

# Mercy Center Ministries Summer 2024 Quarterly Newsletter

## Dear Friends.

I am THRILLED to report that a driven, hardworking young mom and her son are moving out of our Blue Point shelter as I write this. She was here for just over a year. She graduated with her GED, enrolled in, and completed a BOCES dog grooming certification, and is now employed as a

full-time teacher's aide. By taking advantage of our community and grant funded "driving fund", she also passed her permit and road tests, then



bought a car with her savings! Her son completed a year at Bayport-Blue Point Elementary school and will graduate kindergarten this month. It is

**extremely** difficult to find housing in this market.

For a young, single female with a child, it's even more challenging. "S" makes an impression that enables her to push through barriers. Director Janet Watson was there to advocate for her to the landlord. While it's due to her determination that she is soaring forward, it's also the support she received from the systems in place that serve people in need. When you write us a check, give us

supplies, bring us food, donate your services, send us a grant, or volunteer your time~ it translates into LOVE, which is the most transformational force in the universe. Last year in this very edition of the newsletter, I also reported a that mom and her son were moving out of the shelter into their own place! We help break bad cycles and create positive ones!

**These are the cycles we like to see repeat!**

## Healing Through Art

Over the *decades* of serving women and children in the County, we have learned that the best way to gather people around a table is to bring an activity.

This past year we have utilized art therapists to come in and do a workshop series with the residents at Mercy Center. This is a pilot program so far, but it's proving to be beneficial! Sasha Pincus is an Art Therapist at Suffolk Counseling Services and is featured below with our residents. These sessions are funded by a portion of the grant we received from the **Dreams R Us Foundation**.



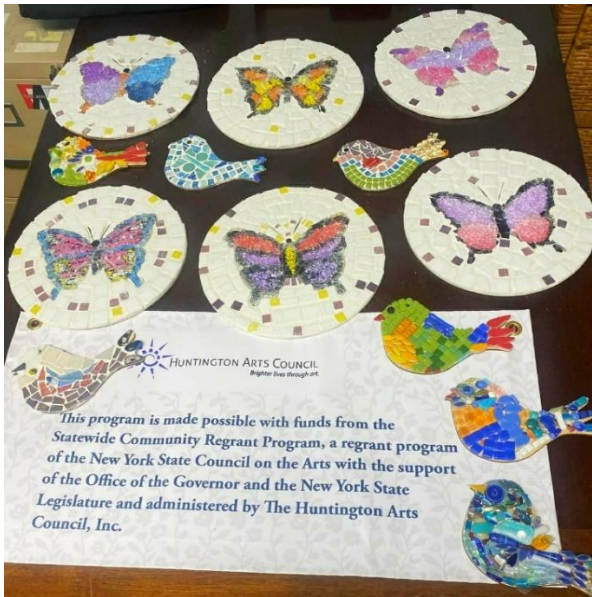
In addition, we applied for a grant through the **Huntington Arts Council** to enable **Gabriella Grama** from *Women Sharing Art* to facilitate two



amazing mosaic art workshops for staff members, community members, and residents! These gatherings broke down the walls which tend to separate people in crisis from

the larger community. We ate, talked, laughed, and **created**, together! Then we held a mini gallery on the porch of Mercy Center!





## Fighting Food Insecurity

I met Dan Jacoby at a Port Jefferson Lion's Club dinner when they presented Mercy with a generous donation. He serves on the Board of the **Jane Guido Foundation** and said they could help keep our in-house pantry's stocked. Dan delivered a \$1000 donation last month, and they will donate to us quarterly! I applaud Dan and all of the wonderful community members out there, working hard to keep vulnerable people cared for!



## Employees of the Month

Meanwhile, behind the scenes these folks worked hard in their respective roles to keep things in motion, and so they deserve the recognition for their extra efforts.

- Bravo!**
- ❖ February~Janet Watson
  - ❖ March~Jennifer Hill
  - ❖ April~Yolanda Johnson
  - ❖ May~Melissa Austin

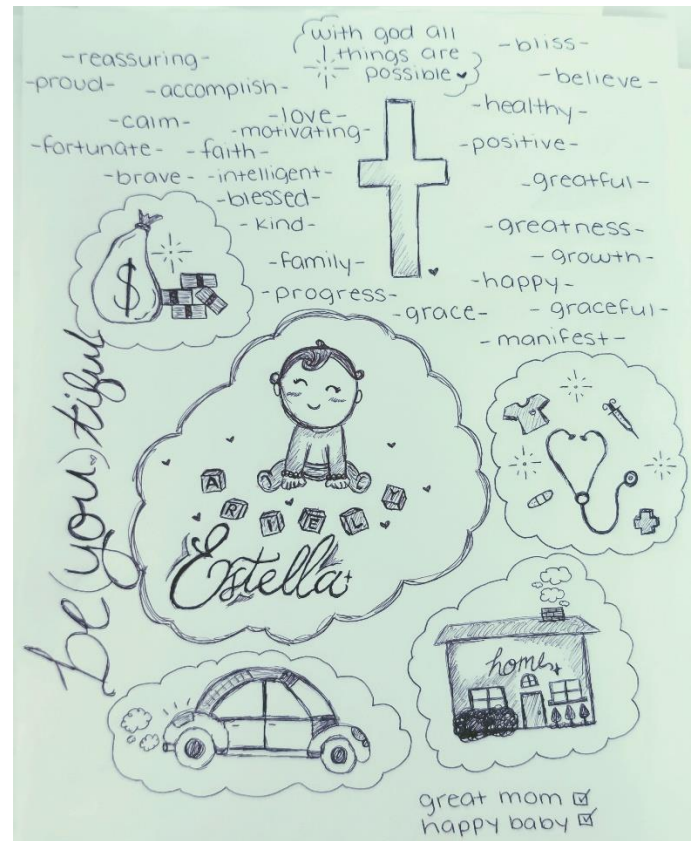
## Raffle Bonanza 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Winners!

**Quarterly \$100-**Christopher Veros  
**Monthly 100's-**Janet Maletton, Tim and Natalie Caputo, Patricia Brush  
**Weekly \$25's-** Christopher Albin, Sister of Mercy Queens, Joanna O'Reilly, The Merritts, Derek Spencer, Carmelo Fallace, Kathy Heinlein, Mike Heinlein, E. J. Wenk, Robert and Danielle Karl, Patricia Kiernan, Jim Morgo.

**We love to see you win! Congrats!**



A new resident and her newborn just moved in. I am sharing her manifestations with you. If she stays in our program, we can assist her with her dreams.



Whether you've "been through it" and are reaching back to help others, or you have been blessed with a good foundation and are reaching out to pay it forward, thank you. Your humanity is desperately needed, and so deeply appreciated!

Thoughtfully,

*Briana Taylor*

Briana Taylor, LMSW, Executive Director



**HAPPY SUMMER!**