

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.



We ask you to pray with us that we will be leaders
whose hearts are large enough to embrace the
challenges of the times and whose souls are strong
enough to be true servant leaders. The MNM Board of
Directors recently reflected on this message: **“To exist
is to change, to change is to mature, to mature is to
go on creating oneself or one’s organization**

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

MNM's Supporters Step Up in the 2021 Virtual Hunger Walk

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 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."**

