



A Newsletter Published by **MERCY HAVEN, INC.**
BUILDING COMMUNITY
SINCE 1985

the WINDOW

Issue 37, Vol. 1 · January, 2022

A Message from S. Pat:

I think you'll find this edition of the WINDOW a real 'look and see' experience. These past two years have been ones that we will be trying to make sense of for years to come. Like me, I bet you can't believe we are into the third year of this time that has asked of each of us a rethinking of values, of our relationships with one another, and the commitment of persons upon whom our lives depend.

Within this newsletter, I think you'll find your hearts uplifted. The caring of our staff and their commitment to their work never wavered. In the most chaotic of times some worked from home caring for their families and the needs of the agency, as well. Our staff bless this world, you'll feel that in reading about Janice who gave 23 years of her life to residents at our adult home.

You'll also witness how your faithfulness, in so many ways, keeps us going. There were times around the holidays when 'usual' ways of

gathering food and gifts couldn't happen. It is you, the community of our readers, who once again stepped up and wouldn't let our residents be forgotten – with food, gifts for birthdays, holidays or a meal brought to one of our Community Residences. Many of these were done without asking and when we needed to ask, you responded with even more generosity and fun... like at our 36th Gala. I know we're not finished with the challenges yet. We have changed, and will still change even more... our lives, our relationships, our priorities, and what we 'now bet on in life.' That's why I end with this quote from Mark Nepo, a historical theologian.

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.

"Every so often, across the expanses of time, a mountain remakes itself, a forest clears itself, and the ocean reshapes its shore. And once in a generation or two, humanity remakes itself, such as we are right now. And such a remaking is both profound and painful. But here we are, being asked to put aside our old hypocrisies and all the ways we have pushed each other away. Here we are, being asked to be fierce and tender in our call to love each other until justice and healing are the same thing. Yet how do we participate in this remaking of humanity? I think one heart at a time, one truth at a time, one kindness at a time. And we can begin by remaking ourselves."

Glad to be remaking the world with you!

- S. Patricia Griffith
Executive Director

MERCY HAVEN, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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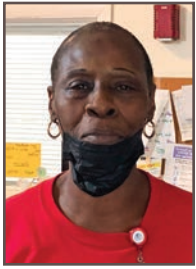
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Sweet Send-off to Long-time Employee



Employed by Mercy Haven for 23 years and with her entire career spent caring for Adult Home residents, Janice has retired from her position as Assistant Administrator with all good wishes from friends and staff.

We celebrated with a party in her honor, with surprise guests, staff and residents sharing stories and smiling over memories made during her tenure. She will be missed by all, but is wished nothing but happiness in her retirement. Thank you, Janice!

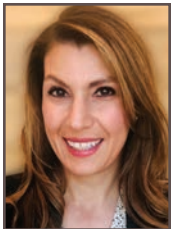


Janice, center, with Administrator Heather to her left, surrounded by our folks residing at Pleasant Garden Adult Home in Bayport.



Welcome!

New Board Members



PATTY JAFARI, a Senior Loan Officer for Republic Bank who once ran a NYC nonprofit feeding the homeless, knows that homelessness and the need for mental health services are intertwined. *"Mercy Haven's mission speaks to the core of who I am as a person,"* Patty

states. She would like to see Mercy Haven's resources leveraged by forming strategic partnerships with other nonprofits who align with Mercy Haven's values.

PATRICIA RYKERT, LMSW from NYU Langone Long Island Hospital (Winthrop), is also an avid golfer who, after attending our Golf Outings, desired to learn more of our work and mission. Born in El Salvador and raised on Long Island, she states her hope for Mercy Haven *"is to continue to expand their work in other communities that need their services with a strong focus on the resources available to the immigration population."*



Congratulations Patty & Patricia!

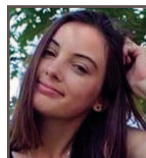
Around the Agency

Well-Deserved Promotions



LEONARD MORLO has been promoted to Administrator of our Bay Shore Community Residence. Starting with us as an Assistant Administrator just over 1 year ago, his enthusiasm for helping our population was evident from the start. He never wavered through a most difficult year, remaining dedicated, supportive and attentive, all lending to this most deserved promotion.

SUZI HOEY has been promoted to Community Services Coordinator where she works with her staff to serve high-need independent living residents. She has worked in our Community Residence program as a counselor and assistant administrator, before joining the Supportive Housing team. Her knowledge, genuine care and dedication to our mission made her a wonderful choice for the position.



AMANDA FLOOD has been promoted to Administrator of our Westbury Community Residence. Beginning as the Assistant Administrator less than a year ago, her passion and energy moved beyond her position. She has proven to be a consistent and compassionate voice for our people, a vital quality in this position.

Best Wishes Leonard, Suzi & Amanda!



**859 Connetquot Ave., Suite 3
Islip Terrace, NY 11752 - 631-277-8300**

New Service to Our *Neighborhood Community...*

Since 2015, Mercy Haven's small, shelf-stable food pantry served our residents, specifically, when needs increased during difficult months. When the pandemic hit in 2020, the rise in food insecurity was evident not only for our residents but for those in and around our community. The need to expand our pantry services became clear.

Mercy Haven renovated an adjacent suite at our Main Office, now part of 'Mercy Enrichment', and created a community food pantry with options expanded to include non-perishable, refrigerated, and frozen

items. With immediate financial support from **The Larson Legacy Foundation**, the **Jacob Marley Foundation**, and others, we were able to complete the full renovation during the 2021 calendar year, opening our door to the community in October 2021. We partner with **Long Island Cares** | the **Harry Chapin Food Bank**, which supplies our perishable and non-perishable food items. We also graciously accept non-perishable donations from our loyal supporters and staff, to keep the pantry stocked and ready for distribution. We employ our program participants to oversee the operation of our new pantry.



Pantry Assistant Kelly L., stocking the shelves and welcoming guests.

Please share Mercy Haven's Community Food Pantry with those you know who can benefit from this service.

Current Hours of operation are Tuesdays, 9:00 am – Noon and Thursdays, 1:00 – 4:00 pm

BREAKTHROUGH Breaks Through Again

Continuing the Good Work of this Essential Program



The pandemic, which began in March of 2020, brought many of the vital programs Mercy Haven provides to a standstill. Breakthrough, our education program for those experiencing homelessness or on the verge of homelessness, was one of these programs placed on hold.

Breakthrough was brought back this past Summer - the first in-person group session since the March 2020 'shutdown'. The 12-week, 24-session program guided 8 individuals who, with help from the community, staff and mentors, were determined to set goals and learn the necessary steps to take to achieve their goals, and practice the lessons learned to stay the course on their path to recovery.

Classes were held at 'Mercy Enrichment', our newly renovated space at the Main Office. A graduation ceremony, followed by a catered lunch, was celebrated on November 10, 2021.

*Congratulations
to our Graduates!*





thank you

Gifts to Mercy Haven this Holiday Season
were thoughtful and abundant.
We are grateful.



MADE WITH LOVE ♥

34 festive containers filled with
homemade cookies were prepared
and delivered for our 3 Community
Residences by volunteer,
MARY SEERY



LAURA & JOHN SOLDINGER

Returned this year delivering 4
complete Thanksgiving meals
for our families.



LONG ISLAND BIRTHDAY WISHES

donated 40 Thanksgiving Baskets
filled with all the fixins' needed for a
complete meal. Each basket contained
a \$25 Supermarket Gift Card toward
the purchase of a turkey.

The generosity of our local faith communities continues to be selfless
and unwavering. An assortment of Target, Walmart and Dunkin Donuts
gift cards for 180+ of our adult residents were donated by:

OUR LADY OF THE SNOW RC CHURCH - Blue Point, NY

ST. PETER THE APOSTLE - Islip Terrace, NY

ST. MARY RC CHURCH PARISH OUTREACH - East Islip, NY

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - West Islip, NY

OUR LADY OF PEACE - Lynbrook, NY

ST. THOMAS MORE RC CHURCH PARISH OUTREACH -
Hauppauge, NY

HOLY CROSS RC CHURCH PARISH OUTREACH -
Nesconset, NY



ISLAND GROUP PLANS

Their Thanksgiving support continued
this year with a generous donation
of **\$500** for the purchase of turkeys
to help complete Thanksgiving
baskets prepared for our folks.

When we give cheerfully
and accept gratefully,
everyone is blessed.



- Maya Angelou

Surprise Spree!

Our Children Go Shopping



We're privileged to watch so many children grow in our housing... sometimes by 2 shoe sizes in a season! After a 'different' school year in 2020, our kids were excited to get back to a bit of normalcy for the '21-'22 year.

Thanks to a generous partner foundation, each of our 60+ children got to go on a shopping trip to purchase new clothes, coats and shoes. This was such a morale boost for the children, with staff taking them on different trips throughout August to make sure everyone had what they needed... just in time for school!

A Christmas Story

Reuniting for the Holidays

Michael is a resident living with multiple diagnoses, who despite the challenges of symptom management, has been working hard on his goals. He recently graduated from a culinary arts course, is studying for his High School Equivalency (TASC) test, and over the holidays, set out to reunite with family members.

Michael lost his mother 12 years ago, and his father soon after. He wasn't in a good place to build relationships, staying connected only to his sister through the years. Last December though, Michael reconnected with his uncle and cousin after more than 10 years of not speaking, going to their home to spend Christmas together. Michael was happy to find out his uncle is a chef and bonded with him about his culinary arts goals, and that his cousin loves karaoke as much as he does! He has since enjoyed dinners out with his uncle and is making plans to go sing karaoke with his cousin.



Healthy relationships are food for the soul, and so important for recovery and well-being. We're happy for Michael, and happy he shared his excitement of this reunion with us.

A Magical Detour - "Drive Through Gift Event"

... Creative Celebration for Our Families This Season



Our family celebration, Holiday Magic, is usually celebrated with food, crafts, dancing and a visit from the Jolly Old Elf. But once again, it was put on hold this past year.

The magic was not lost, though, it was just "detoured". Staff got creative, decorating the agency walls with colorful posters and offering treats, as they welcomed the caravan of cars driving by to receive their gifts. Our selfless and loyal friends from **HOLIDAY MAGIC**, a nonprofit dedicated to filling gift wish lists, provided the 60+ children in our housing with much-wanted gifts. We are continually grateful for their help.

Once again, our families were given a very special holiday. We were glad and fortunate to continue this tradition, and are hopeful that we will be able to return to gathering next year.





36th Gala

ANNIVERSARY
OCTOBER 29, 2021



After a challenging 2020, and a pandemic quieting our social gatherings, Mercy Haven was able to celebrate our 36th Anniversary in true Gala fashion on October 29, 2021. It was a warm, festive evening at the Bellport Country Club where we welcomed 180 loyal friends, sponsors and guests, who were instrumental in the success of this long-awaited event.

We honored **Ridgewood Savings Bank** as a valued partner, and lifelong volunteers and supporters, **Edward**, and in **Loving Memory Maria Sconzo**, and **Patricia Spiegel**, who was also this year's Event Chair.

Our dedicated Gala Committee worked tirelessly over several months of planning to secure raffle gifts, entertainment and décor which culminated in the beautiful theme of hospitality, from the front entrance to the dining room and raffle tables. The end result of all the hard work was apparent in the excitement of raffle ticket sales, positive feedback from guests, and in raising more than \$130,000 for our programs and services.

The modern symbol of the 36th Anniversary is bone china – which, by definition, is described as strong, durable and resilient. Beyond this definition, though, bone china is a symbol of warmth and hospitality – an invitation to one's home to share a meal. For 36 years, Mercy Haven has been inviting those most in need into our warm and welcoming homes. **Sister Pat** reflected on the strength, durability and determination of the agency as *"a pretty good description of these past 36 years. It reminds me of the gift of MERCY which is the very act our world needs now."* She continued, *"We couldn't be MERCY without you, your encouragement and support. So onward we go with expanded dreams, thanks to you!"* The passion of her words brought our guests to an ovation. It was a truly memorable moment.

A lovely cocktail hour was followed by dinner and dancing to the sounds of the "Society Road Band", a group of professionals who donate their time and musical talents to nonprofit events. The evening would not have been possible without our **Event Sponsor, Flushing Bank**, and the generous donations of prizes for our raffles offered from local vendors, staff and committee members, which included 100 bottles of wine for a Wine Wall Raffle, a diamond and gold necklace, a weekend at Montauk Manor, an Apple iWatch, and so much more.

We danced, we shared, and we reminisced with friends old and new. It was a momentous occasion and a beautiful celebration of our many years of service and hospitality to those most in-crisis on Long Island.

Go to [facebook.com/mercyhaveninc](https://www.facebook.com/mercyhaveninc) to view our beautiful event photos.



Gold Partner Spotlight

FLUSHING

Commercial ■ Business ■ Consumer Bank

"Small enough to know you. Large enough to help you"

has been Flushing Bank's motto for their more than 90 years of service. They are dedicated to supporting individuals, families, professionals, and businesses in the communities they serve, including Long Island.

With the acquisition of Mercy Haven's longtime advocate Empire National Bank, we were unsure of our future with them, as they settled into their new space and community. We were thrilled when they reached out to us so quickly to introduce themselves to one of their clients, genuinely learn about our impact on Long Island, and agreed to be a Partner moving into 2021.

We are thankful for new friends, and longtime friends and supporters who continue to work with Flushing, Tom Buonaiuto, Senior Executive Vice President, and Doug Manditch, Board Member, for being unwavering advocates for our mission throughout it all. Thank you Flushing Bank!



S. Pat and S. Kathy with Tom Buonaiuto and Doug Manditch at our 2021 Golf Outing.

Focus on Foundations

Above and Beyond



We are lucky to know several local banks that truly care about improving their communities, including Capital One.

Capital One has been a dedicated partner in our work to provide affordable housing to Long Island's most in-crisis populations. Knowing their neighbors needs, they aim to support agencies like Mercy Haven and trust our work to make the impacts needed in their communities.

They are happy to continue this journey with us by supporting our expanded delivery of housing and supportive services in 2022 to our growing population of those facing homelessness and mental illness.

We are excited to continue our mission with the supportive partnership of Capital One.

Community Champions



Since 1978, the Long Island Community Foundation has been addressing critical needs on Long Island, supporting diverse initiatives in Art, Education, Hunger, Health, Community Development, Environment, etc. They have supported Mercy Haven's mission for over 12 years.

As they state, *"Addressing housing insecurity requires a multipronged approach of advocacy, innovation, and grassroots work."* Recognizing our rounded approach to addressing the complex issues of homelessness, LICF is a faithful friend and partner in making sure more New Yorkers have safe, affordable homes through Mercy Haven's work.

Thank you to LICF for your consistent support, your commitment to your neighbors in-need, and your faith in Mercy Haven to provide the services you care about most.

MERCY HAVEN, INC.
859 Connetquot Ave., Suite 10
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www.mercyhaven.org

Thank You to our 2021 Business Partners

Gold Partner



2022 Bronze Business Partners



Bronze Partners



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Sayville, N.Y.
11782

Save the Dates

**MERCY HAVEN'S
22ND ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING**

JUNE 6, 2022

Hamlet Golf and
Country Club
Commack, NY

**37TH ANNUAL FALL
COCKTAIL PARTY
NOVEMBER 6, 2022**

Information to follow soon
on our Website

Visit us at www.mercyhaven.org

Follow us
@mercyhaveninc



The Bigger Picture

Housing alone does not solve chronic homelessness. Our programming focuses on addressing the *social determinants of health*, the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. The lack of stability in any of these areas can create poverty conditions and makes it extremely hard to break the cycle alone, especially when you're living with mental illness.



Social determinants of health



SCAN HERE

Learn More about Supportive Housing

5TH ANNUAL RESORT DRAWING

Proceeds benefit Pleasant Gardens
Adult Home in Bayport, NY

\$100 per ticket
Only 85 tickets
being sold!

One Week Stay -
Summer Bay Resorts
Orlando, Florida
+ \$1,500 VISA Gift Card!

November 13 - 20, 2022

SCAN CODE TO ENTER TO WIN THIS
AMAZING VACATION OPPORTUNITY!

FACEBOOK LIVE DRAWING:
MAY 3, 2022