



Mercy  
First  
hope is unstoppable



**Meet Vidal, a young woman in our Mother/Baby Group Home**, who was the guest speaker at our recent 'Fore the Kids' Golf Outing. She bravely shared her story of being in foster care and the struggles of being a new mother and coping with a newborn with special medical needs. As Vidal told her story, she expressed her gratitude for the care and support that she and her daughter receive from the staff at MercyFirst and how they inspire her to re-imagine her future.

"I want to help other parents like me with the emotional support and guidance they may need at the hospital with taking care of their children and getting them healthy. Seeing my baby and the other kids in the hospital made me want to become a nurse." As a recent high school graduate, Vidal is currently pursuing her studies to become a Certified Nursing Assistant at the Long Island Educational Opportunity Center. We are so proud of all that Vidal has accomplished and of the foundation she is building for a better tomorrow for her and her daughter.



## New Program Helps Children Transition from Foster Care to Permanent Homes

MercyFirst was one of three providers selected to operate the Post-Permanency Support Program (PPSP), created and supported by Spence-Chapin Services to Families and Children, in collaboration with New Yorkers for Children and the Administration for Children's Services (ACS). The program provides essential post-adoption/guardianship services to families across NYC to improve outcomes for children. [Read the press release to learn more about this exciting new initiative.](#)



## MercyFirst Foster Care Family Celebrated by NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS)

In recognition of National Foster Care Month, foster parents were honored at the Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Annual Foster Parent Celebration on May 24 for the tremendous work they do welcoming children and teens into their home. We were delighted that one of MercyFirst's families was selected to receive to this honor, which recognizes the importance of providing a safe and nurturing home to youth and a commitment to show the necessary love and guidance. From advocating for the children's needs to enjoying trips to amusement parks, this family has opened their home and their hearts to help MercyFirst's youth feel valued, important, accepted and loved.

Find out how you can become a foster parent: Hope Starts With You - [visit our website to learn more.](#)



## May is Mental Health Awareness Month

One of the best ways we can contribute to improved mental health, better relationships, and healthier communities is to make sure we are managing ourselves and meeting our own needs. At MercyFirst, we realize the importance of self-care and supporting *the helpers*, our mental health professionals. As a Sanctuary-certified agency, the well being of our mental health professionals is a top priority! Checkout this quick slideshow we created for Mental Health Awareness Month, click [here](#).



## 'Fore the Kids' Golf Outing Raises over \$100,000

On May 16, 2022 MercyFirst held its annual Golf Outing, 'Fore the Kids' at the Brookville Country Club on Long Island. Thanks to the tremendous support of our sponsors and participants we raised over \$100,000! Special thanks to our Fundraising Committee members: Co-Chairs Susan Lee and Steve Davy, Darcy Belyea, Rhonda Maco, Ken Male, Kevin Shine, and Paul Travers and our Lead Sponsors: CXO Nexus, Arthur J. Gallagher, Anne & Scott Gildea, Jefferies/Benji Cheung, Maspeth Federal Saving Bank, Piper Sandler, Ridgewood Savings Bank, Trooper Foods, USI and Warren & Warren.

(L-R) Shawn Conboy, Gerry Conboy, Eric Muse, and MercyFirst Board of Trustees member Kevin Shine




**New Banners at the Syosset Campus.** Just in time for the change of season, a set of new and colorful banners are on display at our Syosset Campus. The bold abstract stained glass design is a nod to our Sisters of Mercy legacy, and is paired with our our six core values: Compassion, Excellence, Hospitality, Integrity, Justice and Respect. Every day, these values guide our work with children and families, and help advance MercyFirst's mission to inspire hope and promote healing for children and families by providing quality human services and educational opportunities while advocating for social change.





**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.