



### IN THE NEWS: "Safe Way Forward" Program Expands to Brooklyn

Last month, NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) announced an expansion of the "Safe Way Forward" intimate partner violence program to Brooklyn with MercyFirst being selected as the service provider. "Safe Way Forward" provides support to the whole family, including survivors of intimate partner violence, the "persons causing harm" and their children. This program can help break the cycle of abuse and trauma, support and rebuild strong and healthy families, and create positive outcomes for the children impacted. You can read the full news coverage in the [Brooklyn Daily Eagle](#) and [The Bronx Daily](#).



Meet Ms. P!

### September is National Kinship Care Month

National Kinship Care Month is a time that we celebrate the commitment and love that our relatives and kinship families provide to children in foster care. We want to recognize Ms. P who became a foster parent with MercyFirst back in 1997 and in 2022 obtained kinship guardianship for her granddaughter whom she adores! Ms. P continues to work closely with her MercyFirst casework team for the encouragement and services that her family needs and supports the birth parents in developing a positive relationship with their daughter. We are grateful to Ms. P for all the years she has provided a caring home to so many children in foster care!



Jadaida G., MercyFirst Scholar

### Congratulations to the 2022 MercyFirst Scholars

Our Scholarship program provides financial assistance to foster care youth in our Bridges to the Future program who are pursuing their higher education. This year we celebrated 3 youth who completed their college programs; Dionne B. received her BA in Law and Society from John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Jadaida G. received her BS in Interdisciplinary Studies with a concentration in Social Work and Psychology from Nyack College, and Yanice L. received her AA in Hospitality Management from NYC College of Technology. We are so proud of our scholars!



Scott Gildea



Sister Margaret Dempsey, RSM

### Scott Gildea and Sister Margaret Dempsey, RSM Join the Board of Trustees

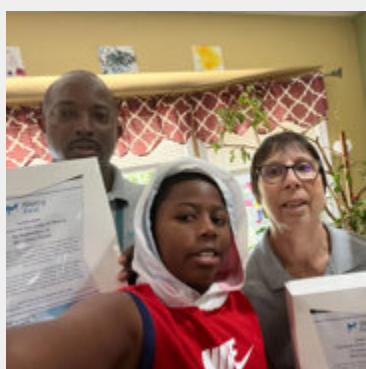
MercyFirst would like to welcome two members to the 2022-2023 Board of Trustees. **Scott Gildea** returns to the board after taking a year off, he served for 9 years on the board, including chairing the committee from 2014-2018 and **Sister Margaret Dempsey, RSM** was a member of our Development Department from 2014-2018 and continues to volunteer with us in many ways. We are excited to welcome both Scott and Sr. Margaret back!



Madeline Martinez, Vice President of Mission Integration

### MercyFirst Welcomes Madeline Martínez as Vice President of Mission Integration

Ms. Martínez will be responsible for ensuring the integration of the agency’s mission into everyday operations and interactions. In addition, she will help elevate the agency’s six core values – compassion, excellence, hospitality, integrity, justice and respect – across the organization, and ensure they serve to underpin the workplace culture. Ms. Martínez comes to MercyFirst with more than 25 years of experience in social services.



Our staff members Clive Rose (L) and Renee Duffy (R) with MercyFirst youth, Sykai showing off their Feast Treats!

### Happy Mercy Day! September 24- The Feast of Our Lady of Mercy

On September 24, 1827, the Sisters of Mercy foundress, Catherine McAuley, opened the first House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland, to shelter homeless women and children and provide them care and education. This day became known as Mercy Day or The Feast of our Lady of Mercy. Nearly 200 years later, MercyFirst continues to carry on Catherine’s legacy and to celebrate "Mercy Day" with our staff, boxes filled with yummy Feast Treats were delivered to all program locations in Brooklyn, Queens, and Long Island! Happy Mercy Day!



### Save the Date: Angel of Hope Gala

Join us on October 20, 2022 for our Angel of Hope Gala, at the Rainbow Room, Rockefeller Center in NYC. 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/aoh](http://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 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.

