



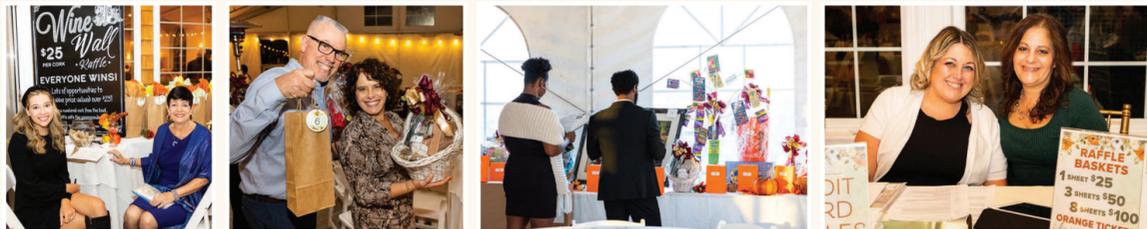
Putting the Pieces Together FUNDRAISING

Providing supportive housing is so much more than the structure.

Mercy Haven receives funding from government sources to support building and rehabilitating properties, for ongoing rental assistance and to provide services designed to help individuals and families maintain their housing and improve their lives. When the programs that fund many of our services were started in the

1980's, approximately half of the funding went to supporting the rent/property cost and the other half to running the programs that serve our residents. Since then, however, the funding has not risen at the same pace as the cost of housing, leaving significantly less money for the vital services and supports that are provided to our residents.

The money we raise helps to fill in this growing gap while also allowing us to enhance the services and programs we offer to meet the changing needs of those we serve. We do this through grant writing, direct ask campaigns, and fun annual fundraising events. Our biggest ones – our Annual Golf Outing and Fall Cocktail Party – are especially crucial to hitting this goal.



SAVE THE DATE!

24th Annual GOLF OUTING

JUNE 3RD 2024
HAMLET GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
COMMACK, NY

MERCY HAVEN, INC.
BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 1985

SCAN CODE FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

**THE 2024 BUD HARRELSON
"Spirit of Friendship"
AWARD HONOREE
DOTTIE OVERTON**

CELEBRATING 38 YEARS

A warm, November day welcomed over 210 guests to our 38th Annual Fall Cocktail Party. Captain Bill's Restaurant in Bay Shore didn't disappoint - serving up delicious food and drink for our 3-hour party. Friends old and new gathered to share stories, reminisce and show support. The event, chaired by faithful volunteer, Pat Spiegel, raised over \$100,000 in vital and necessary funds. The afternoon would not have been possible without our **Event Sponsors, Santander Bank, Rev. John Rowan and the McNamara Family**, and the fantastic prizes donated from local businesses and committee members.

Thank you

Honored to be a Mother Cabrini Health Foundation Grantee

Blessed to have their continued trust and support of our mission for 2024.

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



Thank You to our 2024 Business Partners to date



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
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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 S. Pat:

SPRING is ...
... the reminder that delicate shoots must push through dirt
... the realization of how much darkness we've survived
... the time of indecision, of restless clouds and soft sunshine
... the knowledge that not everything blooms at the same time
... the astonishment of regrowth, of the forgotten reawakening
... the season of hope, of trying before you know you'll succeed

- Dani DiPirro @positivelypresent

Welcome to Spring, one of life's seasons. As with every season of our lives, there will be times of growth and times of rest, times of abundance and times of scarcity.

One line in particular of this Spring verse made me think of us ... **not everything blooms at the same time.** As a gardener by hobby, I certainly know this to be true. There's an understanding of patience and appreciating the beauty of each plant's individual blooming cycle – the same can be said for any of us.

We had 41 new housing admissions last year, and another 14 this year so far. As you read on, you'll see our populations' needs are greater and more challenging than they were in years past - multiple diagnoses, chronic medical conditions, substance use disorders, and the list

goes on. With our staff's help, our residents come to us and learn to appreciate timing and the virtue of patience – that obstacles can lead to better outcomes in the long run; that imperfections can be embraced as part of our journeys of growth. Having a permanent home for one's children, or income for food and shelter are things that were worth the wait.

You'll also see in this newsletter an example of perfect timing, that our residents are blooming at their own pace. You'll see their multitude of talents being realized and encouraged in our daily work. Lives changed with your help.

We hope their journeys that you learn of throughout this year inspire us all to appreciate the beauty of each individual's blooming cycle, including our own.

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Inside this issue ■ Resident Story ■ Road Trip to Albany - Legislative Day ■ New Kitchen for West Babylon House

Visit us at www.mercyhaven.org Stay updated - Follow us @mercyhaveninc



7TH ANNUAL CONDO OR CASH DRAWING

PROCEEDS BENEFIT PLEASANT GARDENS ADULT HOME IN BAYPORT, NY

WINNER'S CHOICE!

CHOICE #1 ONE WEEK STAY AT SUMMER BAY RESORTS* Orlando, FL +\$1,000 CASH

CHOICE #2 \$2,000 CASH!

\$50 per ticket

Multiple entries allowed (Maximum of 10)

WINNER DRAWN LIVE ON FACEBOOK WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12TH

*RESORT PRIZE DETAILS Sunday, Nov. 10 - Sunday, Nov. 17, 2024**
**Dates are flexible – change to any available week between Sept. 1 and Dec. 8 2024
• Two Bedroom Villa (sleeps up to 6)
• Fantastic Amenities & Activities on Site
• Disney Parks Nearby!

SCAN CODE TO ENTER

THE LONG ISLAND BRASS GUILD & CYNTHIA HOLDEN, ORGAN IN CONCERT

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024 · 3PM

**ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
48 GREENE AVENUE, SAYVILLE, NY**

The concert is a fundraiser for the mission of Mercy Haven, Inc. who provide housing for the less fortunate.

Music includes Gabrieli, Marcello, Praetorius, Carlyle Sharp, Dudley Buck's Star Spangled Banner & more.

SUGGESTED DONATION:
\$15 General Admission; \$10 Seniors & Students; \$25 Family

For more information, please call 631-862-6072.

SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT



Supported Employment plays a critical role in promoting recovery, independence, and quality of life for individuals with mental health conditions - through peer support, building social networks, boosting self-esteem and of course, financial stability.

Mercy Haven's supported employment team is growing, employing residents in various areas based on their interests, including in our community food pantry, teaching group classes, running social activities, social media support, clerical work, driving, and preparing homes for incoming residents.

Under our Mercy Enrichment Coordinator, Leonard, and Task Coordinator & Job Coach Tiffany, plans are made for Supported Employment group classes, including providing formal training, coaches and job placement for opportunities inside and outside of Mercy Haven.

*It is only through labor and painful effort,
by grim energy and resolute courage,
that we move on to better things.*

- Teddy Roosevelt

Moving On ...

Daryl, a resident of Mercy Haven for the past 3 years, has recently received a Section 8 voucher and is moving into his own apartment. Daryl came from a challenging past and worked hard to get back on his feet. He credits his success to his support system, including his housing specialist, Sarease. "I'm so grateful for Mercy Haven and thank you all so much, you saved my life."

Vito, former resident and current volunteer, moved out of our community residence and in with family members. He is independent, drives, and is looking for employment. He is currently volunteering, using his interest in video games to plan and host a game night at Mercy Haven for current residents. "Leonard and Eve were like a mom and dad to me. I worked hard but they made it a pleasure to live here. I'm happy to give back since they helped me."



Daryl, center, standing with Office Manager, Jessica (l) and Housing Specialist, Sarease (r).



Vito, on right, standing with Mercy Enrichment Coordinator, Leonard, on left.

OUR RESIDENTS - Getting it Done!

Advocacy in Action

PEER ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Peer Advisory Committee (PAC) was established from a group of concerned residents, to offer input on Mercy Haven's policies and procedures. They work together on goals designed to enhance people's lives, increase their self-worth, and create healthy connections. This group of peer leaders interact with fellow residents to help identify needs and wants, and then report back to the agency with proposed changes that provide greater support and opportunities for residents. Stephanie, Community Service Coordinator, facilitates the PAC, gathering ideas and working with Mercy Haven leadership to review and implement resident proposals.

The group meets once a month to report on the progress and effectiveness of their action plan. They produce a quarterly newsletter offering updates, coping exercises and inspiration, which is mailed to all residents in the Mercy Haven community.

In Their Own Words ...

MEET JASON - OUR NEW CONTENT SPECIALIST

"On average, more than 20% of individuals experiencing homelessness also have a mental illness. I for one can attest to the fact that not only was it something I have observed environmentally, but something I have firsthand experience in.

I am a product of the system. Or, as they say it in the streets - a street kid. I grew up not knowing whether or not I would have a place to rest my head day to day. I knew the shelter system, streets, and government assistance well, but failed to ever know what a real home was. To give you insight on the mind of a severely mentally ill individual who is also unhoused, my biological mother would be an example. Not only did she raise my siblings and I this way, but she has remained this way even now as we are all grown. She has battled mental illness for most of her life and has been



Jason, Writer and Content Specialist, working with the Development Dept.

homeless for 13+ years. The battle of mental illness and becoming accustomed to street life allows many to continue this unhealthy cycle. Unfortunately, many have and will continue to die on the streets in the process.

Being not only an employee of Mercy Haven, Inc. but also a member of the housing program they offer, allows me to appreciate this organization even more. I know from having the opportunity to receive housing through Mercy Haven and now working alongside the staff that there are genuine people who care and make it their mission to be a support system for vulnerable populations.

Due to my past experiences in the system I was apprehensive of people being in the system and genuinely wanting to help. Every staff member I have encountered and worked alongside thus far has shown care through action and word. Through this organization I have finally found a home and my purpose in life. Thank you."



OUR COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Food insecurity on Long Island continues to be on the rise, affecting over 255,000 Long Islanders which includes over 75,000 children. Our Community Food Pantry located at our Main

Office has grown to be an invaluable resource to those in-need locally.

An outpouring of support from local schools, partners, and churches such as the **East Islip School District, True North Church in Bohemia and Long Island Cares** has kept our shelves regularly stocked. We are grateful to our generous community for responding to our need.

Keeping track of the food on our shelves, processing distributions and happily greeting our many guests is vital. We are thankful to our pantry staff, Kelly and Shanice.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HOSTING A FOOD DRIVE TO BENEFIT OUR PANTRY, PLEASE CALL HEIDI AT 631-277-8300.



LONG ISLAND BIRTHDAY WISHES

Faithful Supporters - All Year Long

Thank you to Long Island Birthday Wishes for the year-round support and care of our residents and families. From dozens of Holiday baskets to monthly Birthday gifts delivered for our youth population, we are forever grateful.



A very special **Thank You** to **Maureen Mantesta**, who has been devoted to providing these baskets + so much more to our families for many years. We wish her much happiness in her retirement.



COMMUNITY RESIDENCE

Gets a Facelift!

Mercy Haven's first home received a well-deserved update this winter. Our community residence in West Babylon received a full makeover, with a brand new kitchen, new outside deck, new doors, new windows, all new flooring and a fresh coat of paint throughout the house!

"Our job in Facilities is to maintain a safe environment at all times for our residents. Keeping this in mind, we also understand that with our population, it's important to create environments that promote their

mental health and well-being. We're pleased with this entire renovation." - Greg Mangini, Director of Facilities Management

We're excited to share photos of the new kitchen, and to quote resident, Veronica, "this kitchen is a blessing for this house. It's a great place to gather, too."



MERCY ADVOCATES

Legislative Day in Albany

In February, staff and residents took a road trip to Albany to The Association for Community Living's Lobby Day to meet with members of the Assembly and Senate to discuss deserved wage increases for direct care staff and the changing needs of the populations we serve.

After years of insufficient Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increases across the direct care field, we advocated alongside fellow housing agencies for a full 3.2% COLA for our vital staff to keep pace with inflation.

With the majority of our residents living with a mental illness diagnosis, we advocated alongside other mental health housing providers for changes in dated program structures. Today's residents do not look like the residents occupying mental health housing 40 years ago, when these program models were created.

We were grateful for the opportunity to advocate for not just our staff and residents but the 42,000 people receiving mental health housing across New York State.



Staff, interns and residents meet with an Assembly Representative during Legislative Day visit in Albany.