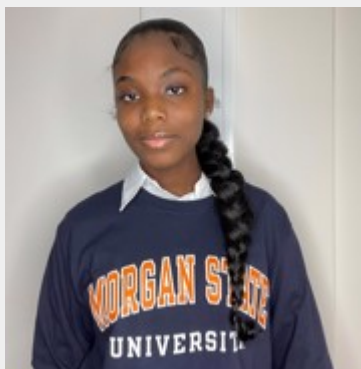




MercyFirst Receives New Yorkers For Children (NYFC) Grant

Building on the success of MercyFirst's foster care and permanency support services, we are launching a new post-permanency support initiative with funding from [New Yorkers For Children](#)! The program is for children and their families exiting the NYC foster care system to adoption or kinship guardianship, and will deliver services and supports to improve outcomes.



*Kaitlyn H., MercyFirst Scholar
Morgan State University*

Congratulations to MercyFirst's 2021 Scholars

Fourteen hard-working students from our Foster Care and Residential program(s) were awarded MercyFirst scholarships to continue their studies in accounting, architecture, construction management, nursing, hospitality, and more. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments and wish them much success! Since 2008, MercyFirst has provided over \$450,000 in scholarship funding for higher education to children in our care.



Celebrating Our Heroes on Mercy Day

September 24th, the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy, also known as Mercy Day, is when we commemorate our foundress Catherine McAuley who opened the first House of Mercy in 1827. At MercyFirst we also celebrate this day by recognizing our talented and dedicated staff with the Catherine McAuley Leadership Award. These staff members go above and beyond with our children and families!

(clockwise from top left)
[Veronica Taylor](#)- Youth Support Counselor, Campus Programs
[Kerriann Fowler](#) - Human Resources Benefit Assistant
[Sidnee St. Surin](#) - Caseworker, Family Foster Care
[Christina Cox](#)- Case Planner, Family Support Programs



MercyFirst Takes START Program National

Since 2014, MercyFirst's START program has provided safe shelter, care and education to unaccompanied migrant children who, after a dangerous journey, arrive in the United States alone. Our support of these youth includes post-release services to find and unify them with a parent or close relative and this past month, MercyFirst received a federal contract to take these services national. This program is a continuation of our mission to support children and families, no matter the circumstances.



Angel of Hope Benefit Celebrates Sanctuary

This year's virtual Angel of Hope event takes place on Thursday, October 28. Our theme, "Celebrating Sanctuary," recognizes the importance of having a place of refuge and protection, particularly during these difficult times. As a Sanctuary Certified child and family services non-profit, MercyFirst is committed to providing sanctuary to the children and families we serve. There are many ways to participate, sponsor and support our important work through this benefit. Visit www.mercyfirst.org/aoH

Make a Donation Today

ABOUT MERCYFIRST: Rooted in a legacy of mercy spanning more than a century, MercyFirst inspires hope and promotes healing for children and families in need. Founded in 1894 by the Sisters of Mercy, MercyFirst is today one of New York's leading not-for-profit agencies, offering a continuum of care through its network of programs in New York City and on Long Island.