



MercyFirst President & CEO, Renee Skolaski (center) and MercyFirst Vice President of Mission Integration, Madeline Martinez (right) with Mercy Volunteer Corps, Nykeisha Robinson, Betsy Stone Plummer, Moira Connolly, Lada Melius, Tawah Dennis, and Sydney Hertzog.

## Mercy Volunteer Corps Members Build Community Through Service

MercyFirst was delighted to host a group of students and staff from Gwynedd Mercy University who were looking to perform volunteer work with a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy. The group of women representing the Mercy Volunteer Corps volunteered their time helping out at MercyFirst's golf fundraiser and spent a day working on a records retention project with MercyFirst staff. Thank you to this awesome group of volunteers who truly demonstrate the mission of mercy!



## May is National Foster Care Month

Ms. J became a foster parent with MercyFirst in June 2022. She was motivated, excited and attentive throughout the certification process and has welcomed ten children in her home this past year! She has been accepting of all children and intentionally makes them feel like family. We appreciate foster parents like Ms. J who allow their hearts to lead them to do what our children and families deserve: love, compassion, care.



## Presentation at AFFCNY Conference

MercyFirst's Post Permanency Support Program (PPSP) Coordinator, Shantell Lewis, presented at the Adoptive and Foster Family Coalition of New York's (AFFCNY) 34th Annual NYS Foster Care and Adoption conference. Her presentation, "Navigating the System after Adoption Kinship Guardianship and Foster Care," highlighted the work she is currently doing with PPSP and addressed systemic issues that may impact an adoptive or kinship family and ways to navigate the system and provide families with concrete solutions. Job well done! Watch an excerpt [here](#).



### Meet MercyFirst's Medical Director, Dr. Gabrielle Phillip

Dr. Gabrielle Phillip, a board-certified pediatrician, oversees our medical department, providing medical care to the children at MercyFirst. Dr. Phillip received her medical degree from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and completed her pediatrics training at Yale- New Haven Hospital. Prior to joining MercyFirst, Dr. Phillip was the Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at New York Presbyterian-Columbia University Medical Center Hospital. Welcome Dr. Gabby!



### Interview with Eileen McGann, Director of the Arts and Creative Therapies

Eileen McGann, Director of the Arts and Creative Therapies at MercyFirst was recently interviewed by a student, Sophia Kalimian from The Arnod Art Club. We invite you to listen to the interview as Eileen talks about her experience as an art therapist and MercyFirst's Art and Creative Therapies program! Listen [here](#).



### 'Fore the Kids' Annual Golf Outing Raised Over \$100,000

Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors and guests we raised over \$100,000 at our annual golf outing at the Brookville Country Club! These funds help MercyFirst provide children and families with much needed programs and services for a brighter future!

Visit our Facebook page to view pictures from the event, click [here](#).

**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.



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