Many of them attribute their success in the community to the support and compassion they received from the Sisters. We are all full of love and admiration for the Sisters and what they have accomplished.”

Also recognized at the event were veteran volunteers Kay and Jerry Lafferty, whose 30 years of dedicated service and hard work have played a crucial role in Mercy and its ongoing success. When asked about being honored, Kay replied, “We are so happy to be a part of the good work going on at Mercy. Through the years, we have met so many wonderful people, from Sr. Mary Klock to the current staff. It has been a great experience.”

Members of the Immaculata University Nursing Society were also honored for their ongoing efforts in fundraising and service to Mercy and to all whom we serve.

The evening included an exclusive wine-tasting hosted by Greg Moore of Moore Brothers Wine Co., a longtime supporter of local community service organizations. Local restaurants were on hand to offer samplings from their menus. They included Ristorante Panorama, Cooperage Wine and Whiskey Bar, Tender Loving Care Caterers, Ristorante LaFourno, Paesano’s, Las Cazuelas, Tootsie’s Salad Express, Iovines Produce, Termini Brothers Bakery and Pennsylvania General Store. Our friendly vendors from Pine Street were also in the mix: Lion’s Mane, Soto and Vetri Family Restaurants all donated gift certificates for the raffle table. Entertainment was provided by talented local musicians Kristen Murray and Joey De Noble. In short, a great time was had by all.

Please mark your calendars and save the date for this year’s October 5th Mercy Hospice Fundraiser. Go to www.mercyhospice.org for more information about this event!

Mercy Hospice Celebrates 35 Years of Service!!

October 13th 2012 was indeed a memorable day for Mercy Hospice. Over 140 friends and supporters gathered at St. Luke and the Epiphany Church to celebrate 35 years of service to homeless women and children in Philadelphia. The purpose of the evening was to honor those Sisters of Mercy who founded Mercy Hospice and its mission to serve women and children in crisis.

Program Director Yvonne Branch praised the evening’s honorees: “It was a great night to recognize the Sisters of Mercy and the contribution they have made to end homelessness. They have made an impact on many women and children that have passed through Mercy Hospice’s doors. We continue to hear from the alumni that resided at Mercy when the Sisters were present [and] they have nothing but fond memories.

Mercy Hospice Mission Statement

Mercy Hospice is a community grounded in faith and service where women and children without permanent housing can find opportunities for new beginnings.

We strive to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and support in which individuals and families can heal and grow in their ability to lead fulfilling, self-sufficient lives.
“Attention in the house, attention in the house,” the PA system rings out as Mr. Clayton, our front desk receptionist, makes the afternoon announcements to Mercy’s women and children. His voice has been a warm and familiar one, greeting staff, residents and visitors alike to Mercy each and every day. Now, after three and a half years of faithful service, we bid farewell as Mr. Clayton moves on from his position. Looking back, Mr. Clayton speaks fondly of his time at Mercy and the impact it had on him: “Being at Mercy softened my attitude—it gave me insight to some of the challenges that homeless women in Philadelphia are going through. It has been an enlightening experience.” Thank you, Mr. Clayton, for your years of service and dedication to Mercy Hospice and its mission of providing help and creating hope for the homeless women and children of our city. You will be greatly missed!

It is said that “Love is the thread that binds us.” For the students of Moore College of Art, that thread is literally yarn. This past Christmas, students from MCA donated bags full of hand knitted hats and scarves to the women and children of Mercy Hospice. This service project, conceived by Stacey Angelillo, an Art Education major at Moore, was intended as an opportunity for students to spend time together, knitting and socializing, for a worthwhile cause. Assistant Dean of Students Emily Johnson, who helped organize the event, was excited by the response from the student community: “Over 20 students participated…we supplied hot chocolate, yarn, and supplies for all. The intent was always to donate these hats and scarves to a shelter or hospital.” When asked why the group chose Mercy as their recipient, Emily explained, “Since Moore is an all female school, I thought Mercy Hospice for women & children would be the perfect choice.” This generous donation was distributed to our residents and day guests, each of whom was genuinely touched to receive such a thoughtful gift. Our heartfelt thanks goes out to all MCA students and administrators who participated and made it possible.

Helping women and children is a common concern for all of our Mercy volunteers; this is especially so for Roxanna, Helen and Hannah. All three young women are students at the University of Pennsylvania, enrolled in the Pre-Med Post Baccalaureate program. As they prepare to pursue their medical degrees, they manage to find the time to stay connected to the community through their service at Mercy. When asked what motivates her to volunteer, Roxanna replied, “The mere realization of knowing my problems are so minute in comparison to the struggles of others, inspires me to focus my energy into helping others, and give back to the community to the best of my ability.” Helen adds, “Volunteering at Mercy has opened my eyes to the issues that homeless women face in Philadelphia. It is also a reminder of how each person has the ability to positively influence another person's life.” This compassion was also what inspired the three women to organize a clothing drive for Mercy at UPenn; bags upon bags full of donated clothing were delivered to Mercy for distribution. “We were surprised to collect as much as we did”, says Hannah, “hundreds of items. This confirmed that a few people really can make a huge difference.” Reflecting on how Mercy has impacted her life, Roxanna says “I feel like I have become more compassionate as a person. I am so happy to have found Mercy Hospice, and it will always have a place in my heart no matter where I end up in the future.”

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Learn more about our Adopt-a-Room Program. Contact Kris Jaeger at 215.790.7549 or kjaeger@chs-adphila.org.
Generosity is abundant around Mercy Hospice during the Holiday Season. This was especially true on December 22, when Steve Fred Sr., owner of V&S Elmwood Bowling Lanes (7235 Elmwood Ave.) hosted a holiday bowling party for Mercy Hospice women and their children. Mercy guests enjoyed a fun afternoon of bowling, eating, socializing and line dancing! When asked what inspired his generous gesture, Fred replied, “I have been very blessed in my life and want to give back. My father Allan Fred Jr., who passed away two years ago, instilled that in me.”

Mercy residents and their children received gifts from the Fred family and friends, including beautiful, new winter coats distributed to all the children in attendance. When asked why she regularly returns to Mercy, Mulan says simply, “I find peace here.” Thank you, Mulan. Your presence brings God’s peace to us as well.

Immaculata University Helps Mercy Dine in Style

Thanks to our good friends at the Nurses Society of Immaculata University, whose generosity resulted in Mercy residents and day guests now enjoying their meals in style in our newly renovated dining room. Fresh paint, new window treatments, and accessories transformed a dull and dark space into a bright, cheery and inviting place to share a meal and rest for awhile. Thank you Immaculata, for adopting our dining room, and all your hard work!

Please Support Our Annual Appeal

More than 150 donors have already contributed to our 2012-13 Annual Fund, with gifts totaling in excess of $45,000. We were pleasantly surprised and excited to hear from so many more of you who you were waiting until Spring to make your gift. THANK YOU!!!! Your contributions enable Mercy Hospice to continue to provide the quality services and goal-driven recovery for homeless women and their children that we are so well known for—it is what we have done for the past 35 years. For more information on our programs and how your donation can truly make a difference, contact Volunteer & Fundraising Coordinator Kris Jaeger at 215.790.7549 or kjaeger@chs-adphila.org. Join us as a partner in mission!
From our Program Director, Yvonne Branch

Answers to Prayer

I am so thankful to God for being able to see His wonderful provisions for the women of Mercy Hospice. Many prayers have gone out for the needs that exist for the program, and this past year we have watched God answer some of those prayers. Some prayers were answered even before praying.

Mercy Hospice relies heavily on the donations from parish and church casserole groups to provide a portion of the food for the day guests and the residential programs. There were several occasions when we did not have any casseroles in our freezer and no sooner than that was discovered, we received 70 casseroles from St. Catherine of Sienna and shortly after St. Denis made a delivery of approximately 30 casseroles. That day was really a wonderful day—to see God providing for us.

At Christmas time we also had an opportunity to witness God’s goodness through a donor, V & S Bowling. They provided a Christmas party for the women and their children. They received a wonderful meal, gifts, toys and coats. It was really nice to see all the ladies enjoy themselves as well as the children. What touch my heart was when I watched the grandson of one of the women say, “Look grandma, I got a coat”; he was so elated and overjoyed.

These are just a few examples of how God provides for the women and children of Mercy through the generosity of the donors and volunteers that interact with Mercy Hospice throughout the year. Thank you for being the “change that we want to see in the world.” You have made an investment into the lives of those we serve.

God’s blessings to all.

Yvonne