



Mercy Center Ministries

Summer 2023

Quarterly Newsletter

Dear Friends.

Just like that, we are kicking off the boots and socks and trading them for sandals and flip flops! Many of you are also celebrating the milestone achievements of your friends and loved ones as school and college graduations commence. Here too, the celebrations will soon lead to new chapters and exciting new challenges. Little JJ who lives with his mom our Blue Point shelter graduated from Head Start, giving him a STRONG foundation for kindergarten in the Fall. Mom and JJ will most likely be enrolling from a different address because mom is gainfully employed, driving her own car, and planning to move into her own apartment this summer. She is ready for the next step-

independence!

Staff member **Madelyn Melgar** also has much to celebrate, having earned her bachelor's in psychology this month. The degree enabled her to apply for the Operations Director position which recently opened in our Sayville Shelter. Promotions from within have proven to be successful, and this one will be no different! We congratulate Madelyn, little JJ, and all who reach for their dreams. The world needs your participation, ideas, contributions, inspiration, and hopeful outlook!

EMPLOYEE



RECOGNITION

Employees of the month are nominated by their supervisors and chosen for professional, kind, empathetic, reliable delivery of services to the vulnerable residents in our shelters. The residents are fortunate to have so many people who care.

Since the last newsletter the following employees have shown excellent concern and consideration for their job tasks:

- ❖ February~**Latoya Hubbard**
- ❖ March~**Melanie Ghauri**
- ❖ April~**Cheryl Thompkins**
- ❖ May~**Vivnie James**

Fire at Weeks Street

On June 2nd a small fire started in a closet in the second-floor bedroom. A resident had lit a candle and neglected to properly extinguish it before leaving for the day. Candles are of course prohibited but she snuck one in anyway. Staff doing rounds smelled smoke and thought it was the dryer, then the fire alarm system sounded alerting the two on duty to investigate. They quickly identified the source in the bedroom which was already ablaze. One of them immediately grabbed the fire extinguisher nearby to attempt putting it out, and the other sprang into action evacuating the residents and children. Patchogue and Blue Point fire departments arrived on scene promptly and determined the fire was indeed **out!**



Director **Janet Watson** and the team member who extinguished the fire (but requested anonymity), saved the house and residents from certain harm!

We have many false alarms, but this was the agency's first real fire! We appreciate the fast actions of these staff members, the quick response from the fire department volunteers, and we *always* appreciate the patience of the surrounding neighbors!

Speaking of Good Neighbors.

While we were waiting outside at the evacuation point, I took the residents to the **Atlantic Deli** for snacks and drinks. The deli personnel know the residents and children by name. I truly appreciate the way they care for them, welcome them, and treat them as they would any other customer.

“Our prime purpose in life is to help others, and if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.” ~Dalai Lama

Can We Talk About Bingo?

If you came to our April 22nd event, you'd know the gifts and fellowship were magnificent. Thank you for helping us celebrate our 40th Anniversary Year.

We have moved the venue for next year's event to the gorgeous **Bellport Country Club**. Save the date for **Saturday April 27th** for bigger, better, and more!



Sue White (pictured) leads the **Lake grove-Centereach Homemakers** initiative to create gift baskets for all of our special occasions. For Easter they gave all the children age-appropriate baskets, and moms were treated to special gifts for Mother's Day! **Denise Affenita** brought fresh breakfast items and juice to all three of our shelters on Easter as well. **Carol Durkin** came by twice this quarter with a carload of household items such as pots, pans, and bedding. **Cheryl Latif** stops by monthly with items from deals she sees in the stores for us. **Miller Place Homemakers** dropped off a half a room full of hygiene items for the women and children! **St. James Lutheran Church** and the **Women's Club of Patchogue, LI Jesters Lacrosse, Feminist Empowerment Club, and the Metro Parrot Head Club** also came by with essential items for us! This is magnificent support for us on many levels. I always tell donors, keep up the good work you all do caring for those less fortunate in our community! **When we take care of vulnerable people, we keep our communities safe and healthy!**

Community is Everything!

We are fortunate to have so very many community groups and individuals supporting us regularly. Just this quarter we have received hundreds if not thousands of dollar's worth of new items for use in our shelters.



Raffle Bonanza 2nd Quarter Winners!

Quarterly \$100-Bernard Jefferson
Monthly 100's-Kathy Daly, Teresa Olinger, Gail Koroglu
Weekly \$25's- TJ Konopka, Eli Lodato, Jack Keddy, Brandon Leggit, James & Allison Carroll, Leah Jefferson, Joyce Colucci, Mike Heinlein, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Marchese, Lynda Benanti, Mary Costello, Barbra Reinhardt.

Thank you for playing, and congrats on winning!

It was really nice to report ALL good news for a change. We are going to ride this wave of good fortune all through summer into the next quarter of our year!



Gratefully,

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