



**Mercy
First**
hope is unstoppable



National Adoption Month Celebration

Adoptive parents, Sandra and Sophie were honored at NYC Administration for Children's Services Annual Adoption Month Celebration! Sandra and Sophie began their adoption journey as foster parents to siblings, King and Kamina, and in March 2022 made the adoption official! The couple always showed the kids what family looks like- from never missing soccer practice, or gymnastics, going on family vacations, being amazing role models, and most of all, being loving parents! [#NationalAdoptionMonth](#)



Show Your Support for MercyFirst Board Member's 11th Annual Polar Bear Plunge

Scott Gildea, longtime friend and MercyFirst Board Member is getting ready to do his 11th Annual Polar Bear Plunge on January 1st! This annual tradition raised over \$20,000 last year to support our mission of helping children and families. Show Scott some love as he plunges into the icy waters for MercyFirst! Click here to [Support Scott](#)



State Senator John E. Brooks Donates \$25,000 to MercyFirst

MercyFirst wishes to thank Senator John E. Brooks, New York State Senator, for recognizing MercyFirst's impact on children and families in his district (8th Senate district). Each year the Senator secures a wide variety of funding for schools, and organizations like MercyFirst that substantially and directly affect the south shore community of Nassau county in a variety of positive ways, and we are grateful that he chose MercyFirst as the recipient of a \$25,000 grant.

More than 50 MercyFirst Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Over 200 staff from all of our 15 locations across Brooklyn, Queens and Long Island gathered together at the annual holiday party to enjoy a festive afternoon filled with food, music and dancing! During the event, fifty-three staff members were presented with Years of Service Awards and recognized for the amazing work they do with our children and families. This year we presented fifty-three staff with their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 year awards!



A group of 5 year award recipients.



Harlean Dennis, Sr. VP of Enhanced Family Foster Care Program (right), presented a 25 year award to Rebecca Marccone, VP of Enhanced Family Foster Care Program (left),



Manual Rodriguez from our Facilities & Maintenance Department (left) received his 30 year award from Mark Kurnicki, Director of Maintenance (right).



Make a Child Smile this Holiday Season

We have made it easy for you to send holiday cheer to the children & teens at MercyFirst this holiday season. Just shop our [Amazon Wishlist](#) and gifts will be shipped directly to us! It's also a great time to gather your friends, family or colleagues to host a holiday gift drive. To find out more, please email [Kerri Sneden](#).

[Make a Holiday 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.



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