MERCY MATTERS

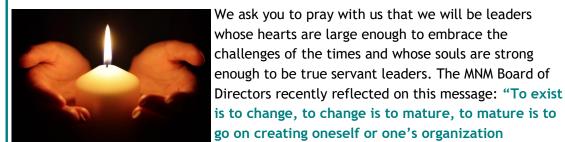
For I know the plans I have for you, says our God. They are plans for your welfare and not for woe. They are plans to give you a future full of hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Dear Friends,

At Mercy Neighborhood Ministries, we place our trust In God, in one another and in the community that we have formed to be "a helping hand, a healing touch." Individuals come to us in need of social services, home health care, training for



employment; they come for food and household supplies as well as for a listening ear and compassionate contacts to address issues around COVID 19, personal isolation, and family crisis. To meet these needs, we have had to adapt, to expand, to change and to change again during this pandemic time. In so doing, we have transformed our delivery systems by becoming true activators of change.



endlessly." (H. Bergson)

Board members committed to the continued journey of being a vital touch of Mercy in our neighborhood and beyond. They commented that by embracing the

dynamics of change, new leadership and growth opportunities will emerge for the entire agency. Sue Kathman, who dreams big, doable dreams for MNM, welcomes



change as an agent of promise, possibility and potential for growing stronger and more responsive to the needs of the neighbors we serve. We thank all of you, staff, Board, volunteers and donors, for helping us be the best we can be in Mercy.

Blessings, Sr. Mary Stanton, RSM Mission Director



June-July 2021

<u>MNM's Supporters Step Up</u> <u>in the 2021 Virtual Hunger</u> <u>Walk</u>

MNM's food pantry shelves will be a well stocked thanks to the generosity of our generous friends who made donations on behalf of Team MNM in the Freestore Foodbank's 2021 Virtual Hunger Walk. We now have a line of credit that enables us enable us to shop the Freestore Foodbank's inventory throughout the year.



As a community partner with the Freestore Foodbank, we are able to purchase items from their ever evolving inventory that includes essential pantry items like cereal, pasta, and canned fruit, as well as fresh produce, eggs and highly desired products like toilet paper and paper towels. All of these items are then distributed through our community food pantry that serves primarily vulnerable seniors living in Walnut Hills and Evanston.



Thank you to everyone who joined Team MNM to raise nearly \$1,000 so our pantry can continue to be a resource for so many experiencing food insecurity in our community.

Changing Lives with the Touch of Mercy



Spring Graduates are Shining Bright!

The warm days of spring are bit brighter due to the smiles on the faces of our May and June graduates from MNM's **State Tested Nurse Aide Training (STNA)** and **Hospital Worker Readiness Programs (HWRP)**. After weeks of hard work, dedication, and balancing already busy lives, **15** women are ready to begin and grow their careers in the healthcare industry. All of our HWRP graduates have already interviewed with our employment partner, Mercy Health, and most have officially accepted job offers. Our STNA graduates who completed their classroom and skills lab sessions already passed their state exam and are now listed on the Ohio Nurse Aide Registry. **Congratulations to all of our graduates!** We are eager to hear about your future success and look forward to continuing to support you on your employment journeys in healthcare.



Save the Date for the 2021 Taste of the Neighborhood



Mark your calendars and save the date for everyone's favorite Halloween fundraiser and MNM's signature event, the Taste of the Neighborhood hosted on October 24th. This year as we all recover from the impact of COVID 19 pandemic, we are hoping to host an event with both in person and virtual components that will capture everything we love about the Taste of the Neighborhood. Over the next few months, look for updates as our plans evolve. One thing we know for sure is that your support is more critical than ever as we work to stabilize and improve the quality of life for those living in disadvantaged circumstances. We can't wait to put a "spell on you" to have a "spooktacular" good time.

Workforce Supportive Services Making a Difference

Balancing work and home over the past year has been especially challenging for MNM's participants as COVID 19 impacted every aspect of their lives. Navigating all the unexpected road blocks was a bit easier thanks to the support they received from MNM's resource navigators, Robin Brenner and Shauntel Dobbins, who are part of our Workforce Supportive Services Program (WSSP). As a partner in the United Way's Project LIFT collaborative, we are able to connect individuals with diverse funding streams that can help prevent an eviction, relieve short term food insecurity, assist with past due utilities, and address

transportation challenges such as car repairs or securing monthly bus passes. Shauntel also provides **embedded coaching** at four of our long-term care employer partners assisting their employees to mitigate barriers and challenges that may impede their success during their first 90 days of employment. Robin builds relationships with participants in our job training programs and supports them as they transition into their employment so they know **their journey with MNM does not end once they graduate**. The personal connections Shauntel and Robin make are just as valuable as the connections to community resources and financial support. Dealing with so many issues can feel overwhelming and the reassuring voice and kindness of our staff can ease the stress and anxiety of putting together an action plan for success. One of our HWRP graduates, Tiara J. recently sent us a message expressing how her participation in WSSP has positively impacted her life. *"The MNM staff has been so helpful by educating me on how to become more stable and successful. They do everything possible to assist*



me with any obstacles that may impact my success. Everyone goes above and beyond to support me in any way possible by lending an open ear, an understanding heart, or a helping hand. The assistance and support I have received from this program is unmatched in so many ways. Thank you for all you have done for me and my family."



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