Impact Report

FOR

July 2020 - June 2021
Sister Mary Ann Dirr Legacy Circle

Sister Mary Ann Dirr was an advocate for those less fortunate, the poor, the disenfranchised, those victimized by violence, immigrants in a foreign land – women, families, anyone and everyone in need.

She made it her life’s mission to help women recognize the power they have to change their lives.

In establishing Mercy Center, she found the ways to make this happen, creating programs and providing services to those who needed them.

It brought her great joy to see the growth and strength of so many women over the years.

The strong sense of community that exists at Mercy Center today is built on the foundation Sister Mary Ann laid and nurtured for almost thirty years.

Sister Mary Ann Dirr Legacy Circle is open to anyone who makes a planned gift or includes Mercy Center in their will.
Mercy Center Responded

As you may know, for over thirty years Mercy Center has responded to the needs of our Bronx community. This past year has been no exception.

During the summer of 2020, we extended classes into August so that our participants did not lose the momentum they had built with online learning through the spring. While using phones, tablets, and computers had been a challenge for both for the students and for the teachers, with professional development, everyone rose to the challenge and successful learning was achieved. Mercy Center responded.

Our participants rely on Family Workers to help them develop the skills needed to live healthy lives with their families. When we went remote, our staff continued to work with them by phone, and then taught them how to use Zoom when we established accounts for our staff. Mercy Center responded.

As schools moved to online learning, we recognized that our families were dealing with a completely new world. We provided students with one-on-one online tutoring sessions to meet their educational needs, while adding opportunities to “see” their friends through fun, online activities to meet their equally essential social needs. When we resumed in-person after school activities, we implemented all the necessary precautions. Summer camp provided outdoor field trips that demonstrated how learning does not stop just because the school year ended. Mercy Center responded.

When we learned about the job losses and shortened work hours for our participants, many of whom were front-line workers, we knew this would affect their ability to provide the necessities for their families. Fortunately, we found meal and grocery providers who delivered the food to us that we then distributed. During the past fiscal year, Mercy Center distributed 20,805 prepared meals, produce and groceries for 3,352 families, and $98,550 in debit/gift cards to help with other expenses. Mercy Center is still responding to this very day.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you who have supported us. We could not have made the impact that we did without your support.

[Signature]

Stephen J. Stritch III
Executive Director
Our Fifth Annual Golf Outing on September 21, 2020 at Leewood Golf Club was a success. Thirty-eight golfers came out of COVID hibernation, eager and ready to attack the course under clear blue skies and perfect conditions. A newly built refreshment station at the 8th hole provided a perfect pause for sandwiches and drinks while a small group of Mercy Center staff and volunteers cheered the golfers’ impressive putts. Everyone built up an appetite for a well-earned outdoor lunch.
Proceeds benefitted Mercy Center classes, programs, and services. We thank all of our supporters, especially our sponsors: Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New York, Mary and Sean Davey, DBCollaborative, and John Gallin & Son.
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THE YEAR IN NUMBERS
A RECAP OF THE YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020
AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

3,567
In addition to serving 3,567 participants, we also referred 480 people to other organizations and resources.

92%
Our community is 92% Hispanic/Latina, and the total participant population represents 36 countries, including a growing number from Africa and Asia.

98
98 children enrolled in our Youth Programs, almost all of whom participated in multiple activities offered both remotely and onsite. STEM enrichment finished its third year, adding a beginning and an advanced level.

92
We had 92 families participating in the Familia Adelante/Family Forward family strengthening collaboration, with an additional 178 families reached by collaboration workshops and activities.

164
164 participants enrolled in online Parenting and Anger Management classes and the Moms’ Support Group. Anger Management was particularly successful, surpassing attendance and completion goals.

73%
Mercy Center continues to serve predominantly women, 73%, while also having expanded to serve families and men over the years.

48%
Just under 50% of participants have less than a high school diploma. Participants who come to Mercy Center to learn English are increasingly better educated.

$21,000
69% of participants have an annual income of $21,000 or less.

247
Our Director of Social Services provided 247 case management sessions to 149 participants. The top three issues were Housing, Food Insecurity, and Immigration.

$230,000
Our Transforming Lives Virtual Gala grossed over $230,000 - a huge success! Mercy Center secured a second PPP loan, not reflected as income in FY2021. Total income of $3,680,296 (pre-audit) remained strong.

70%
70% of working participants are employed in one of 5 industries; of those employed, 46% work full-time. Other work industries include babysitting, delivery, driver, cashier, and supermarket employee.

1,600
Over 1,600 participants enrolled in English, High School Equivalency, and Adult Basic Education classes. 100% of ESL students increased their BEST Plus score by at least 30 points.

63
63 participants secured new or improved employment in our Work Readiness program, exceeding our goal of 40. This was achieved despite the ongoing pandemic.

199
The Immigrant Services department submitted 199 applications. 62 of them were for DACA renewals, the most we’ve ever submitted.

20,805
We distributed 20,805 prepared meals, groceries and produce for 3,352 families, and $98,650 in gift/debit cards to our participants. We also offered a Thanksgiving Food Pantry, serving 390 families, and provided Christmas gifts to 623 children.

377 East 145 Street, Bronx, NY 10454
(718) 993-2789
info@mercycenterbronx.org
www.mercycenterbronx.org

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Transforming Lives
Virtual Gala

Celebrating 30 Years of Transforming Lives
Our Honorees

**Martin Dunn**

“It’s a vital thing when designing a physical structure, maybe the most vital is how it makes someone feel when they walk inside and experience it. I keep giving year after year because I have seen how Mercy Center takes these gifts that people share, and working in community and solidarity, achieves wonders.”

*Martin Dunn*, President, Dunn Development Corp

**Mary Anne & Gene Sullivan**

“When I started volunteering at Mercy Center about 20 years ago, I was struck by the warm, friendly, cooperative attitude of the staff. I realized that attitude spread from the staff to the participants. My support for Mercy Center continues in every way possible, because I believe that Mercy Center still shelters that warm, friendly, cooperative attitude for their participants.”

*Eugene Sullivan*, Of Counsel, Norton Rose Fulbright LLP

“It was a privilege to work at Mercy Center, coordinating the ESL program there. It was a joy gathering the teachers together and giving them the tools they needed. The teachers had the joy of seeing their students gradually learning the language. What could be better?”

*Mary Anne Sullivan*, Former ESOL Coordinator

**Chris & Nancy Gallin**

We hope all of you join another family, the Mercy Center family. These dedicated men and women of the Mercy Center provide services and programs to the residents of Mott Haven, allowing these women and their families to reach their full potential.

*Christopher Gallin*, President of John Gallin & Son

The Mercy Center cannot do it alone. Just like we rely on our families, they rely on us. So we ask you to support and join us as we support the Mercy Center family.

*Nancy Gallin*, Small Business Owner/Community Advocate

**Sister Patricia Vetrano**

“From my first contact with Mercy Center 30 years ago, I have been deeply touched by your commitment to inclusiveness and by your collaborative spirit. You who are part of the Mercy Center community witness every day to the very best of what our world needs: love, compassion, community, empowerment, and an ever-present sense of hope.”

*Patricia Vetrano*, RSM Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Mid-Atlantic Leadership
• Over $277,000 raised at our first ever virtual Gala

• Over 200 attendees logged into the event, with some logins representing couples, groups, and families

• 21 bids on most popular package – Felidia Restaurant NYC gift certificate & recipe book

• 24 sponsorships purchased, with a lead sponsorship from the Sisters of Mercy Mid-Atlantic Community

• Ticket and sponsorship sales will provide 535 meals for participants

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We honored Board Member Gregory Stephenson at our First Spring Golf Outing on June 11, 2021. After over a year of COVID containment, our attendees were eager to come together for this outdoor event and pay tribute to someone we’re privileged to know as an advocate, a supporter, and as a friend. We thank Greg for all he has done in support of the mission of Mercy Center!
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The event raised $33,248!
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ANNUAL FUND

The annual fund is essential to the financial security of Mercy Center. Generous contributions from our donors cover general operating and program expenses. Each year through either our fall or spring appeal, many of you have answered our call. We are grateful for your commitment to our work.

The annual fund is a direct way to help us transform lives. The list below consists of generous contributions to the annual fund from July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021.

Names that are in bold also contributed to the 2019-2020 Annual Fund. We also like to recognize our donors in italics who are consistent recurring donors. Thank you for your continued support!

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- Respond to the Spring or Fall Appeal with an unrestricted gift of any size
- Double check with your employee to have your gift matched

SPECIAL EVENTS
Purchase a ticket or sponsor one of our annual events
- Annual Golf Outing
- Transforming Lives Gala
- Super Bowl Raffle

BECOME A VOLUNTEER
- Lend your professional services to help provide the best services to our participants.
  Please contact the Development Office to learn more about these opportunities.

BEQUESTS
Leave a Special Legacy

One simple way to secure Mercy Center’s future is to remember Mercy Center in your will.

Provide a Gift of:
- A fixed dollar amount
- A specific property (such as real estate or stocks)

Make a Bequest Using:
- A percentage of your real estate
- The residue of your estate (assets that remain after other bequests are fulfilled)
- Mercy Center as a contingent beneficiary

For additional information contact Archie Crawford at 718-993-2789

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