

Mercy Center Ministries

Winter

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Friends,

We have arrived at the doorway to the New Year! December will go by in a blink because we will all be scurrying about for the holidays and preparing for the cold months to come. Before we know it, we will be ringing in 2025! Ahead of the December deep dive, I want to share some year end news.

40 & Thriving

Our Ruby Anniversary party on 11/7 at Bellport Country Club was a delightful reunion of sorts, for many of the founding members and friends Mercy made so many years ago. A generous sponsorship from **Dream R Us** enabled staff members from the shelter sites to attend, learn more about our history, and celebrate the success that comes from the work they do! We were also fortunate to have some new friends attend as well!



Photos by Sue Miller

Resident testimonies reminded everyone that caring for vulnerable community members is our responsibility, if we want a healthy community. Take a peek at the smiles that lit up the room all night in the photos found on both our website and our Facebook pages. A link to the beautiful short documentary created by Waldo Cabrera can be found there as well. We are so thankful for the last 40 years of support from the Mercy community.



Briana Taylor, Audreiana Lesty, Correl Hagen, Dawn Marlette, Waldo Cabrera, Melissa Austin

Raffle Bonanza 2025!

Each year we sell these great stocking stuffer/hostess gift/secret Santa gift raffles that give the recipient a year's worth of potential winning. The receiver may likely forget they were even entered, then get a check from us in the mail! Winners are chosen quarterly, and names are put right back into the raffle pool.

You Have Been Entered in:

- Mercy Center Ministries Inc.
- 12-month 2025 Raffle Bonanza
- \$25-Winner Every Week
- \$100-Winner Every Month
- \$100-Winner Every Quarter
- \$500-on Mercy's Anniversary November 1st
- \$500-on January 1st New Years Day
- WINNING TICKETS GO BACK IN**
- FOR MULTIPLE (70) CHANCES TO WIN!**
- Tickets \$25 each or 5 for \$100**
- This donation funds Mercy's three shelters for homeless women and children.**

All you need to do is send us a check with your recipient's names, they will be entered, and we will send you back the stubs to give as gifts. Only 350 will be sold. First winners pulled **END of January, so you can also buy after the new year of you want.

2024 Final Quarter Raffle Winners:

Anniversary \$500 Winner: Linda Bamonte

Quarterly \$100: Joe Buchner

Monthly \$100's: Eileen Giordano, Patricia Caminiti, Gabe and Vera Johnstone

Weekly \$25's: Sylvia Felsher, Tanesha Lewis, Kathy Heinlein, Sue & Jay Miller, David Waag, Joann O'Reilly, Bryan Waag, Alex Nardone, Pat Musso-Olsen, Jim Morgo, Will Meigel, Marva Pierre Louis.

Employees of the Month

Both winners are from Mercy Center in Patchogue. Our site houses up to 9 single women in crisis. Things get busy there, and these two employees help keep the residents and house on track!

Congratulations to

Cheryl Thompkins and **Marva Pierre Louis** for perfect September and October performance! There can only be one per month, but we also award a winner *just for being nominated*.

Congratulations to **Adrienne Patterson** quarter nominee winner!

Merry and Bright

Did you know that our Board President **Louis Bamonte** also moonlights as one of Santa's Elves? Luckily for us he still has time to take a break from toy making to visit the shelters in the days before Christmas. Residents may have plans for the holidays, so we usually stop by the day before Christmas Eve to share gifts from the community for the kids and women. If you are interested in giving gifts this year, we have a wish list for amazon (on our website), and we accept gift cards sent to our main office to give recipients the freedom to buy just what they need. You can inquire about adopting a single resident, or mother and child.

We also keep in touch with some residents who recently lived in our shelters who can be sponsored as well!



The person to contact for gifts is none other than Associate Director Melissa Austin who moonlights at **Mrs. Claus!** She can be reached at 631-569-2355 or maustinmercy@gmail.com.

Deadline to inquire about a specific resident to sponsor would be 12/11 and gifts would need to be brought to Mercy by the 20th. The gift cards deadline is 12/20.



We have our work cut out for us during the last few weeks of the year. Holidays can be hard for people who are in crisis (and for people not in crisis)!

Winter in general seems to just be hard for everyone-but people in transition struggle the most! We will do our best to soften all the edges, to make our resident children and women feel as safe and comfortable as possible. We have a lot of good memories reflect on this year. My wish for you this busy season is that you can take time away from obligations, do activities that ease worries and stress, and remember that feelings come and go, but only if you let them! From our homes to yours we wish you ALL **peace, love, and joy** this Season!

Merrily 😊,

Briana Taylor

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