A Message from S. Pat

Welcome to our 35th Year!

I find myself wondering what was happening in our world 35 years ago. Why 35? Because, as you’ll see in everything we publish, our agency is celebrating our 35th year of service. I’m not sure who has benefited more, our participants or those of us who have been blessed to walk with them in their daily lives. And then I think “when does something begin?” Was it the first house? Or is it the beginning moment when a group of ordinary community members were so filled with compassion that they could not be quiet but had to speak out for those the state had discharged into communities without the needed support and plan for care?

Or is our beginning those first 5 years of forming the agency, being in conflict with elected officials and community leaders who were content to blame the people we favored for every issue in a local community? A time when we were both touched by the commitment of the State Office of Mental Health, through their local regional leaders like George Schulz and Terry Segovia, and horrified by the lack of courage of many elected officials.

For me, I think ‘the beginning’ was witnessing the children in my class watch the ‘wanderers’ on Main Street and listen to the names they had given them. So many of the children were so at home with greeting them at the school fence. (Indeed the little ones shall lead us.) I know I was forever changed in leaving my loved position as a teacher at St. Pat’s to cross the street and be with whomever was looking for our parish’s assistance. I can still name those first friends who taught me that at our core we really aren’t different…Bruce, Margie, the ‘bird lady’, Nick, ‘Queen Carol’, the ‘radio man’ …

Life changes us as does love. Those were the seeds sown in our Hospitality Center and Social Justice Board at St. Patrick’s parish which gave birth to this year of celebration.

The Cost of Living in 1985!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>1985 Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yearly Inflation Rate USA</td>
<td>3.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year End Close Dow Jones Industrial Average</td>
<td>1,546 pts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Rates Year End Federal Reserve</td>
<td>10.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Cost of New House</td>
<td>$89,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Price of an Existing Home</td>
<td>$75,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Income per year</td>
<td>$22,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Monthly Rent</td>
<td>$375</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Price for New Car</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Example Prices:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallon of Gas</td>
<td>$1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Ticket</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>US Postage Stamp</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bacon per pound</td>
<td>$1.65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rib Eye Steak per pound</td>
<td>$3.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Mac Value Meal</td>
<td>$2.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Times Newspaper</td>
<td>40 cents</td>
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</table>

The Cost of Living in 1985!
A beautiful early November day welcomed over 220 guests for our 34th Annual Fall Cocktail Party. Friends gathered at Southward Ho Country Club in Bay Shore to share in the warmth of the celebration, and reminisce. While there is so much to be thankful for, our efforts to meet and beat challenges were strong and swift as we move into our 35th year of providing housing and support services to those who are homeless, living with mental illness or living in poverty. The committee, with chairs Erin O’Connor, Pat Spiegel and Linda Tos, worked tirelessly for months and were dedicated to the task of creating a wonderful event. They did not disappoint. The evening would not have been possible without our Event Sponsors: Empire National Bank, Ridgewood Savings Bank and the McNamara Family and the many baskets of prizes donated from local vendors and committee members. The event was a complete success, raising more than $90,000 in vital and necessary funds. We look forward to sharing our stories of courage and hope with our many friends, new and old, at our 35th Anniversary Gala on October 16, 2020.

Celebrating the Season with a Little Magic
... Our Family Holiday Party is a Special Night For All
A Heartfelt Thank You
to Our Generous Donors this Past Holiday Season

Generosity of heart... Thanksgiving baskets, providing gifts for our residents and families, and a jolly Santa. Each of these were donated by local businesses, nonprofits, churches, schools and individuals to help brighten the holidays for those in our care.

Much-needed towel sets and gift cards for 180 participants PLUS 13 Movie Theater Gift Cards for our young adults were donated by:

OUR LADY OF THE SNOW RC CHURCH - Blue Point, NY
ST. MARY RC CHURCH PARISH OUTREACH - East Islip, NY
ST. THOMAS MORE RC CHURCH PARISH OUTREACH - Hauppauge, NY
ST. PETER THE APOSTLE - Islip Terrace, NY
OUR LADY OF PEACE - Lynbrook, NY
HOLY CROSS RC CHURCH PARISH OUTREACH - Nesconset, NY
ST. LAWRENCE THE MARTYR RC CHURCH - Sayville, NY
MERCY HAVEN, INC. - Islip Terrace, NY

KEN DUNNE (above) from ISLAND GROUP PLANS – Donated 30+ turkeys for our families this Thanksgiving.

SHEILA & DEBORAH TASCON-KENNEDY (below center) Donated new toys and games plus new outfits for children in our care. Gift Cards were given to the moms, as well. Thank you to friend, LINDA HOESL, who helped with this project.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF AMERICA - Kings Park, NY Donated 135 Holiday Stockings filled with toiletries for both men and women.

LONG ISLAND BIRTHDAY WISHES - Donated 35 Thanksgiving Baskets filled with all the goodies needed for a complete meal + $25 Supermarket Gift Cards for a turkey.

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT:
LORRAINE GREGORY COMMUNICATIONS - Coat Drive in Support of Mercy Haven
AIELLO BROS. PORK STORE - Platters of Thanksgiving Turkey and Gravy for our folks at Pleasant Gardens
PARLOR HOUSE GRILL - Complete Breakfast & Lunch for a Family of 5 in our Supportive Housing Program

HOLIDAY MAGIC - (pictures at left) who fulfill the wish lists for our 60+ children. This year’s festive Holiday Party took place on Dec. 19th at the American Legion Hall in Brentwood. Over 75 guests were in attendance to eat, sing, dance, do crafts, and wait for the jolly old elf’s arrival. Santa did not disappoint! He definitely helped us all believe in the magic of the season.
What’s Going On?

Our Annual Board Retreat
Welcome to a New Year

On Saturday, January 18th, members of our Board of Directors gathered for their Annual Retreat. The day’s purpose is to bridge the leadership of the agency directors with members of our volunteer Board of Directors. It has been our practice to do this each year in order to set quality time together to be educated about what is happening in our field and how it is affecting our presence in the communities we serve, as well as to take time for our own formation. The education of both groups is a priority so that we can be making the best decisions and setting the best vision for Mercy Haven’s future.

This year, as preparation for the retreat, both groups viewed the film, *Elizabeth Blue*, a story centered on mental illness, prior to our meeting. It was our hope that as we spoke to the importance of marketing our agency, each of us would be able to have a fuller understanding of the types of diagnoses 90% of our residents live with. It was also to help us be better ambassadors to our own families and neighbors in understanding the real life challenges that living with mental illness brings.

The annual budget is presented by the Finance Committee and the Governance Committee presents a slate of proposed officers. The work of both these groups is then discussed and approved by the Board. The board’s commitment to this meeting is very impressive with only one person being unable to attend. The new Executive Committee for the Board is as follows: Pat Collins, *Farrell Fritz, PC*, Chairperson; Domenico Ciaccio, *Ridgewood Savings Bank*, Vice Chairperson; Ron Eagar, *Grassi & Co.*, Treasurer and Fred Brendel, *FGCB Consulting*, Secretary.

We are very grateful to them for taking on the added responsibilities of this task, as well as chairing committees and to Tom Quigley, *Metropolitan Transportation Authority*, who will now assume the role of chairperson for the Compliance Committee. We could never accomplish all that we do without each member of the Board, the Agency Directors, and our staff. We are truly blessed.

New Board Officers
Congratulations and Thank You to Our Executive Committee

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of Patrick Collins, *Farrell Fritz, PC* to Chairperson, and Domenico Ciaccio, *Ridgewood Savings Bank* to Vice Chairperson.

Thank You to Dottie Overton, *Empire National Bank*, who recently stepped down as Chairperson. She will continue to serve as a regular member of the Board of Directors.

Grant Highlights
We Couldn’t Do It Without You!

Since our last newsletter, we’ve been blessed to receive gifts from organizations and foundations who are dedicated to solving the complex issue of chronic homelessness on Long Island through Mercy Haven’s services.
Mercy Gardens
Moving Right Along

Mercy Gardens is the name for the housing we’ve been planning, and completing within the coming months. These newly constructed apartments will be available for 20 singles and 2 families who will be under our care. We’re thrilled to be able to build single apartments for our residents, which are a very rare, affordable commodity on Long Island. Support Services and educational opportunities are also included in this project, and will be available on-site. Stay tuned for this great moment. Many thanks to staff who have worked so hard to see this come to completion.

Mercy Haven is Named a Newsday Top Workplace for 2019

We are happy to announce that Mercy Haven has won a Newsday Top Workplace Award! Outstanding survey results, driven by the efforts of a positive and engaging staff, made this award possible, once again. Thank you to Newsday Media Group for this recognition and for another fantastic celebration!

Call for Help is Made
and Staff Responds

Our January Program Calendar included a cooking class led by 2 direct care staff members, Sophia and Charlene. The menu included healthy turkey tacos plus cooking tips and tricks to creating healthier alternatives to favorite recipes that are budget-friendly as well. Thank you Sophia & Charlene!

Also in January, we were pleased to welcome Jenna Brown, RDN, from Shop-Rite in Brentwood, who hosted a program called “Nutrition Jeopardy Fun” for our folks. Teams played a traditional electronic game of jeopardy with all categories centered on nutrition. She then followed up with a cooking exercise - Jenna’s Healthy Turkey Burger Sliders with Onion and Pineapple to show how you can easily make a quick meal that targets all food groups. It was a complete success.

“Bring It Home” Rally Continues Into 2020

Staff and residents once again stood together this past January in the name of better health care through mental health housing as part of the “Bring It Home” initiative. This movement urges New York State to more adequately fund community-based housing programs for individuals with psychiatric disabilities – a cost-saving solution to the complexities of homelessness and mental illness.
Empire National Bank is no stranger to serving the community. Empire’s support, not just for Mercy Haven, but many other nonprofits, dates back to before this writer’s time. This was Doug Manditch’s priority when starting Empire National Bank — to create a culture of philanthropy that supports agencies working to improve Long Island and be a trusted partner to nonprofits on their banking and loan needs.

Doug and countless Empire National Bank staff have been involved in Mercy Haven’s fundraising events and banking ventures for over 15 years. Dorothy Overton, Senior Vice President at Empire, has been a member of Mercy Haven’s Board of Directors for over 15 years, with many of those years as Board Chairperson.

With Empire National going through its own changes this year, their commitment to the solutions Mercy Haven provides for Long Island’s most vulnerable neighbors continues to be steadfast, with their joining forces once more as a Gold Business Partner in 2020. We cannot thank Doug, Dottie and their team enough for their unwavering support each year.

Once a year, Long Island Business News selects 30 dynamic young professionals under the age of 30, who contribute to the Long Island community through public service and who have made significant strides in business. Our own Alisha Crawford became part of the 2019 “30 under 30” class in September, for her dedication working with homeless families and children as our Community Service Specialist, her volunteerism outside of the office, and her professional aspirations in the field of mental illness on Long Island.

Congratulations Alisha!

**Lynn Schumacher**

Lynn is a retired teacher and artist who came to Mercy Haven last fall with the desire to share her interest in watercolors and be of support to our participants. She holds watercolor classes once a month and has gained quite a following. Our participants adore her and look forward to learning new painting skills each month. Lynn also volunteers her time once a week at our Pleasant Gardens Adult Home in Bayport. She offers peer support and conversation with our residents, as well as clerical help to our Administrative staff. Thank you, Lynn!

**Diana Malerba**

Diana is an author who came to know Mercy Haven through a networking event last summer. A woman of faith, Diana desired to share her love of God with others and through this, “Spiritual Studies” was born. Diana holds a study session for an hour each Wednesday to a core group of participants who offer their own insight and wisdom to the discussion. A faithful following, for sure. Thank you, Diana!
Upcoming Events - Something for Everyone!

Save the Dates!

21st Annual Golf Outing
Monday, June 8
Hamlet Golf & Country Club

35th Anniversary Gala
Friday, October 16
Bellport Country Club

Start the New Year with a Commitment to Ending Homelessness on Long Island

One donation each month adds up to a world of difference for those we serve - families, persons living with mental illness, veterans, disabled individuals, those living in poverty, and the elderly. Please join our monthly donor circle who is committed to fighting homelessness on Long Island.

Donate now at www.mercyhaven.org

3rd Annual MERCY HAVEN RESORT RAFFLE

One Week Stay at Summer Bay Resorts - Orlando, Florida + $1,500 VISA Gift Card!
Sunday, November 8 - Sunday, November 15, 2020

$100 per ticket - Only 100 tickets being sold!

VISIT HTTP://BIT.LY/2020CONDO TO ENTER TO WIN THIS AMAZING VACATION OPPORTUNITY!

Coming In March

A Unique Networking Experience

Mercy Haven, with the help of HKM Associates and friends, will host a networking event at Appliance World in Huntington on Tuesday, March 24th from 6:30-8:30 pm.

A buffet and spirits from various local restaurants will be provided. Come network among colleagues and friends and meet your next client! Business Cards are highly encouraged! $55/ticket, all proceeds go directly to Mercy Haven’s programming – a win for everybody!

Contact Ciara Jensen for more details and to sign up: cjensen@mercyhaven.com
Thank you to our 2019 Business Partners!

We are grateful to have had the generous, year-long commitments from the businesses listed below. Our work is incomplete without the promise of their help.

2019 Gold Partners

EmpireNationalBank

Ridgewood Savings Bank

multiply the good

2019 Bronze Partners

Farrell Fritz PC

Meyer Suozzi

AVZ Health Management

Ruskin Moscou Pallot Schechter

Southside Hospital Northwell Health

Become a Member!

The Mercy Business Partnership Program will continue in 2020 and we invite all businesses to join. The program provides a great means for companies to give back to the community, be involved in our events and get recognition for their generosity.

Interested?

Contact Ciara Jensen, Director of Development at 631-277-8300.