



**Mercy
First**
hope is unstoppable

CARING FOR KIDS & FAMILIES SINCE 1894



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Dear Friends:

We are pleased to present the 2022 MercyFirst Annual Report, which provides but a glimpse of how busy we were this past year carrying out our mission, and how we are helping children and families overcome the enormous obstacles they face daily.

This challenging work against the backdrop of an ever-changing environment looks very different from when the agency first opened its doors in the late 1800s. But the mission always remains the same. Today, the emphasis on early intervention and prevention through the Family First Prevention Services Act has resulted in MercyFirst being awarded a Post-Permanency Support Program (PPSP) this fiscal year.

Following a competitive bidding process, MercyFirst was selected by New Yorkers for Children and Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children as one of three providers in New York City to launch this innovative program. The privately funded prevention program offers New York City families the best chance for success in preserving and stabilizing placements once children have been adopted or placed in kinship guardianship. We have seen positive outcomes in the first year of this program with 60% of families contacted signing on for services and 70% of the program's cases closed with the permanency goals met. We look forward to continuing to make a positive impact through PPSP, and to growing our work in the community-based prevention space.

In addition to PPSP, we continue to provide an array of programs including family foster care and adoption services, group homes in the community to meet the needs of children in crisis when staying at home is not possible, and short-term residential services for unaccompanied migrant children from all corners of the world.

In all that we do, we remain keenly focused on the role we play in the dismantling of historical and systemic racism, a pervasive issue for the populations we serve. By keeping Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) front and center in everything we do – whether it is through our F.O.C.U.S. Equity Alliance, our DEIB Interview Panel, or our culturally-competent team of caregivers who provide the best quality of services to the children, youth, and vulnerable families of New York City and across Long Island – MercyFirst is part of this important conversation. In fact, DEIB has been woven into the fabric of the agency as a “critical concern” of the Sisters of Mercy since the late 1800s when the agency was established.

Meanwhile, we are honored to fulfill the life-affirming mission set forth by the Sisters of Mercy nearly 130 years ago. It is our generation's responsibility to continue to build on the great work of this ministry, and to stay relevant to meeting the complex needs of today. It is no easy feat but every day, it is what all of us at MercyFirst – Board and staff – proudly and tirelessly do together to inspire hope and promote healing for the children and families we serve in New York City and across Long Island.

We are excited about the future of MercyFirst and thank you for the unwavering support you have shown us over the years. We could not do this work without you!

Sincerely,



Brian Hecker
Board Chair




Renée Skolaski
President & CEO



P.S. Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MercyFirst or call to arrange for a tour of our programs. We would love to show you around.

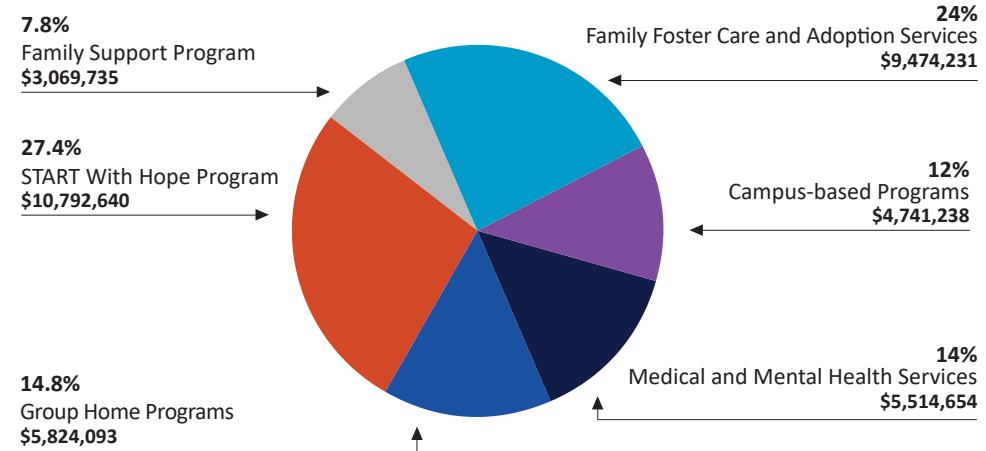
P.P.S. F.O.C.U.S., the name of our staff-driven Equity Alliance committed to advancing DEIB in all we do, stands for For Our Communities Ultimate Success.

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

Year Ended June 30, 2022

Form 990

PROGRAM EXPENSES



SUPPORT AND REVENUES

Operating Revenues	<u>\$45,680,391</u>
Support and Non-Operating Revenues	
Grants	539,381
Contributions	338,537
Special Events (net of direct expenses)	102,610
Gain on Forgiveness of PPP Loan	5,913,396
Other Income (losses)	<u>(8,023)</u>
Total Support and Non-Operating Revenues	<u>6,885,901</u>
Total Support and Revenues	<u>52,566,292</u>

EXPENSES

Program	39,416,591
Management and General	7,072,038
Fundraising	<u>522,232</u>
Total Expenses	<u>47,010,861</u>
Change in Net Assets	5,555,431
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	<u>2,372,439</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	<u><u>\$7,927,870</u></u>

OUR IMPACT

July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

PROGRAM AREA	CLIENTS SERVED
Adoption Services	6
Family Foster Care	346
Group Home Programs	134
Campus-based Programs	49
Family Support Program	387
START With Hope Program	270



Foster care youth participate in a variety of cooking activities with our program staff.



Life Skills Coach, Akeda, celebrated with students at our Scholarship Awards Dinner.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES

100% of at-risk families remained together because of the help received in our Family Support Services program.

Our Care Management services assisted **233** children access appropriate medical and mental health services allowing them to remain safely at home in the community.

29 young mothers learned valuable skills to help them become better parents to their babies.

In our Art and Creative Therapies program **3,426** youth and families participated in individual, group and family sessions. Art and Creative therapy allows youth to organize, identify and express events for which there may be no words through individual and group arts-based projects, yoga, community murals, therapeutic drumming, nature installations, art exhibitions and animal-assisted therapy.

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

16 students in our Scholarship Program received financial assistance. In 2022, **3** Scholarship Program Alumni graduated from college!

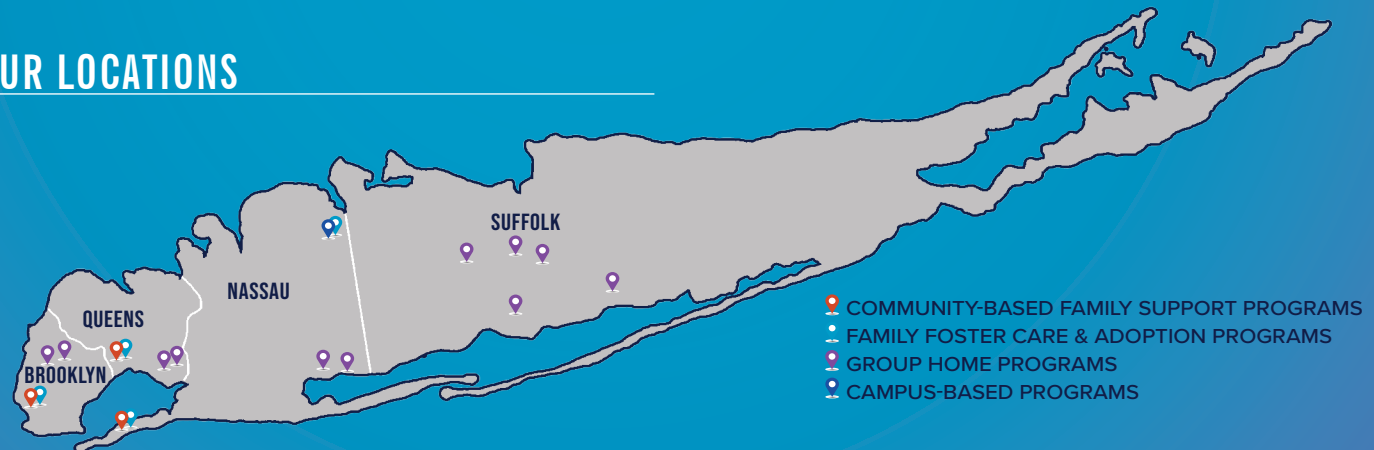
91 Youth in our Bridges to the Future program received assistance from their Life Skills Coaches. Together, the coaches work with youth to develop and achieve education, career and housing goals.

86% of Youth in our Bridges to the Future completed the Career Academy job training program, providing them with necessary life skills and work experience.

POST-PERMANENCY SUPPORT PROGRAM SUCCESS

In the first year, we provided **30** families with essential post-adoption/guardianship services.

OUR LOCATIONS



- COMMUNITY-BASED FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAMS
- FAMILY FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION PROGRAMS
- GROUP HOME PROGRAMS
- CAMPUS-BASED PROGRAMS

THANK YOU. We couldn't do it without you.

\$25,000 and above		
Boost Grant by Nassau County	Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption	The Stephen A. Signorile Family Fund
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MercyFirst Board Member, James Jewett (second from left) with the team from Ridgewood Savings Bank at our 'Fore the Kids' Golf Outing.

\$500 and above		
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Up to \$250		

An additional 244 donations were made by generous supporters.



Friends from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection delivered gifts for our families during the holidays.

The names listed have supported our work through financial contributions between July 1, 2021- June 30, 2022. We are grateful for every one of our supporters!

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ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

525 Convent Road, Syosset, NY 11791

241 37th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11232

FOLLOW OUR JOURNEY



MercyFirst



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www.mercyfirst.org

ACCREDITED BY



ABOUT MERCYFIRST: Rooted in a legacy of mercy spanning more than a century, MercyFirst inspires hope and promotes healing for the most vulnerable children and families in New York City and across Long Island. Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1894, today MercyFirst offers a range of innovative programs and services that provide stability and support and help individuals and communities thrive.

Cover Photos (L-R): (1) Renée Skolaski, President & CEO (center) along with Madeline Martinez, VP of Mission Integration (right) distributed Mercy Day 'Feast Treats' to staff in our Ozone Park office. (2) Student artwork from our Art & Creative Therapies program displayed at our annual Art Show. (3) We are thankful for people like Sandra & Sophie who started their journey as foster parents to a pair of siblings before becoming adoptive parents! (4) Vidal, a resident in our Mother/Baby program, celebrated High School graduation with her daughter. (5) Youth enjoy taking care of our community garden. (6) Students in our residential program participated in a fiesta themed cooking class.