



Crowe Board Chair Dawnella Johnson (left) accepted the Angel of Hope Corporate Honoree Award from MercyFirst President & CEO, Renée Skolaski (right).



MercyFirst Youth Speaker, Shoshana shared her experiences of growing up in foster care and about the support and guidance she has received from MercyFirst.

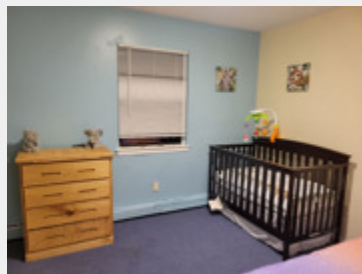
Angel of Hope Gala Raises Critical Funds for Children and Families

With the generous support of our Angel of Hope sponsors and guests at the iconic Rainbow Room in NYC, MercyFirst was able to raise critical funds to help us provide children and families in need with safe opportunities for hope, healing and a brighter future.

This year we were proud to honor **Crowe** as our Corporate Honoree. For almost 10 years Crowe has been a critical ally to MercyFirst, providing generous financial support combined with their Crowe Cares Day employee volunteer activities which have greatly impacted the lives of so many children and families.

Gala guests had the privilege of hearing from **Shoshana**, a young woman from our foster care program, about the support she received from MercyFirst and her foster parents after losing her grandfather who had raised her from a young age. She also shared how instrumental MercyFirst's youth development, employment training and scholarship programs were in helping her get to where she is now. Shoshana, a senior at St. Joseph's College, is studying to become a nurse.

Please visit our Facebook page to view more photos from the event:
www.facebook.com/MercyFirst



START with Hope Teen Parent and Child Group Home Opens in Suffolk County

We are excited to announce the opening of our new 8-bed Teen Parent and Child Group Home on Long Island as part of MercyFirst's **START with Hope** program. This program for unaccompanied refugee children provides young mothers and their babies with the care and support they need to navigate pregnancy and their new role in a new country.



The **START with Hope** program provides culturally competent, trauma-informed, strengths-based services to ensure the safety, support, and the physical, social and emotional well-being of minors who arrive in the US without a parent or guardian, and who are fleeing areas of extreme poverty, violence, sexual exploitation, drug-related gang activity, and human trafficking, until they are reunified with a sponsor family.



Meet Snowy!

Meet Snowy, the newest member of our Project C.A.R.E. Therapy Dog Team! Snowy immediately fit right in and has already won the hearts of our youth and the rest of the puppy pack. We are so happy to have sweet Snowy around to help our youth learn to better manage their emotions and cope with their trauma.

Follow the adventures of Snowy and our other pups on the [Project C.A.R.E.](#) Instagram page [here](#).



Make a Child Smile this Holiday Season

'Tis the season to make a child smile! We have made it easy for you to send our youth holiday cheer to the children and teens at MercyFirst. 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 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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