



[Click image to view a slideshow from the event.](#)

### "The Colors Reflect My Soul" Hispanic Heritage Month Art Show

To Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month our art therapy team organized an art show titled, "The Colors Reflect My Soul" for youth in our from START with Hope program to showcase and speak about their art.

The youth resoundingly chose to learn about and make artwork inspired by Guatemalan artist Margarita Azurdia. Drawn to the bright colors in her geometric Guatemalan-textile inspired work, and the seeming ease of her simple, modern paintings, youth used tape to create unique designs on canvas before filling them in with brightly colored paints. While many of the unaccompanied immigrant youth were inspired by their shared Guatemalan heritage, the range of home countries represented in the collection included: Afghanistan, Honduras, Ecuador, Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Colombia, and Mauritania.

We invite you to view some images from the show: [click here](#)



### A Comfortable Cup of Tea for Mercy Day

Thanks to the generous support of Mutual of America our staff enjoyed "a comfortable cup of tea" (in the form of a Dunkin' eGift Card) to celebrate Mercy Day!

"Have a comfortable cup of tea" was a message Catherine McAuley shared in her last moments with her fellow Sisters of Mercy, encouraging them to comfort one another and heal as a community. These words have come to symbolize the warmth, caring and compassion, which are at the heart of Catherine McAuley's vision of mercy and which MercyFirst staff embodies each and every day.



*Top L-R: Reps from Teachers Federal Credit Union and EAC Network.*

*Bottom L-R: MercyFirst Staff members, Ron Ancrum, Elaine Frazier, Alexa Hartgrove, and Anne Gildea*

## Youth Development Student Orientation Event

MercyFirst staff recently hosted an orientation event where our young men and women learned about our Youth Development program, which supports them with skills and training necessary to transition out of foster care into adulthood. The event introduced youth, ages 14-21 who reside in our group homes and on our residential campus, to the variety of programs and services offered to them at MercyFirst such as Banking, Recreation, Community Service, Self Care, Permanency, Higher Education, the LGBTQ+ Community, Leadership and Employment.

Thanks to representatives from Teachers Federal Credit Union and EAC Network for being part of the event!



## Tickets are still available for our Angel of Hope Gala!

Join us on October 26, 2023 for our Angel of Hope Gala, at the Rainbow Room, Rockefeller Center in NYC, as we honor **Crowe**, our Corporate Honoree. 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.



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