

SUMMER 2022



MERCY MATTERS

ANNUAL WALK FOR RECOVERY IS BACK!

We are excited to come together on **Saturday, September 17th** to celebrate recovery through the 2022 Annual PRO-ACT Recovery Walk! Current and former Mercy residents along with family and friends have participated in the PRO-ACT Recovery Walks for over a decade as part of our observance of National Recovery Month.

In 2021, we also hosted our own Recovery Walk through the city blocks around Mercy Hospice. It was a great turnout, and we are planning on hosting again! For more information, visit our website - www.mercyhospicephilly.org.

Let's show our neighbors and the world that we are working together and walking together to support those in recovery!





Note from our
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

When women come to Mercy Hospice, they often carry shame, self-doubt, and trauma with them. Recovery from a substance abuse disorder is a long and difficult journey. Our goal is to create a safe atmosphere of mutual respect and support in which the women can heal and grow.

Your generous and consistent support makes Mercy Hospice a home for our residents and brings so much encouragement to our staff. Serving the residents of Mercy Hospice has been incredibly rewarding for me over these past two years. Although I am soon stepping down as Program Director at Mercy Hospice, I will continue to oversee the program as an Assistant Director.

Please welcome Cecilia Chambers as the new Program Director at Mercy Hospice. Cecilia has spent many years working with those experiencing homelessness, substance abuse and mental health disorders. She will continue the tradition of compassion and encouragement to the ladies of Mercy Hospice.

Thank you for faithfully supporting us throughout the year. I am touched by your constant generosity, and I want you to know that we work tirelessly to support the ladies of Mercy Hospice. Together, we build up the women to believe in themselves and feel proud of themselves. It is because of you that we can continue to help them choose a better life. Thank you and God bless you!

Renee Hudson-Small, LSW

Assistant Director, Housing and Homeless Services Division

I KNEW I WAS GOING TO THRIVE AT MERCY

When Linda arrived at the doors of Mercy Hospice after a long struggle with addiction, she was surprised to be treated with so much care, kindness, and understanding. Within the first few hours of her residency, she knew she was going to thrive with the strong sense of positivity and encouragement throughout the building.

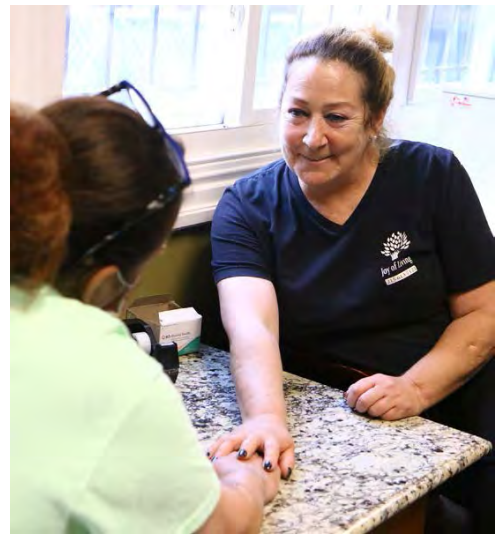
“The staff and residents always treat me with respect and dignity,” she explains. “They have been there for me anytime I needed a pep talk or to tell me I was being too hard on myself,” Linda said.

Linda makes strides in her journey to sobriety every day, and our staff notices. We make sure to point out the positive decisions and steps in the right direction that Linda makes toward building a new and healthier life. We encourage her and empower her, teaching her that she can keep up this new lifestyle when she leaves Mercy Hospice.

“They truly want residents to succeed. Because of my hard work and their guidance and support, I feel I am a success story today!”

“Mercy Hospice has been my sounding board, my anchor, and my stronghold because of their compassion and understanding. Thank you Mercy Hospice staff and residents for helping me save my life!”

– Linda, Resident



I CONSIDER THE STAFF AND RESIDENTS TO BE MY SECOND FAMILY

Christine is a current resident who faced many struggles with addiction and homelessness before coming to Mercy Hospice. Her journey to recovery has not been easy, though. Christine continued to face some tough trials, like losing her eyesight and the terrible loss of multiple family members. For anyone, these struggles can be huge setbacks that lead to hopelessness when trying to live a better life.

However, Christine explains that *“through my time at Mercy, I have overcome many challenging obstacles that I didn’t think I could overcome. Thankfully, I had the support of the staff at Mercy to help me along the way.”*

Christine has taken advantage of all of the programs and benefits that we offer at Mercy Hospice, including anger management classes, music therapy, and eating healthy food every day.

“Despite the trials and tribulations, the staff encourages the residents to work out our differences together and look past misunderstandings. Thank you to my Mercy family for helping me make better choices than I have in the past,” thanked Christine.

I WAS ABLE TO MAKE A FULL COMEBACK

Donnamarie

FORMER CLIENT

Donnamarie used drugs recreationally over many years when she was young and was pushed into addiction when her son passed away. Her son, Brandon, was born with a heart defect and doctors said he would only live for two weeks. He was able to receive a heart transplant and lived to be 11, but then sadly passed away. With the loss of her son, Donnamarie turned to drug use to cope with the sadness and depression. *"I found drugs when I was young as a way to cope with feelings I didn't know how to handle,"* she explained.

“ At Mercy, I learned how to be supported and how to support others. I made lasting friendships and I learned how to help other women who are just like me. ”

– Donnamarie, Former Resident

One day, she had enough of the addiction, and checked into a rehab facility to become sober. After rehab, she had no home to go back to and nowhere to turn. Luckily, she found Mercy Hospice. *"I was homeless, scared, and alone. At Mercy, I was able to make a full comeback. The staff at Mercy Hospice supported me in every situation. They helped me find a home, learn how to have healthy relationships, and get back to a steady lifestyle that was not dependent on drug use,"* Donnamarie recalls. *"The staff taught me how to lean on another person when you need it; it's okay to need help. I learned how to be supported and how to support others. I made lasting friendships and I learned how to help other women who are just like me."* Because of Mercy Hospice and our supporters like you, Donnamarie is now living a sober, healthy lifestyle and has many plans for the future. Even after leaving Mercy Hospice, Donnamarie still attends meetings and events at Mercy to show her support for the program and the women being served. We are still happy to help Donnamarie if she needs something. *"Mercy will always have a special place in my life and my heart,"* she expresses.



“ The staff offers me advice and a shoulder to cry on when I need it. I consider the staff and residents at Mercy to be my second family. ”

– Christine, Resident

MERCY MATTERS



NONPROFIT ORG
US Postage Paid
Philadelphia, PA
Permit No. 7535

Mercy Hospice

334 S. 13th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Phone: 215-545-5153

Fax: 215-545-1872

Email: Mercyhospice@Chs-Adphila.org

3 Ways to Support MERCY HOSPICE:

- 1 Make a one-time or recurring gift online at www.mercyhospicephilly.org
- 2 By mailing a check in the enclosed remit envelope
- 3 With United Way Designation: # 00083

MERCY HOSPICE MISSION STATEMENT

We are a **community** grounded in faith, mutual **respect** and support where women in **recovery** and their families can **heal**, grow and pursue **new beginnings** on their way to self-sufficient and **sober** living.