A Message from S. Pat

We have been thrown into an unplanned and undeniable pandemic: the scale of deaths, social isolation, loss in jobs, income, business, and available support services needed to maintain our health were (are) beyond our ability to fully process. Life as we expected it to be day to day is changed and returning to life as usual not to be.

But amidst it, YOU have been, and continue to be there for Mercy Haven in so many ways. Whether it was in bringing a meal to our residents, making masks, bringing food, sending a financial donation, or calling to see how we are – YOU are there in the middle of the Mercy Haven village.

Seems like a lot of challenges all at the same time. At least for me, I add the massive suffering that continues because of the racial disparities that exist. I am ever more aware of my own need for a deeper awareness, understanding and personal change. The schooling decisions for you know that too, as you face your own awareness, understanding and personal change.

It is taking the village – to get us through these days. Mercy Haven still faces a great unknown as our residents’ needs escalate in light of their isolation and the unavailability, or changes, in their support groups and direct therapy. So much has been thrust upon them, and like us, the stress needs to be acknowledged and support needs to be sought and received. Thank you for keeping us in your heart and for your continued concern and support. We need you, and you have been there and know you will continue to be.

Mystical Jewish wisdom teaches us that we are all born with a particular task we are meant to do to contribute to the healing of the world, and we are precisely and perfectly designed to do it. (Wild Mercy. Mirabai Starr)

May we continue to be contributors to the healing that is needed.

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www.mercyhaven.org

A Newsletter Published by Mercy Haven, Inc.

Virtual Raffle & Auction Event
10/16/20 - 11/1/20
Visit us at www.mercyhaven.org
Follow us @mercyhaveninc

Welcome to Our Etsy Store!

Etsy is an American e-commerce website focused on handmade or vintage craft items. Due to a generous outpouring of support these past several months, Mercy Haven created an Etsy store to showcase the creative talents of the many who have responded to our call for help. You will find in our store photographs, paintings and children’s art turned into an Etsy store to showcase the creative talents of the many who have responded to our call for help. You will find in our store photographs, paintings and children’s art turned into an Etsy store to showcase the creative talents of the many who have responded to our call for help.

With a donation of $30 (includes shipping) you will receive a package of 10 note cards.

Note Cards and More!
Created from images Generously Donated By Friends and Supporters of our Mission.

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.

Follow us

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Inside this issue: It Takes a Village! Rising to the Challenge Fundraising Goes Virtual

Rain Check
2021 - Let’s try this again!
21st Annual Golf outing - Monday June 7th 2021
35th Anniversary Gala - Friday October 29th 2021
Redeemable by YOU!
Signed: Your Friends at Mercy Haven. Thank You

Alexander McCall Smith’s book, The Full Cupboard of Life

"Everybody in a village had a role to play in bringing up a child - and cherishing it - and in return that child would in due course feel responsible for everybody in that village. That is what makes life in society possible. We must love one another in our daily lives. That was the traditional African way and there was no substitute for it. None."

Mystical Jewish wisdom teaches us that we are all born with a particular task we are meant to do to contribute to the healing of the world, and we are precisely and perfectly designed to do it. (Wild Mercy. Mirabai Starr)
Providing Services During a Health Crisis

In the midst of quarantine, when outside visitors to homes and businesses were strictly limited, it became challenging to provide our additional services that residents are accustomed to: group socialization, supported employment, youth and family trips, community outreach and life skill classes. Staff who were not working in our group homes and could not visit as usual worked creatively to provide the most vital services and support over the phone.

Revenue Loss

Mercy Haven had two major fundraising events that had to be cancelled in light of COVID – our annual golf outing, and this year was to be our 35th Anniversary Gala!! Both events raise funds for our housing and services – a loss of approximately $280,000 this year from those events alone. So many of our dedicated supporters have come through, giving event sponsorships and donations that they would have given for our events to make up for this loss. Our loyal grantors have been a great support, coming through with funds for our regular programs and COVID specific help. Outreach efforts by staff and board brought an increase in donations and much needed monthly donors. We continue to think creatively this year to hit our fundraising goal to keep the vital staff and programming needed, with our new housing adding 60 more persons to our care this fall.

Mercy Haven’s Staff are Essential

For our staff, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant business as usual, with several new challenges and not a moment lost in caring for our participants. With over 300 people in our housing and 95% of our population living with a mental illness, our residents’ mental and physical health during this time, and always, is our top priority. Stress for the general population during this crisis is high let alone for our population whose anxieties, given their multiple diagnoses, food insecurity and limited incomes can become so great that it impairs their daily functioning.

Mercy Haven’s Faithful Committees

Mercy Haven’s Event and Development Committees, comprised of dedicated staff members, board, and loyal volunteers, have been supportive and insightful each time we come together to discover alternate ways of fundraising. Through our ZOOM meetings, we are able to “see” each other and plan for our upcoming Virtual Auction and Etsy Page which are necessary to help make up some of the lost revenue the agency depends on through our yearly fundraising events.

Social Isolation and Mental Health

With 58 individuals in 24-hour supervised group homes and over 240 people, including 60 children, living in scattered site homes, our staff had their work cut out during the mandated self-quarantine, an especially difficult task for our independent homes. Every supportive housing resident is called every day by a staff member to connect, talk and listen. A special initiative connecting our younger donors to our children continues with pen pal letters and art work!

Programming for our residents (REAP) has gone virtual, with offerings such as Spiritual Studies, Healthy Cooking, Peer Support and Art Classes being run through a very streamlined ZOOM meeting platform.

Food Shortage and Supplies

When the pandemic started and stores were flooded with customers buying up the necessities, toilet paper, paper towels, water and absolutely anything with ‘antibacterial’ in the label… we all had trouble at times finding things for our own families, let alone ensuring that 300 people have the food and disinfecting products they need when store supplies ran short. Staff and donors came through big time, with donations of food items, masks, cleaning supplies and more brought in by donors and delivered safely by staff to our residents.

It Takes a Village!

Mercy Haven’s Staff are Essential

It Takes a Village!

$440,000 GOAL

$237,613 as of 7/31/2020

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