



**Mercy  
First**  
hope is unstoppable



**Presenting the MercyFirst Youth Art Show, *Make Sense***, an interactive art exhibition focused on the senses held at our Syosset campus. Students, staff and guests participated in a variety of activities including, spin art, aromatherapy, a sound station, and making their own cloud dough. On view were many projects and photos that the youth have completed over the past year, including murals, fields trips, and therapeutic drumming. Through participation in the activities and a brief presentation by **Eileen McGann, ATR-BC, LCAT, Director of the Arts and Creative Therapies**, attendees were able to learn more about the important role art plays in each youth's journey.



### **New Parenting Program for our Clients**

**MercyFirst recently implemented The Circle of Security Parenting** program, an attachment-based parenting education program that helps parents better understand and build on their relationships with their children. This program supports parents to understand their child's emotional world by learning to read emotional cues. Clinical Coordinator **Kari Vaughan**, became trained in this model so that she could bring it to her program and will be opening the group to our community clients as well as other programs at MercyFirst. The parenting education program is available to parents, foster parents and expectant parents. Learn more [here](#).



### **Fair Futures Program Helps Youth Succeed in Life**

Many young people rely on their family for support in their early 20s. Yet young people who age out of foster care are often entirely on their own and that's why support from **Fair Futures** Coaches is so important to them. MercyFirst youth joined alongside other foster care agencies and youth calling for an expansion of Fair Futures funding in NYC's Budget to help bring Fair Futures coaches & supports to all young people ages 11-26 who are in or have left foster care.

Photo credit: [Fair Futures NY](#)

"My Fair Futures coach is always willing to help me in different areas of my life that is geared towards my future. I

am very grateful to have her as a support system and for the help that she has given," says a MercyFirst youth.



Jackie McKelvey, Chief Program Officer

## Helping Children and their Families at MercyFirst for Nearly Forty Years

**Jackie McKelvey**, Chief Program Officer, was named to City & State NY's 2022 Above & Beyond list, recognizing women leaders who are making a positive impact on the lives of New Yorkers. Jackie has spent nearly four decades carrying out MercyFirst's mission to inspire hope and promote healing for children and families through quality human and social services.



M Seven Laracuate, Executive Vice President, Integrated Health

## MercyFirst Welcomes M Seven Laracuate as our Executive Vice President of Integrated Health

MercyFirst welcomed **M Seven Laracuate, PhD, LCSW**, to its leadership team in the newly created position of Executive Vice President of Integrated Health, overseeing the agency's medical health and behavioral health programs and services that our children, youth and families benefit from every day. Seven received her Master of Social Work degree from Boston College, and her PhD in Clinical Social Work from NYU's Silver School of Social Work, and will work out of both our Brooklyn and Syosset offices.



## MercyFirst to Hold In-Person Job Fair

Join us on Friday, April 29, 2022, for our In-Person Job Fair which will take place at MercyFirst's Syosset campus location and will include positions available at locations across the New York metropolitan area. If you want to make a difference in the lives of children, youth and families in need, we have the perfect role for you! Hope to see you there! More information at [here](#).



## Save the Date: 'Fore the Kids' Golf Outing

Join us on Monday, May 16, 2022 for our annual Golf Outing, 'Fore the Kids' at the beautiful Brookville Country Club. Funds raised will help MercyFirst provide children and families in need with safe opportunities for hope, healing and a brighter future. There are many ways to participate, sponsor and support our important work through this event. Visit [www.mercyfirst.org/golf](http://www.mercyfirst.org/golf)

[Make a Donation Today](#)

**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.