

MERCY MATTERS



April 2021

*“And what do I risk to tell you this, which is all I know?
Love yourself. Then forget it. Then, love the world.”
Mary Oliver*

Dear Friends,

As we move from winter to spring, from our Christian season of Lent to Easter, and from bondage to liberation remembered in Passover, these inspirational words taken from “The Hill We Climb” by poet Amanda Gorman give us pause.

When day comes, we ask ourselves, where can we find light in this never-ending shade? The loss we carry. A sea we must wade.



We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace, and the norms and notions of what “just” is isn’t always justice.

We close the divide because we know to put our future first, we must first put our differences aside.

*Let the globe, if nothing else, say this is true.
That even as we grieved, we grew.
That even as we hurt, we hoped.
That even as we tired, we tried.
That we’ll forever be tied together, victorious.*

*Scripture tells us to envision that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree, and no one shall make them afraid.
If we’re to live up to our own time, then victory won’t lie in the blade, but in all the bridges we’ve made.*



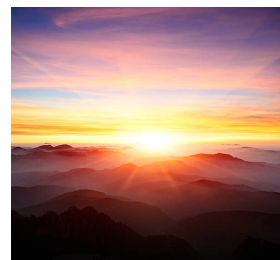
If we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy, and change our children’s birthright.

We will rebuild, reconcile, and recover.

*For there is always light,
If only we’re brave enough to see it.
If only we’re brave enough to be it.*

Blessings of love and light,

Aue



MNM’s STNA Training Program Successfully Prepares Caregivers

MNM’s State Tested Nurse Aide Training program, launched in 2018, continues to be the next step on a healthcare career pathway for caregivers in our community. The unique 8 and 12 week program design that enables participants to also work and the 2:1 trainer ratio in skills lab have been instrumental in our high program passage rate of 92%.



We are happy to announce that 100% of the graduates who have completed the state exam passed and are now listed on the State of Ohio Nurse Aide Registry. The other graduates will be completing this next career step soon.



Many thanks to our hardworking and dedicated STNA training team who are making this program a success!



Changing Lives with the Touch of Mercy



Dreams Coming True for Hospital Worker Readiness Program Graduate

The goal of all of MNM's workforce development programs is to connect graduates with job opportunities through our employer partners that will lead to financial stability for themselves and their families. One of our **Hospital Worker Readiness Program (HWRP)** graduates, Echo Robinson, recently updated us on her success since completing the program in September 2020. Congratulations Echo! Your hard work and dedication are paying off!

*"After graduating from HWRP in September 2020, I began working as an **Environmental Technician in the operating room at The Jewish Hospital-Mercy Health**. I love the people I work with and the team at Jewish-Mercy is just amazing. It can be a big burden to bear knowing that people's health and safety lay in your hands, but the **HWRP program taught me how to remain professional in a hospital environment**. Knowing how to approach and help the patients in our care is really important. Learning how to do that as part of the HWRP program was invaluable.*

The Mercy Neighborhood Ministries staff has been great and reaches out to me regularly to make sure everything is going well. I know that if I am ever in a pinch and need advice about work, finances, or coping with the stress of my job, someone at MNM would be more than willing to help. I would recommend the HWRP program to anyone who has wanted to get their foot in the door at a hospital. I have made numerous connections along the way since I began working for Mercy Health. I also have big goals for the future. I plan on going back to college and using the tuition reimbursement that is offered to employees. I want to go to school to be a surgical technician. I can even do my training with the staff I already work with in the operating room. Working for Mercy Health is a dream come true! I know that I will have support in my future endeavors surrounded by a team who is rooting for me. "

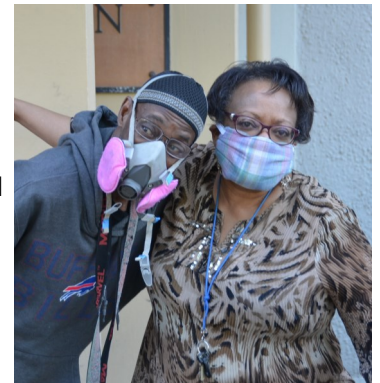


Spring Has Sprung for Senior Services Clients

On one of the first warm days of Spring, MNM's Senior Services clients received a special delivery from our dedicated volunteers and staff. Thanks to the generosity of our friends at **St. Michaels' Parish** and **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish**, we were able to assemble baskets filled with **assorted cleaning products** and other spring treats for **95 senior services participants** living in Walnut Hills and Evanston. All of our seniors rely on very limited incomes and resources. More often than not, they are unable to buy these products which tend to be expensive and



cannot be purchased using their Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. These bi-monthly deliveries of food, personal care items, and cleaning products continue to be of great importance since isolation and limited opportunities to engage with the community continue to be a challenge for the seniors we serve. The smiles on their faces let us know that it's about much more than what they physically receive from MNM. It's the **warm greeting from our volunteers**, the time our staff takes to **listen and check in with our seniors weekly**, and the extra **Touch of Mercy** we offer that means everything to them.



Thank You from Team MNM!

Our 2021 Hoops & Hops Raffle was a huge success! **Because of your generosity over \$26,000 was raised** in support of Team MNM and the work we are doing everyday to ensure that **our mission is making a difference in our community**. Congratulations as well to our six \$500 raffle winners! We are looking forward to our 2022 Hoops & Hops when we hope to bring our signature **\$10,000 Half Court Shot Contest** back to an in person event.

