

the WINDOW

WELCOME TO OUR 40TH YEAR!

Dear Friends,

As we welcome the new year, we also celebrate a significant milestone for our organization - 40 years of service to our community. It is with deep gratitude and pride that I reflect on the journey we've taken together in advancing our mission to provide housing and mental health support for those in need.

Over the past four decades, we have witnessed profound changes in the landscape of housing and mental health care. Together, we have risen to meet these challenges with compassion, innovation and resilience. From our humble beginnings to becoming a leader in our field, our commitment has remained steadfast: to offer dignity, hope, and a pathway toward stability for the individuals and families we serve.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our donors, volunteers, partners, and the dedicated staff who work tirelessly each day to make a difference.

As we look ahead, we are energized by the progress we've made and the work that lies ahead. The need is greater than ever, but together, I am confident that we can continue to change lives and build a future where everyone has access to safe housing and the mental health support they deserve.

Thank you for being a part of this incredible journey. Your belief in our work and unwavering support fuels our mission and inspires us to reach new heights.

Here's to another 40 years of impact, transformation, and community.

With heartfelt appreciation,

S. Pat



MERCY HAVEN, INC.

BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

40 *Year*
ANNIVERSARY

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.

MERCY HAVEN, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRPERSON - Patrick T. Collins

VICE CHAIRPERSON - Domenico Ciacio

TREASURER - Ronald J. Eagar

SECRETARY - Fred Brendel

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Paul Conefry ♦ Jim DiGiovanni ♦ Patrick J. Hickey ♦ Anthony A. Lauto ♦ Melissa Marius-Burke

Bitu Mir ♦ Thomas Quigley ♦ Louise Regnante ♦ Patricia Rykert ♦ Mark Sandberg

Inside this issue ♦ Gala - 2025 ♦ Embracing Our Community ♦ Welcome New Board Member!



BREAKTHROUGH

Hits a Milestone!

Participants invited to Breakthrough are adults that are currently homeless, in a pattern of homelessness, or in danger of becoming homeless. Over the course of 12 weeks, participants attend 24 education classes, gain peer support and work with individual mentors who assist them in setting realistic goals.

Since its inception in 2007, we have seen firsthand the positive changes this program has made in people's lives – restoring relationships, finding jobs, sparking friendships, gaining housing, and most importantly, renewing hope.

To date, 311 people made the commitment to this program and followed through, a cause for celebration!

Congratulations, Graduates!



Meet Dionne -

Dionne came to our Community Food Pantry in May as a neighbor donating food. After chatting with staff, she was given our monthly events calendar for residents and invited to come to anything she'd like. She has been a regular ever since. We learned that Dionne herself has been struggling with homelessness for over 10 years, living in different places before finding her home through another agency in 2016.

"Knowing what I went through, I want to give back to other people. I know how it feels to have no food, to be cold, and to not have support," Dionne states. She began reaching out on social media and handing out flyers seeking donations for the homeless. She has worked with outreach teams, and now on her own, goes to areas in need and hands out clothing, blankets and food.



Dionne (r) with her mentor Charlene.

At Mercy Haven, she found refuge. "I have to keep myself busy. Going to programs here, and at other agencies, has kept me going and fighting." Dionne especially found comfort in Breakthrough.

"I felt as if people didn't understand what I've been through, and it made me feel alone. Hearing other people's stories makes me realize I'm not alone."



Jalissa N., participant, speaking at January's Breakthrough Graduation.

**DO YOU KNOW
SOMEONE WHO COULD
BENEFIT FROM THE
BREAKTHROUGH
PROGRAM?**

**CONTACT US AT
631-277-8300**

EMBRACING OUR COMMUNITY

Holiday Fun for the Children

This holiday season, our staff wanted to do more for the families using our pantry. Denise, Recreation Assistant and Leyla, Skills & Activities Leader, threw a community holiday party. Parents brought their children to enjoy an afternoon of crafts, movies, food, and Santa!

With over 20 happy children in attendance, our staff truly enjoyed bringing them together. Thanks to the generosity of our local community, we were able to provide gifts at the party and offer gifts for those visiting

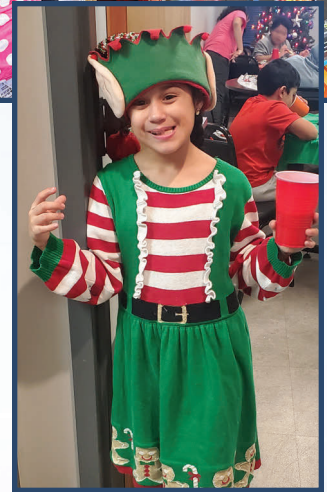
our pantry, who found themselves on hard times this holiday.



Thank You to the
Girl Scouts of Suffolk County
for their generous donation of a
Christmas Tree decorated with
mittens, scarves and toiletry items
for our children and families.



A generous donation of over 200 winter warm items was delivered by a Senior from St. Anthony High School who organized a month-long clothing drive for Mercy Haven.



HOLIDAY MAGIC AND MORE!

*Our heartfelt thanks to the
communities surrounding
our Mercy Haven families.*

*They were filled with
the spirit of giving, offering
additional donations of
food, socks, scarves, gloves,
toys, games and gift cards
for our residents.*

On December 21st, Santa paid a magical visit to the good boys and girls of Mercy Haven's families and to deliver some very exciting presents. Colorfully wrapped toys and games made for many happy children! With help from some very special elves from **Holiday Magic**, a non-profit organization that fulfills the children's wish lists, Mercy Haven was able to supply 70+ children in our care with the gifts they hoped for. They all enjoyed a festive morning with a bagel breakfast, crafts, singing, and dancing, and of course, the jolly 'ole elf who definitely helped us all believe in the magic of the season.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS - 2024

Our Supportive Community Did Not Disappoint!

Amazing things happen when you combine generosity, community spirit, and FUN. We're thrilled to share the amazing results of our recent events, and it's all thanks to YOU, our incredible supporters.

Mercy Haven's special events—big or small—represent an opportunity to make a difference while strengthening the bonds that unite our community. Whether you're attending to support a cause, volunteering your time, or simply spreading the word, your involvement matters.

Looking back on 2024, we're thrilled to share that our special events not only brought people together to create lasting memories but also successfully raised substantial funds. Last June, our 24th Annual Golf Outing was a complete sellout, both on and off the course, raising over \$80,000 in vital funds. Our Annual Fall Cocktail Party in November had the highest attendance ever and raised over \$70,000.

**Follow us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn
and never miss an event!**

@mercyhaveninc



Long Island Brass Guild Fundraiser



Trivia Night Fun!



Ridgewood Savings Bank - Ugly Sweater
Holiday Fundraiser

**BUILDING
FUTURES:**

*Paths of
Possibility*



MERCY HAVEN, INC.
BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

40 *Year*
ANNIVERSARY

This Year - **GALA!**

Can you believe it? We're celebrating 40 years of changing lives, building communities, and providing hope! To mark this incredible milestone, we're throwing a Gala for the Ages — and we want YOU to be there!

10.23.25
Save the Date

This special evening will be a blend of memories, milestones, and a whole lot of joy. As we look back on four decades of impact, we can't help but smile at the memories — from creating our first home to the countless stories of lives transformed.

Whether you've been with us since day one or just joined the journey, we invite you to celebrate all the amazing things we have accomplished and will accomplish together. We'll be reminiscing, laughing, and dancing the night away — and there's no better way to honor the future we are building.

Here's to 40 years of hope, progress and community - and to the possibilities ahead!



Our Founding Group
of Volunteers - 1985



Mercy Haven's 65th site!



"The need is great - we see it in the amount of new people coming in. It's very busy, I'm grateful for Shanice - I wouldn't want to work with anyone else."

- KELLY L. (r), Food Pantry Lead

FIGHTING HUNGER on Long Island

Food insecurity remains a pressing issue for many families. With rising housing costs, inflation, and high food prices, more families are finding it difficult to make ends meet. Our Community Food Pantry, open two days a week, sees an average of 20 people a day, and fed 1,117 children in 2024.

Support and collaboration from local schools, partners, and churches such as the **East Islip School District**, **True North Church**, **Positive Promotions** and **Long Island Cares** has kept our shelves regularly stocked. We are grateful, also, to our generous community.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
HOURS: Tuesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm
Thursday: 1:00 - 6:00 pm
859 Connetquot Ave., Suite 3
Islip Terrace, NY 11752



DO YOU WANT TO HOST A FOOD DRIVE?



Alex Cabrera (r), from Positive Promotions, facilitated a Holiday Food Drive for our Community Food Pantry.

Hunger is a real challenge in our communities, and you have the power to help! By hosting a food drive, you can provide essential support to those in need and make a lasting impact. Whether it's at your workplace, school, church, or in your neighborhood, a food drive is a simple yet powerful way to gather resources and fight food insecurity.

HOW YOU CAN GET STARTED:

SET A GOAL: Decide what kind of food or household items you're aiming to collect.

CHOOSE A LOCATION: Host the drive at your office, school, or community center.

SPREAD THE WORD: Use flyers, social media, and word of mouth to encourage people to donate.

COLLECT: We have large labeled boxes we can provide to get you started! Drive donations can be delivered or picked up.

Ready to make an impact? Gather your team and watch your efforts transform into meaningful support for those who need it most.

Contact Leonard at 631-277-8300 to schedule your drive today!

DONATION DROP-OFF LOCATION AND TIMES
MERCY HAVEN'S COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY
859 Connetquot Ave., Ste. 3 Islip Terrace, NY 11752

Monday-Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Please call 631-277-8300 to schedule

WELCOMING NEW RESIDENTS

Mercy Haven Angels are Ready to Greet Them!



Marlena B., with gift baskets ready to deliver to new residents.

*When the road of life gets rough,
it helps to have someone along for the ride
to encourage and support you.*

For families and individuals new to Mercy Haven, the Angels have it all worked out and are ready to help.

Mercy Haven Angels are a group of caring residents who work alongside staff in our Supported Employment Program to ensure homes are prepared for the arrival of new residents. Their primary focus is to offer kindness and understanding during their adjustment to a new life at Mercy Haven.

The Angels create and present care packages filled with cleaning supplies, bathroom supplies, toiletries and warm notes of welcome. They also share helpful information on ways to be involved in all that Mercy Haven provides, including a monthly calendar of events, programs, and services. They offer support, answer questions and bring comfort to our new residents. We are glad for their help.

AWARDS WITH BIG IMPACT

**The New York
Community Trust**

Mercy Haven was grateful to the New York Community Trust – Long Island's support in 2024, not only to provide food, but to support important initiatives related to hunger and health: nutrition, budgeting and entitlements.

We are grateful to have a new partner in our work, the Marilyn Lichtman Foundation, whose care and concern for our Long Island communities, and beyond, is apparent.

We were happy to host Robert Brull, President, who visited us to personally deliver the check, take a tour and meet our staff.


**The Marilyn Lichtman
Foundation**



WELCOME!

New Board Member



BITA MIR, a bilingual school psychologist with Elwood UFSD specializing in adolescent development, has been a welcome addition to our Board of Directors. Fluent in five languages, her professional goal is to empower and support multicultural

families and children to better navigate challenges and help unlock their potential.

"I am actively involved in professional development and community outreach, focusing on raising awareness about mental health issues and promoting inclusivity," Bitá states. "I am deeply drawn to the mission of Mercy Haven. My hope is to leverage my expertise and experience to advance the mission, particularly through networking and promotional efforts. By expanding our outreach, we can engage more businesses and individuals in appreciating the vital role of charity and its enduring impact."

Congratulations, Bitá!

MERCY HAVEN, INC.
859 Connetquot Ave., Suite 10
Islip Terrace, New York 11752
www.mercyhaven.org

Thank You to our 2024 Business Partners



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11782

Save the Dates

**MERCY HAVEN'S
25TH ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING**

JUNE 2, 2025

Hamlet Golf and Country Club
Commack, NY

**40TH ANNIVERSARY
GALA**

OCTOBER 23, 2025

The Piermont, Babylon

Information to follow soon
on our Website

Visit us at www.mercyhaven.org

Follow us
@mercyhaveninc




MERCY HAVEN, INC.
BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 1985
40^{Year} ANNIVERSARY

8TH ANNUAL WINNER'S CHOICE!

CONDO OR CASH DRAWING

ONE:
ONE WEEK STAY AT
SUMMER BAY
RESORTS*
ORLANDO, FL
+\$1,000 CASH

TWO:
\$2,000
CASH

\$50 PER TICKET
Multiple entries allowed (Maximum of 10)

WINNER DRAWN LIVE
ON FACEBOOK
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21ST

SCAN
TO ENTER



**VOLUNTEER
WITH MERCY HAVEN!**



We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers
who want to improve the quality of life
for those in need on Long Island.

**SCHOOL GROUPS - CORPORATE GROUPS
INDIVIDUALS - FAMILIES**
We have Opportunities for All!

Contact Heidi for more information: 631-277-8300