

MercyFirst Annual Summer Golf Outing

On Monday, August 17, MercyFirst held its annual Summer Golf Outing, sponsored by State Bank. The day-long event, held at the Mill River Country Club in Upper Brookville, NY raised funds for the over 4,000 children and families served annually by MercyFirst. The day began with a lavish breakfast buffet and a shotgun start at noon. Dinner and an awards ceremony followed at the Mill River Club. During this year's ceremony, guests were introduced to Riley, a 1 year old Black Labrador Retriever who is part of MercyFirst's Dog Training Program. Partnering with East Coast Assistance Dogs, Inc., MercyFirst residents learn to train dogs, like Riley, to be assistance dogs for the handicapped. Riley and his trainer demonstrated his skills for the crowd. This year's event raised over \$90,000.

Headquartered in Syosset, NY, MercyFirst is a not-for-profit human service agency that provides an integrated continuum of care for children in need, from birth through adolescence, including children who have been abused and neglected; youth with serious emotional problems; teenagers and young adults who are without family; and families coping with the stress and pressures of poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.

The Annual Summer Golf Outing supports MercyFirst's range of programs, which include family support and after-school programs, foster homes and adoption services, community homes and campus-based residential treatment programs, medical and mental-health care, as well as the innovative Bridges to the Future, a range of specialized skills development and workforce preparation experiences designed to help our adolescents learn to be self-sufficient.



MercyFirst C.E.O Gerard McCaffery calls the winning raffle ticket.



Riley waits for his turn on center stage.