



HOUSE of MERCY

A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF THE SISTERS OF
MERCY OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK,
PENNSYLVANIA, PACIFIC WEST COMMUNITY

WINTER NEWSLETTER
2015

**Sisters of Mercy, New York,
Pennsylvania, Pacific West
Community Leadership Team:**

Sr. M Jeanne Thomas Danahy,
RSM

Ministry Director

Sr. Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM
Sponsorship Council Liaison

Advisory Board 2014-2015:

Sr. Michele Schroeck, RSM
Director of House of Mercy

Julia Bandecca

Sr. Rita Brocke, RSM

Sheila Coon

Barbara Edwards

Carla Ihli

Chabi Subedi

Mary Zenner

Eileen Zinchiak

The House of Mercy welcomes:

Elisha Helgen

AmeriCorpsVISTA

*Provides full-time capacity
support for the House of Mercy
in its mission to reduce poverty*

Michelle Ahrens

Sarah Anderson

House of Mercy Ambassadors
*Mercyhurst University students
who live and serve at the House
of Mercy*

The House of Mercy operates

100% on volunteer staff. The

Sisters of Mercy provide for

the salary of the Director.

Therefore, 100% of your gift

goes directly towards provid-

ing activities and advocacy for

an economically an ethnically

diverse community.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Contact Sr. Michele at 898-0167

- Adult mentors
- Youth programming
- Event/fundraiser committee members
- Environmental initiatives
- Fieldtrips

Wish List:

Send to 2005 Woodlawn Ave.

Erie, PA 16504

- Gift basket items for Spring Tea
- Ink: HP 950XL
- Copy paper
- Manila folders
- Manila envelopes
- Stamps
- Valentine items

Dear Friends of the House of Mercy,

Thanks to your overwhelming generosity, families in an ethnically and economically diverse House of Mercy neighborhood were able to celebrate Thanksgiving and Christmas with hope.

37 Thanksgiving food baskets were distributed thanks to Second Harvest Food Bank. Santa's Helpers hand made 75 wooden toys and McDonalds donated treats for our middle school youth.

40 new winter coats and 40 gift cards for new shoes/boots were received by House of Mercy regular participants. Thanks to your financial support our youth will be warm and healthy as they walk to school in the winter months.



Joseph and the Innkeeper

2015! They also sponsored a Christmas party for our youth. One teen said, "It was the best party I ever went to."



Enjoying Miracle on 38th St.

18 House of Mercy elementary youth experienced the "Miracle on 38th St." Christmas Celebration at Mercyhurst University. One girl was so excited she wore a beautiful white dress for the occasion. Thanks to the help of over 30 volunteers and many donors who collected items throughout the year, 155 youth from the House of Mercy, JFK Center and Quality of Life learned that Christmas is for giving, not getting. Each child was able to select 4 gifts for family members and have them wrapped. It took some children a long time to decide on a special gift for mom or dad. One kindergartener assured me that her mom really wanted a sparkling princess crown. A teen chose 4 candy bars, one for each member of his family. I hope they made it home! Mr. Joe and the Thousandaire's Club provided rare coins for each good little girl and boy and everyone got to select a new book to read over vacation thanks to Hooked on Books for Kids.

Finally, an anonymous donor provided \$100 gift cards for anyone who might have been left out or in need of any extra support for the holidays.

I knew we made a difference when a 14 year old boy came on Christmas Eve and asked when the House of Mercy would be open again!

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of so many of our neighbors in need.

I hope you will continue to support the House of Mercy throughout the year by becoming a MercyHood member.

Gratefully,
Sr. Michele Schroeck, RSM



A satisfied customer!

Those who participated in our annual Christmas Play received an educational toy from all of our donors.

St. Martin Center provided gifts for 71 elementary youth. Mercyhurst Prep School sponsored all our middle and high school youth so they would not be forgotten. They provided over 50 gifts and McDonald's certificates to be used as incentives throughout



All shopped out!

2014 MercyHood Members:

Mr. and Mrs. Don Baxter
Barbars Brairton
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dalkemper
Katie DeLeo
Betty Dunagan
Marjorie Ferrick
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Fries
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Keil
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kraus
Chris Magoc
Sr. Gaye Moorhead, RSM
Sr. Rita Panciera, RSM
Robert Quinn
Carolyn Ruth
Joyce Savacchio
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Schroeck
Kathleen Schroeck
Susan Wellman

MercyHood members make an annual pledge to support the House of Mercy. Members are recognized annually in the House of Mercy newsletter, receive a certificate of membership, are named on our wall of donors and are invited to the annual Open House.

Won't you consider being a MercyHood Member for 2015?

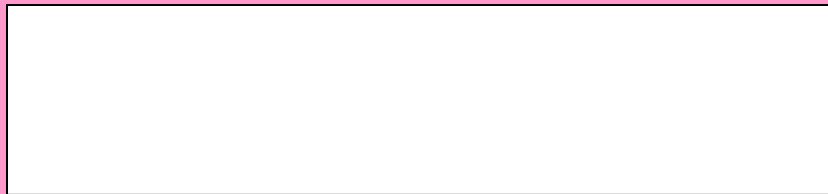
Help provide a healthy snack, educational activities and monthly field trip opportunities.

Come meet some of the participants and see the House of Mercy in action at our annual open house for MercyHood members on Friday, March 20 from 5-7pm. Light refreshments will be served.



2005 Woodlawn Ave Erie, PA 16510

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A place of welcome hospitality for an east side Erie neighborhood, the House of Mercy, established and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, promotes a healthy neighborhood by providing activities and advocacy that engage children in positive experiences for the and their neighborhood.

Parents' Perspectives

"The House of Mercy visits each house individually to find out what they need before the holidays. My daughter looks forward to going to the after school programs. She used to be very quiet and shy. Now she is more confident in herself." -Amy



Ibis enjoys the Christmas Store with her granddaughter.

"The House of Mercy helps with everything. They help with emergencies. They give advice. They have educational activities for the kids. I love it!" -Ibis



Come to the MPS vs. Fairview game on Friday, Feb. 6 at 6:00 and 7:30 for a gift auction benefitting HoM. Tickets are 10 for \$5 or 25 for \$10.

Participant Spotlight



Mohamed, age 8, tells us why he loves House of Mercy so much:

"My favorite thing about House of Mercy is the healthy snacks. I like the field trips because I get to see new things. I like that they help me with my homework. I like to do the art projects—so fun! I like to make food. And I like to have fun with my teachers!"



Mohamed celebrates his birthday.

Save the Date!

The 4th Annual Spring Tea will be Sunday, April 19. More information will be in the next newsletter.

