.90. During 2014, MAP successfully secured retroactive Medicare premiums ranging from totals of

\$419 to \$2,063 for 5 different residents.

Ensuring access to basic nutrition: The process of gaining and maintaining eligibility for food stamps (and other supports) can be overwhelming for our residents. In 2014 MAP was able to assist one resident in getting his Food Stamps reinstated after they had been erroneously reduced from \$189 per month to \$15 per month. Another resident's Food Stamps were reinstated after having been falsely terminated. Yet another resident was assisted in reversing an error that reduced Food Stamps from \$149 per month to \$11 per month.

Systemic Change

MAP continues to support systemic change through participation as co-counsel in several class action suits that deal with the critical issues of access to nutrition and health care. In one suit, MAP seeks to recover approximately \$700,000 in retroactive Food Stamps for approximately 12,800 Food Stamp recipients statewide who were underpaid. In another, we hope to recover approximately \$75 million in retroactive Food Stamps for a class of 344,000 Food Stamp households. A third suit deals with the state's failure to offer a public comment period, as they are required to do, before changing the Food Stamp budgeting methodology. A fourth suit challenges the state's continued use of Food Stamp notices that were deemed invalid due to lack of complete information. A final suit seeks to secure timely fair hearing decisions from the state for Medicaid applicants and recipients state-wide.

"Thank you all at MAP. I have learned many things at my hearings. Your help along the way has been a light to guide me in moving on and to take care of things. God Bless you all always."

* Elizabeth R., Resident

- Opened 110 cases
- 2,495 total cases since MAP's inception in 1997
- 24 trainings for Mercy Haven Staff, volunteers and residents on advocacy issues
- LI Business News bestowed one of two "Leadership In Law" Lifetime Achievement awards to MAP attorney, John Castellano







EDUCATION and LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Resident Empowerment & Achievement Program - REAP

The goal of REAP is to provide residents with tools that will promote, motivate and encourage independent living as well as to provide information about community resources that are available to them. A monthly calendar that is prepared with input from participants and distributed to all, offers many social and educational programs, workshops and activities. In 2014, these included: Understanding Public Transportation, Job Readiness/Computer Training, Dental Health, Cooking and Baking Classes, Tobacco Cessation, Workshops on Elder Abuse and Protection from Fraud. The Movie Club, Craft Corner, Ceramics and Book Club continue to be popular favorites for our residents as well.

REAP continued to offer residents the opportunity for paid employment in a number of different positions, such as building assistant, bulk mailer, cleaner, mover and driver.

In 2014, our participants attended many community events which included: Long Island Coalition for the Homeless Candlelight Vigil, Bayport/Blue Point St. Patrick's Day Parade, Breakthrough Ceremonies, National Alliance on Mental Illness Walk, Legislative Day in Albany and Mental Illness Awareness Week.

2014 REAP Highlights

- 34 differentREAP activities were offered
- 83% of residents participated in at least 1 REAP activity
- 56 people were employed in our Supported Employment Program

A new Resident Peer Group known as Mercy Angels, formed in 2014. Their stated mission is to better ourselves, our neighbors, and our communities and their motto is to give back and pay it forward. Helping to put a voice to residents' needs, Mercy Angels offer assistance and resources to new residents in an effort to alleviate the fear and stress of a new environment. Welcome baskets of food and cleaning products are prepared and delivered to newcomers, the REAP calendar of events is discussed and participation is encouraged.







Mercy Enrichment

Situated at our beautiful site in Brentwood, Mercy Enrichment is the center of our community outreach efforts and provides opportunities for education, respite, rejuvenation, and reflection. A variety of programs are offered for residents, staff, and the community at-large, including our community garden. Our space is also available for use by

groups whose values affirm those of Mercy Haven.



- Free Flu Shots
- Mental Illness Awareness Week
- Used by 9 outside groups for 25 events/meetings
- Hosted a total of 373 guests
- Site of our Growing Together Community Garden

Our community outreach efforts in 2014 focused on educating people about both mental and physical health. This past October, Mercy Haven

was actively involved in Mental Illness Awareness Week by hosting an Open House and a movie screening and discussion of Silver Linings Playbook, a 2012 movie about a man who learns to live with and manage his bi-polar disorder after an 8- month stay at a psychiatric hospital. Our continued efforts toward health and wellness led us to work with Southside Hospital and offer flu shots free of charge to residents, staff and members of the community.



EDUCATION and LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



Breakthrough ... through the light of a graduate's eyes.

Breakthrough is a 12-week, 24 session intense outreach and education program offered to homeless and formerly homeless individuals. The classes help participants understand the factors that contributed to their homelessness and gives them the tools and confidence necessary to achieve personal goals.

A Participant's Story

I am a proud graduate of Mercy Haven's Breakthrough Program. Since my graduation on Jan. 17, 2010, Breakthrough has been and still is a big light in my life. In 2009, I was homeless for five months and emotionally in very bad shape. I had no hope and could not see any light in my life. The Breakthrough Program helped me get back my dignity and self-esteem. The experience taught me life skills and communication skills. With the help of my mentor, I was able to identify the reasons why I became homeless and find different ways to make positive changes in my life.

Today, I am happily married to my long-time girlfriend and have a nice apartment in Bay Shore. I am employed as the Assistant to S. Kathy, coordinator of Breakthrough, and am a volunteer mentor in the Breakthrough Program. There is no better feeling than to hear and see the participants looking to make positive and serious changes in their lives.

Mercy Haven's Breakthrough Program is not only a bright light in my life, it is a shining star.

Peter C., Breakthrough Graduate, Assistant and Mentor





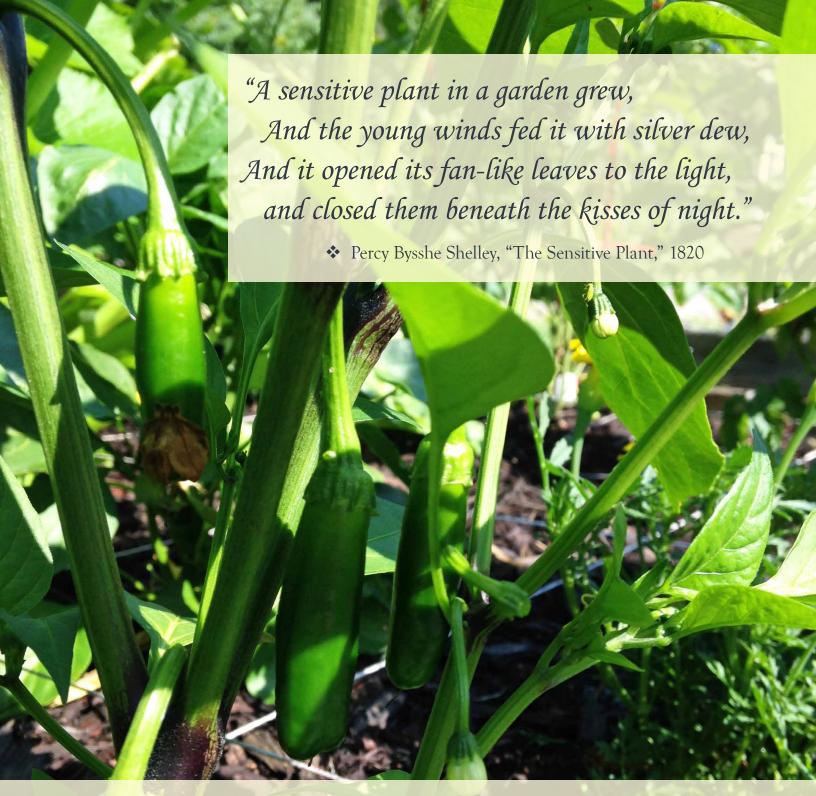
2014 Highlights

- 3 Sessions
- 31 Graduates
- 45 Volunteers Donated
 524 Hours
- 189 graduates since the program began in 2007

"When I first came to Breakthrough I believed I could be a light to the program participants because of my family's experience with homelessness and poverty. After five years of volunteering as a mentor I still believe that, but I also have come to realize that the participants have also been a light to me. I brought with me a feeling of solidarity and compassion for the Breakthrough participants. I thought what the participants needed was someone to help them navigate the social services system. Over time I learned that their needs were much deeper than that. Through the participants sharing their stories they revealed to me what their needs are. They need to be seen. They need to be heard. They need another human being to be present to them. They need acceptance. In this way they have been a light to me, taking me to another level of understanding of what we all need as human beings on this journey through life."

❖ John F., Breakthrough Volunteer Mentor





"There is something about the atmosphere, even when you just enter the door to Mercy Haven. Mutual respect, a genuine smile, an uplifting spirit, caring and compassion, encouraging words, willingness to help, all come to mind when I think of my experience working for Mercy Haven. I truly enjoy working with the residents, and having the opportunity to share, to challenge and to serve them, to see them develop trust and hope. The privilege of seeing the change in them inspires me. Whether through the residents or those who support them, the compassion shines through Mercy Haven."

EDUCATION and LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



"Growing Together" Community Garden

Our "Growing Together" Community Garden at Mercy Enrichment completed its third season in 2014 and continues to be nurturing and fruitful in its mission to strengthen the bonds of the community.

The garden was tended to by several new groups as well as some seasoned gardeners. We welcomed garden members from the Suffolk County Head Injury Association, Brentwood Seniors, Mercy Angels, Mercy First, and several residents from the Brentwood community to their first season in the garden.

Weekly educational classes were led by Elizabeth Takakjian Master Gardener, in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County as part of their Creating Healthy Places in Suffolk County grant from the NYS Department of Health. Elizabeth shared her expertise and garden wisdom with our members. The hands-on sessions covered a wide variety of topics including: seed starting in the greenhouse, hardening off plants,

exploring different planting techniques and how to harvest strawberries and blueberries from the community garden beds.

Many of our garden members have become close friends and enjoy working together.

The garden's 3-year cumulative total of harvested produce is 3,176 pounds, with 476 pounds donated to local food pantries.







2014 Highlights

- 859 pounds of produce harvested
- 15% of total harvest was donated to local food pantries
- 73 Garden Members/Volunteers donated 423 hours of service









John's Place

John's Place continued this past year at St. Agnes Church in Greenport and Mattituck Presbyterian Church in Mattituck, providing shelter two nights a week during the winter months to the homeless living on the East End of Long Island. Mercy Haven staff visited the sites monthly to assist the volunteers with meal preparation and speak of county and community

resources that are available. Single Point of Access (SPA) applications were also provided and distributed to those guests in attendance who live with mental illness and were in need of permanent housing.

Through the efforts of John's Place volunteers and our staff, donations were sought and received in abundance this past year. Items collected included toiletries, towels, hats, scarves and gloves, tents, sleeping bags and cots. These are just some of the many items necessary to keep the guests comfortable and warm during the winter. John's Place serves guests from November through March.

- Site visits by Mercy Haven staff 2 times a month
- RNs visited once a month to take care of basic needs.
- 200 Volunteers from local communities
- 150 different guests were served



WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT ...

Our BOARD















Our Board of Directors is made up of volunteers from a variety of professions and experience, including banking, accounting, financial management, law, health care, education, homelessness, psychology and mental health advocacy. Board members know from personal experience the many challenges our participants encounter. We are grateful for their guidance, their dedication to our participants and their roles as advocates. Thank you!

















Our STAFF



Our staff is a dedicated group of individuals from a wide variety of professions including social work, human services, accounting, finance, human resources and law yet they all share a common goal: to carry out the mission of Mercy Haven.

- Mercy Haven employed 133 people. This includes 56 residents employed in our Supported Employment Program
- 38% of our staff have been employed with Mercy Haven for 5 years or longer
- County of residence of our employees: Nassau = 17%; Queens = 4%; Suffolk = 79%
- Age breakdown of our employees: 21-30 = 28%; 31-50 = 39%; greater than 50 = 33%

Our VOLUNTEERS







"I have been a part of Mercy Haven since its beginnings. As a Bay Shore native, I saw the scared faces of the people who were just let out on the streets when the hospitals closed down. It took courage to say "I will help them" and Mercy Haven was born. I mentor wonderful people through Breakthrough and get out of it much more than I put in. Each person I've met has become a part of my life. I enjoy working with the wonderful staff and volunteers who gather together to raise funds so that Mercy Haven can continue its fine work. It is an honor to be a part of Mercy Haven. Each person who comes for help is treated with dignity and compassion."

"To love another person is to see the face of God." A Barbara B., Volunteer

In 2014, 219 Volunteers Donated 1,723 Hours

They might sound like simple tasks:

and SUPPORTERS

In these times of economic uncertainty and dwindling government support, the impact of the contributions received from our supporters cannot be over emphasized. Our 2014 golf outing was very successful, thanks to our dedicated golfers who waited out the morning rain. A devastating rainstorm flooded our homes this past summer, and a special call for help was made. Our supporters responded generously, many offering donations as well as kind words of encouragement and good wishes. Our Fall Cocktail Party followed weeks later, again exceeding our financial goals. We are truly grateful.

In addition to attending or sponsoring our events, donors found many ways to give. This included enrolling in our monthly giving program, naming Mercy Haven as a beneficiary in their will, and contributing shares of appreciated stock. No matter the method of giving, every contribution made a difference in the lives of our residents. *Thank you!*











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Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

- Omaha, NE -

- Flushing

Ms. Jane Winsch

MERCY HAVEN'S 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT



The following information is derived from the Mercy Haven Consolidated Audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014, as audited by Cullen & Danowski, LLP, CPA.

Income Sources	
Government Contracts and Grants	\$ 3,272,656
Resident Services	2,614,024
Contribution and Fundraising Income	279,075
Grant Income	689,987
Investment Income	57,556
Net Assets Released From Restrictions	80,303
Other Income Net	100,819
Total Income Sources	\$ 7,094,420
Program Expenses	
Program Services	\$ 6,332,633
Supporting Services	689,096
Fundraising and Development	173,835
Total Program Expenses	\$ 7,195,564
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	5,242
Change in Net Assets	(95,902)
Beginning Net Assets	1,712,929
Ending Net Assets	1,617,027
Total Liabilities	8,047,992
Total Assets	\$ 9,665,019

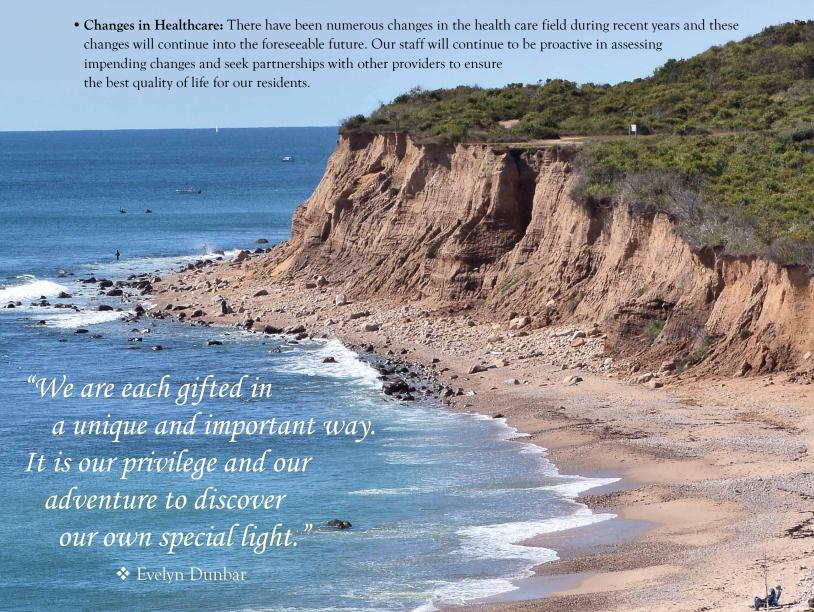
Mercy Haven, Inc. is committed to responsible and transparent stewardship of the funds we receive from our supporters, both public and private.



IN 2015 AND BEYOND ...

As we move into the future, we continue to grow and evolve to meet the ever-changing needs of the people we serve. We know our future will include:

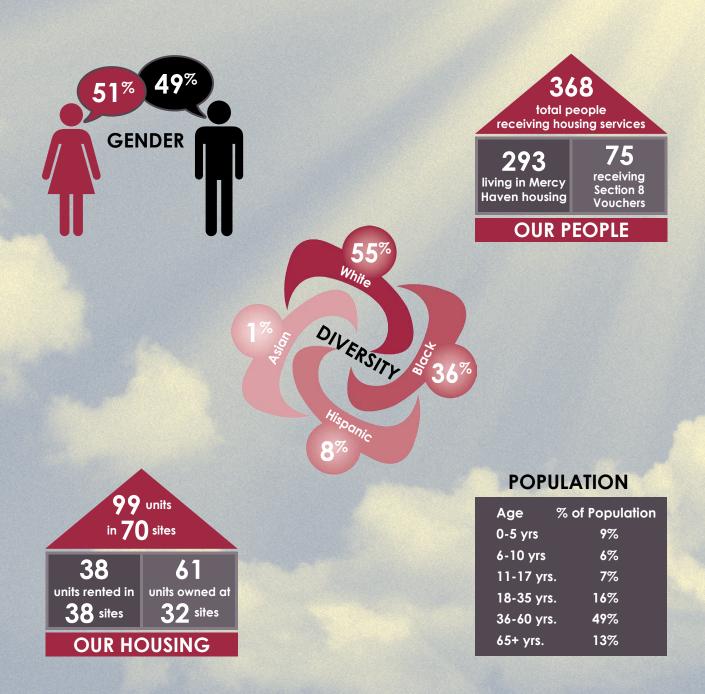
- Opening new housing: In the Spring of 2015, we will open three new houses in Suffolk County that will be home to 3 families and 7 individuals. We have designated these homes for Veterans.
- **Groundbreaking:** In the fall of 2015 we plan to break ground on a new housing development in Central Islip that will include housing for 20 individuals and 2 families who are low-income persons living with a mental illness.
- Expansion of Programs: In 2015 we plan to expand our Supported Employment program to offer several vocational choices and a structured training and internship program. In addition, we will also pilot a youth mentoring program for children living in Mercy Haven housing.
- "Whole-Person" Health: Many building blocks are needed to maintain stable housing and this certainly includes stable health—both mental and physical. While one of our focal points has been persons living with mental illness, we have seen in recent years that physical health ailments impacted our residents, in many cases to a greater extent than their mental health issues. We have added an LPN to our staff, and through our collaborations with local hospitals, we intend to expand programs that focus on preventive care.



BY THE NUMBERS ...

"I wish I could show you ...
when you are lonely or in darkness ...
the astonishing light of your own being."

* Hafiz





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Save the Dates!

Mercy Haven's 16th Annual Golf Outing Thursday, June 4, 2015 Island Hills Golf Club Sayville, NY

Mercy Haven's 30th Anniversary Gala Saturday, October 24, 2015 Bellport Country Club Bellport, NY

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"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

James M. Barrie



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