

# Annual Report

## 2010



**MercyFirst** is a not-for-profit human service agency serving more than 4,000 children and their families at locations in Brooklyn, Queens and throughout Long Island. Founded as sister orphanages in 1894 by the Sisters of Mercy, Angel Guardian Home in Brooklyn and St. Mary's of the Angels Home in Syosset, MercyFirst today offers an integrated continuum of care for children in need, from birth through adolescence, including children who have been abused and neglected; youth with serious emotional problems; teenagers and young adults who are without family; and families coping with the stress and pressures of poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.



## Mission

Through the spirit of the Sisters of Mercy, our Founders and Sponsors, MercyFirst inspires hope and promotes healing for children and families by providing quality human services and educational opportunities while advocating for social change.

## MercyFirst is a Sanctuary® agency.

In 2006 MercyFirst received a grant from the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) to train its staff and implement the Sanctuary® Model into its programs. The Sanctuary® Model offers a trauma-informed method of creating supportive environments in which healing from psychological and social trauma can occur.



# bridging the gap between.....

MercyFirst sponsors family support and after-school programs, foster homes and adoption services, community group homes and campus-based residential treatment programs, medical and mental-health care, as well as the innovative Bridges to the Future, a range of specialized skills development and workforce preparation experiences designed to help our adolescents learn to be self-sufficient.

## Values

As a community of care, MercyFirst honors the spirit of our Founders and Sponsors, the Sisters of Mercy, by carrying out our Mission and being faithful to six Core Values in the work we do every day.

- **Hospitality:** We provide a welcoming, open, safe and sensitive environment for those we serve and with whom we work.
- **Compassion:** We empathize with the suffering of others and actively work to alleviate it as if it were our own.
- **Respect:** We value every individual's God given right to be treated with respect and dignity; and accept the responsibility to treat others in the same way.
- **Integrity:** We embody wholeness and unity through honesty in our words and actions.
- **Justice:** We act with fairness and mercy in our relationships; and advocate for positive change in our society.
- **Excellence:** We strive to use our knowledge, skills, and talents to carry out our responsibilities to the best of our ability.



**Katherine passed her** Spanish Regents with a score of 100, a class that she had been failing before she joined MercyFirst's Foster Care Diversion Program. "I didn't know I could do it!" she exclaims. The 17 year-old has had her share of adversity and admits that she has made a few bad decisions in the past, but the support she has found at MercyFirst has given her the strength to turn things around. She is determined to graduate on time and has set her sights on nursing school.



# surviving today...

MercyFirst reaches out to children and families who have been traumatized — children growing up without parents, families on the brink of disaster, teens who have lost hope for the future. Every year we provide hope and healing to thousands of children who are struggling today, giving them the foundation for a brighter tomorrow.

## Community and Campus-Based Residential Treatment Programs

MercyFirst, a Sanctuary® agency, provides a wide array of treatment and support services to the children and adolescents in our residential group home and campus-based programs. Education, pastoral care and recreation are provided on our campus or in the community.

### Community Group Homes

Each day our group homes provide youth with the guidance they need to become responsible and contributing members of the community, giving them the opportunity to develop important skills and learn the social behaviors necessary to succeed in independent living. Our specialized homes include Mother/Baby homes which assist teen mothers, as they learn to parent effectively.

### Campus Programs

Our campus provides a structured environment for teenage boys who need a higher level of care. They attend the on-campus school full-time and participate in regular recreational and social activities along with receiving the specialized treatment they need to help them become productive members of the community.



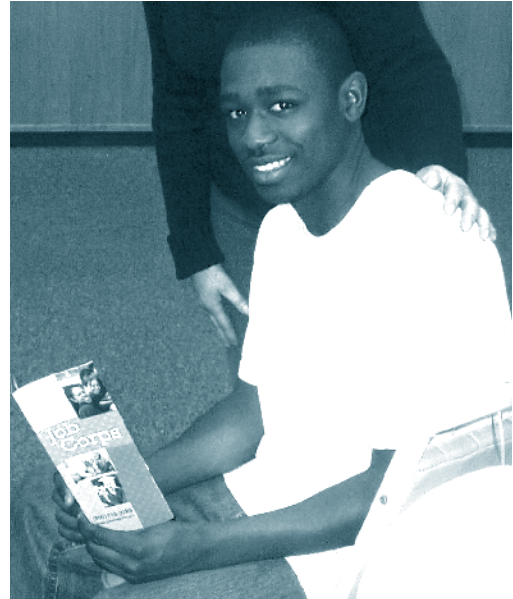
**When Vicky met Chris**, she knew he belonged with her family. Her son Evan, just a few years older than Chris, always wanted a brother and Chris always wanted a permanent family. “It’s wonderful to have a house full of busy boys,” explains Vicky. “My mother was a foster parent, and I was inspired by the way she gave so much of herself all the time. I’m really happy to have both Chris and Evan in my life. They laugh, they fight, they chase each other around – they love each other. They are brothers.”

## Foster Homes and Adoption Services

Foster families provide loving, nurturing, temporary homes for children unable to reside with their biological family because of serious allegations of abuse and neglect. MercyFirst works intensely to reunite children with their families. When this is not possible, we seek permanent homes for the children through adoption or discharge to a relative or family friend.

## Family Support & After-School Programs

Everyday we work with hundreds of families and their children to support and strengthen them through our Family Support & After-School Programs. Our after-school programs offer teens a safe, supportive environment during the after school hours when they are most likely to engage in risky behaviors.



## Medical and Mental Health Services

MercyFirst provides on-going medical and dental services to all youth involved in our residential programs and foster homes.

Medical services are provided by our own physicians and nursing staff as well as in coordination with North Shore University Hospital and physicians. The clinical staff provides diagnostic and treatment services, including individual, group and family therapy and medication as needed.

## Bridges to the Future

MercyFirst's innovative Bridges to the Future Program provides today's struggling youth with the support and skills they need for the bright future they are capable of achieving. The initiative supports our youth as they complete their education, develop workforce and daily living skills, and prepare for the future.



**...and succeeding tomorrow**

**Allison's home life** had never been stable. Her mother could not care for her and her father was not around. She came to MercyFirst's Foster Boarding Home Program as a teenager who, in spite of the adversity she had faced, was motivated and determined to take charge of her own future. She has big dreams and upon graduating from high school decided to enroll in a local college with the help of MercyFirst's Scholarship Fund Program.



**Stephanie will be the first** in her family to graduate from high school and go on to college. She has been in foster care since she was a teenager and is a hard-worker. She has stayed motivated in spite of the difficulties she has had, including a chronic medical condition that requires constant treatment and monitoring. She believes that a college education is key to her future and is willing to work hard as necessary to achieve her dreams.

**1831** Sisters of Mercy founded by Catherine McAuley.

**1862** Sisters of Mercy move into convent at 273 Willoughby Avenue in Brooklyn, NY where they continue their charitable works, including providing refuge for the city's increasing population of orphans.

**1894** St. Mary of the Angels Home founded in Syosset, NY by the Sisters of Mercy as a refuge for orphaned boys seeking shelter at the Convent of Mercy in Brooklyn.

**1899** Angel Guardian Home founded by the Sisters of Mercy in Brooklyn, NY. The first residents are young orphaned girls.

**1947** Angel Guardian inaugurates its Adoption Department.

**1967** St. Mary's becomes incorporated as a separate child care agency from the Convent of Mercy. Construction of two new cottages begins to accommodate the changing needs of the residents.

**1974** Angel Guardian initiates one of New York's first Preventive Services programs in Fort Greene, Brooklyn.

**1975** Angel Guardian opens its first Mother/Baby Residence.

**1986** St. Mary of the Angels Home re-named St. Mary's Children and Family Services to reflect the agency's commitment to keeping children and families together.

**1997** Angel Guardian Home renamed Angel Guardian Children and Family Services, Inc. to reflect expanded mission.

**2003** Angel Guardian Children and Family Services, Inc. merges with St. Mary's Children and Family Services uniting two of New York's leading child-welfare organizations.

**2004** Angel Guardian-St. Mary's Children and Family Services renamed MercyFirst.

**2006** MercyFirst opens three After-School programs and an Intensive Family Support program to assist families in remaining together.

## Our Mission

MercyFirst, a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, inspires hope and promotes healing for children and families by providing quality human services and educational opportunities while advocating for social change.

## Who we are

MercyFirst, a 501 (c) 3 organization, is a leading not-for-profit human service agency. The work of our almost 600 employees and 100 volunteers helps serve over 4,000 children and families each year, without regard to race, religion, sexual orientation or physical condition, at nearly 20 sites from New York City throughout Long Island. Specialized residential services are provided at our campus in Syosset and at group and foster homes throughout Long Island, Brooklyn, and Queens. Our family permanency programs are headquartered at the Angel Guardian Campus in Brooklyn.

## Who we help

MercyFirst helps abused and neglected children, children with serious emotional problems, from birth through adolescence; teenagers and young adults who are without family; and families coping with the stress and pressures of poverty, domestic violence, mental illness, and substance abuse.

## What we do

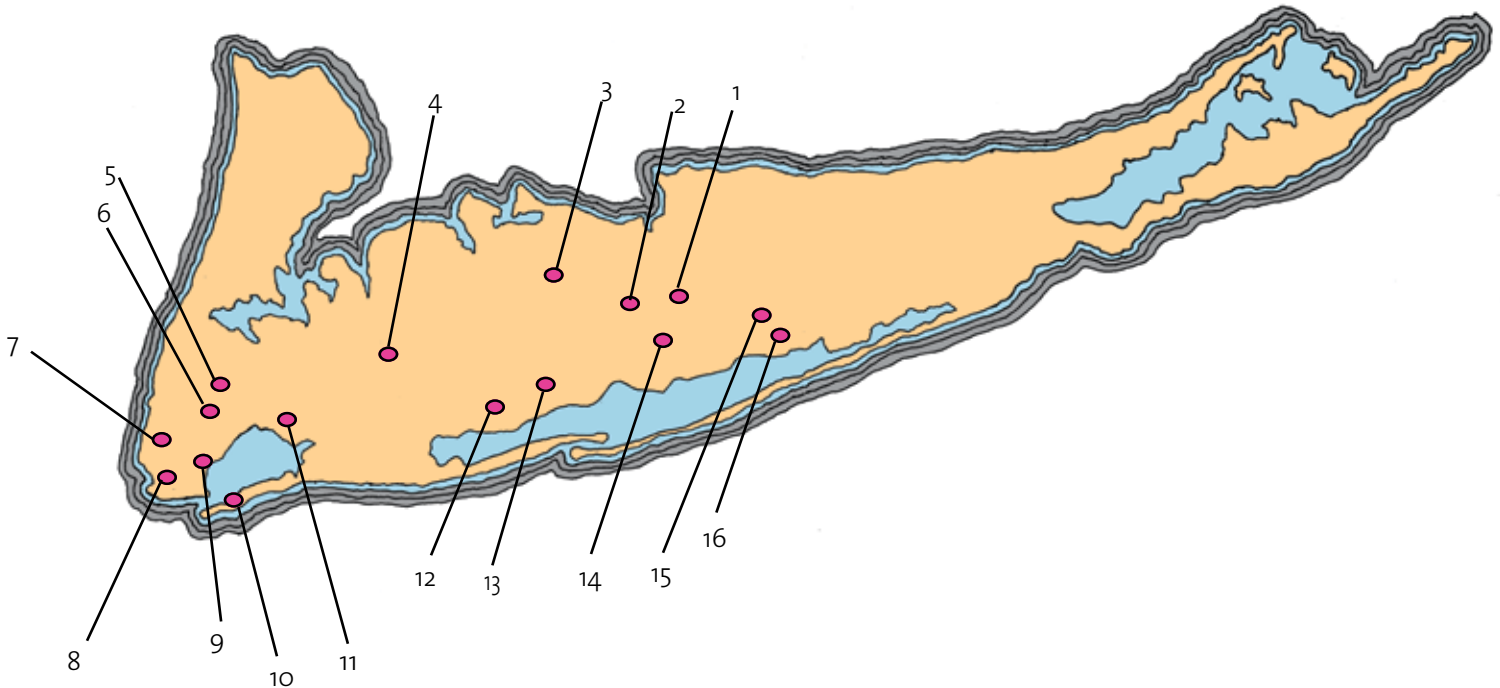
MercyFirst programs include family support and after-school programs; foster homes and adoption services; group homes and campus-based residential programs; medical and mental services; and Bridges to the Future — a range of support services that provide training and hands-on work opportunities to teens in our care to learn to become self sufficient.

## This year at MercyFirst:

- 2,290 children remained safely with their families because of the help they received from our Preventive Services Program.
- 807 foster children were cared for by safe and loving foster families because of our Foster Boarding Home Program.
- 212 foster children were reunited with their families.
- 57 foster children got a permanent family through our Adoption Program.
- 36 teen moms in our Mother-Baby program learned to take care of themselves and be better parents to their babies.
- 226 young men and young women registered for our After-School program.
- 19 young men and women attended college with help from the MercyFirst Scholarship Fund program.
- 474 youth received care in our Residential Programs.

For more information on the work we do and how you can help contact:

the Resource Development Office  
516.921.0808, ext. 114  
[ksneden@mercyfirst.org](mailto:ksneden@mercyfirst.org)



- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. <b>Brentwood Group Home</b><br>Brentwood, NY  | 7. <b>The Montague Center</b><br><b>Preventive Services and</b><br><b>Foster Boarding Home</b><br>186 Montague Street<br>Brooklyn, NY 11201 | 12. <b>Merrick House</b><br>Community Residence<br>Merrick, NY |
| 2. <b>Deer Park</b><br><b>Mother/Baby AOBH†</b><br>Deer Park, NY                                   | 8. <b>Angel Guardian Campus</b><br><b>Foster Boarding</b><br><b>Home Program</b><br>6301 12th Avenue<br>Brooklyn, NY 11219                  | 13. <b>East Massapequa Group Home</b><br>East Massapequa, NY   |
| 3. <b>St. Mary's Campus</b><br>525 Convent Road<br>Syosset, NY 11791                               | 9. <b>The Gerard C. Durr Center</b><br><b>Preventive Services</b><br>333 Avenue X<br>Brooklyn, NY 11223                                     | 14. <b>Baywood Group Home</b><br>Bay Shore, NY                 |
| 4. <b>Nassau Preventive Services</b><br>60 Hempstead Avenue<br>Suite 303<br>W. Hempstead, NY 11552 | 10. <b>Rockaway Park</b><br><b>Foster Boarding Home Program</b><br>230 Beach 102 Street<br>Rockaway Park, NY 11694                          | 15. <b>Bay Shore Group Home</b><br>Bay Shore, NY               |
| 5. <b>McAuley Residence</b><br><b>Mother/Baby AOBH†</b><br>Brooklyn, NY                            | 11. <b>Queens Preventive Services</b><br>115-01 Lefferts Boulevard<br>South Ozone Park, NY 11420  | 16. <b>Brightwaters Group Home</b><br>Brightwaters, NY         |
| 6. <b>Virginia Residence</b><br><b>Mother/Baby Residence</b><br>Brooklyn, NY                       |   |  |

## 2010 Financial Report

Program Government Support \$45,503,556

### Support and Non-Operating Revenues

Grants	\$208,861
Donations	\$487,839
Special Events	\$452,574
Other	\$189,804
<b>Total Support and Non-Operating Revenues</b>	<b>\$1,339,078</b>

**Total Support and Revenues \$46,842,634**

### Program Expenses

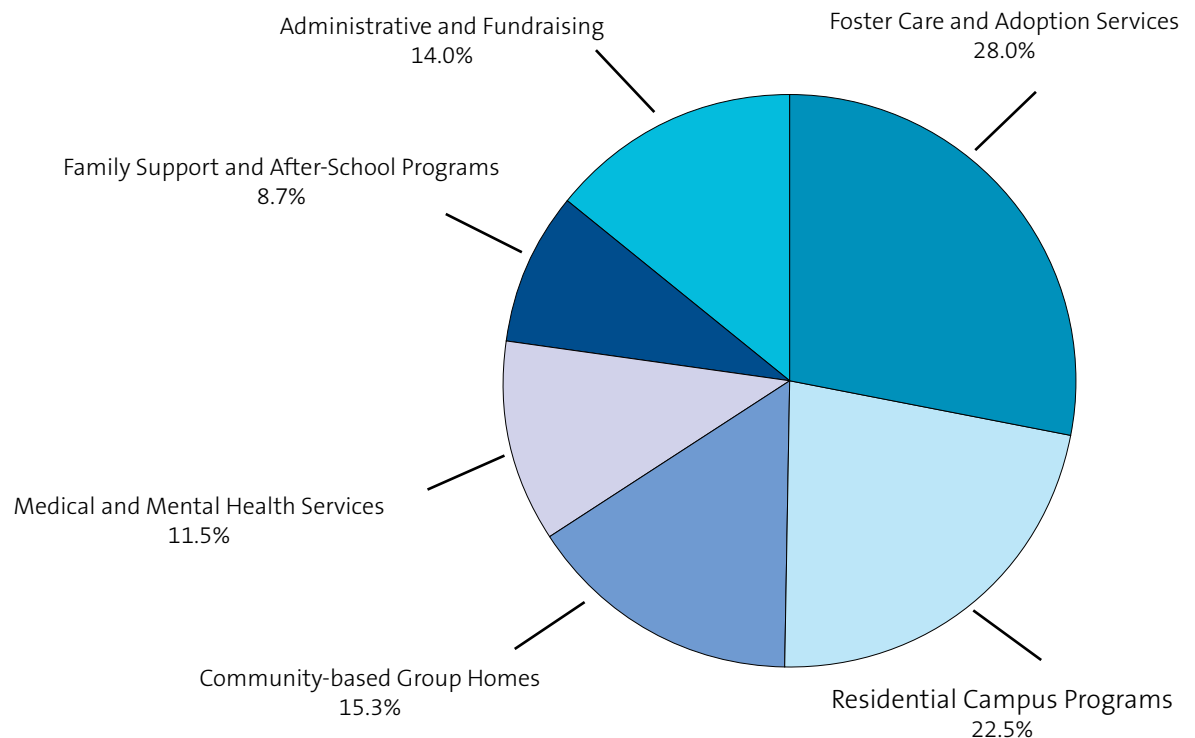
Foster Care and Adoption Services	\$13,158,395
Residential Campus Programs	\$10,520,266
Community-based Group Homes	\$7,157,360
Medical and Mental Health Services	\$5,364,318
Family Support and After-School Programs	\$4,057,740

**Total Program Services \$40,258,079**

Administrative and Fundraising Expenses \$6,578,362

Total Expenses \$46,836,441

## Agency Expenses



## Executive Staff

Gerard McCaffery, President and Chief Executive Officer

Jacqueline McKelvey, LMSW, Chief Program Officer

Carla DeFrancisco, CPA, Chief Financial Officer

Joanne Cordaro, Sr. VP of Human Resources

## Senior Staff

Sister M. Seton Agovino, RSM, LMSW, VP of Mission Integration

Sharon Dillon, M.S., Sr. VP of Preventive Services

Dr. James Horne, Medical Director

Achim Kretschmer, Sr. VP of Information Technology

Dawn Lewis, Chief Compliance Officer

Carolyn O'Brien, LMSW, Sr. VP of Residential Programs

Kerri Sneden, VP of Resource Development

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Sr. Patricia Wolf, RSM, *St. Catharine and Our Lady of Victory Academy*

President and Chief Executive Officer, Gerard McCaffery

*The **Leadership Council** is comprised of leaders from the business and public sectors, along with individuals from the community who are committed to aiding MercyFirst and supporting the agency's mission through fundraising, community support and public awareness activities. The Leadership Council also includes former members of the Board of Trustees who want to stay involved with MercyFirst and support its mission.*

## Leadership Council

John P. Bermingham, *Attorney, Former Board Member of MercyFirst*

Campbell Brown, *Journalist, Former CNN Anchor*

Craig Cordell, *Symantec Corporation - Verizon National Account Executive*

Dr. Richard Dina, *Long Island Center for Nonprofit Leadership, Adelphi University - Senior Adviser/Consultant*

Robert Flicker, *C & B Consulting - Managing Director, A division of Gallagher Benefit Services*

Sister Sean Foley, *RSM, Glencara, Inc. - Psychotherapy and Management Consultant,  
Former CEO and Board Member of MercyFirst*

Sister Lenore Guirrerri, *RSM, Sisters of Mercy Convent, Whitestone - Administrator,  
Former Board Member of MercyFirst*

William Hogan, *NetApp - Vice President and GM*

Lewis Johnson, *Siwel Consulting, Inc. - President*

Deborah Kendric, *State Bank of Long Island - Director of Corporate Communications*

Elizabeth McCarthy, *Episcopal Social Services - Executive Director*

James Sirignano, *EMC Corporation - Senior Account Executive*

## **\$50,000 +**

BNY Mellon  
Estate of Helen L. Perry  
The RTS Family Foundation

## **\$25,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous  
Brennan Family Foundation  
Estate of Bernardine Todisco  
Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic  
Community  
The Angel Guardian Guild

## **\$10,000 - \$24,999**

API Systems, Inc.  
Capital One  
Estate of Helen McCann  
Gladys Brooks Foundation  
JPMorgan Chase Foundation  
Newsday Charities, a fund of the  
McCormick Foundation  
Symantec Corporation  
The Dammann Fund, Inc.  
The George Link, Jr. Foundation, Inc.  
The Susan and Leonard Feinstein  
Foundation

## **\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Environmental Laboratories, Inc.  
ExcelaCom  
Flatlands Lions Club  
Gildea & Ivanis LLP  
Hewlett-Packard Company  
Hitachi Data Systems Corporation  
Infinite Computer Solutions  
Jamaica Ash & Rubbish Removal Co.  
Meadow Carting Corp.  
Meredith Corporation  
North Sea Advisors, LLC  
Volunteer Services for Children, Inc.

## **\$1,000 - \$4,999**

Accenture  
Aptra Corporation  
Aricent  
Boyle Family Charitable Foundation  
CA  
CA Technologies  
Christian Community Foundation  
Concrete Industry Promotional Fund  
Congdon, Flaherty, O'Callaghan  
Consolidated Edison Co. of  
New York, Inc.  
Dominion Construction Corporation  
EMC Corporation

Ferrari's Auto Repair  
Flushing Savings Bank, FSB  
Forsythe Technology, Inc.  
Forsythe Solutions Group  
Fujitsu America  
Futures & Options for Kids, Inc.  
GRIDIRON  
Hitachi Data Systems  
Insight Companies, Inc.  
ITDistributors  
JC & F Services  
Jet Sanitation Service Corp.  
Lewis Tree Service, Inc.  
Maspeth Federal Savings &  
Loan Association  
Milliman  
Mineola-Pacific Lodge, No. 125  
Moretrench  
Pine Hollow Charity Fund, Inc.  
Ridgewood Savings Bank  
Ron Realty Co.  
Schroder & Storm LLP  
Schroder Investment Management NA  
St. Paul The Apostle Church  
TD Charitable Foundation  
The Bank of New York Mellon  
The Bridgespan Group, Inc.  
The Farbman Family Foundation  
The Glickenhau Foundation  
TW Cable, LLC  
Underpinning & Foundation  
Constructors, Inc.  
Vanguard Charitable Endowment  
Program

## **\$500 - \$999**

C & B Consulting  
Central Business Systems  
Common Cents New York, Inc.  
Community Church of Syosset  
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.  
Designs for Vision, Inc.  
Doka USA, Ltd.  
Ferrara Brothers Building Materials  
Gateway Industries, LLC  
General Contractors Association  
of New York, Inc.  
Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club  
IBM Employee Services Center  
Island Risk Management  
L & J Metal Corp.  
LaMonica Herbst & Maniscalco, LLP  
Northern Trust  
Notaro Grupp Architects  
Rocco's Pizzeria & Restaurant, Inc.  
Steven E. Losquadro  
STV Incorporated  
United HealthCare Services, Inc.

Women's Association

## **Up to \$499**

20th River Catering Lenz, Inc.  
American Innotek  
Apostles of the Sacred Heart  
Astoria Federal Savings  
Barrasso & Sons, Inc.  
Brocade  
Brosnan & Hegler  
Casella Construction Corporation  
Catholic Teachers Association of  
The Diocese of Brooklyn, Inc.  
Competition BMW of Smithtown  
Dahill Landscape Design &  
Maintenance, Inc.  
Davis Vision  
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation  
E.S. Digital Scale Co., Inc.  
ESQ Business Services, Inc.  
Estate of Evelyn Coskie  
F.I.D.A.  
Father Joseph O'Connell Council  
K of C No. 3481  
First Reliance Standard  
Gift of Life International  
ING  
J & M Auto Repair  
Jagermiester Deli, Inc.  
Mac's Men's Shop  
McDaniel Real Estate Enterprises, Inc.  
Misa Plumbing LLC  
Moo Geuk Taekwondo, Inc.  
Mulcahy's Pub  
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Long Island  
Notre Dame Club of Long Island, Inc.  
Owl Plumbing & Heating, Inc.  
Paradise Landscaping  
Precision Pipeline Solutions, LLC  
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Rogers & Taylor Appraisers, Inc.  
Sampath R. Kumar Physician PC  
Say No More Pest Control  
Schwab Charitable Fund  
SIR Corp/PK Metals  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of Mercy - Mercy Convent  
South Woods Middle School  
Sparky's Deli, Inc.  
Spectrum Catalysts, Inc.  
St. Athanasius Church  
St. Edward The Confessor  
St. James Dental Care, PLLC  
St. Joseph School  
St. Therese of Lisieux School  
Syosset Central School District  
Syosset Glass & Mirror Company

The Agoglia Family Charitable  
Foundation  
The Alfonso L. DeMatteis Family  
Foundation  
The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian  
Church  
The Hallen Construction Co., Inc.  
The T. Rowe Price Program for  
Charitable Giving  
Triumph Construction Corp.  
True Sport Care  
ULC Robotics  
US Business Technology  
Vallo Transportation, Ltd.  
Vietnam War Veterans  
Association, Inc.  
Warren & Warren, P.C.  
Westfourth Architecture, P.C.

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Mrs. Virginia M. McCarthy

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Mr. Dan Senor  
Mr. Stephen A. Carlino  
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin J. Shine  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Sweeney  
Mr. Scott Treiber

## **\$5,000 + \$9,999**

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Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Core  
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rizzi  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Gildea  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Grammatico  
Mr. and Mrs. John Pelan

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Mr. and Mrs. Pasquale Cestaro, III  
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Ms. Evelyn Core  
Mr. Mark Davis  
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Ms. Elizabeth McCarthy

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Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Stewart  
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Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Wallner  
Mr. David B. Wright  
Mr. and Mrs. John B. Zurell

## **Up to \$499**

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Mr. Gray Adams  
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Mrs. Anna Anselmo  
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Mr. Richard Cogan  
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Concannon  
Ms. Barbara A. Conley  
Mr. John R. Connors  
Ms. Shana Conron  
Rosalie H. Contino, Ph.D.  
Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Corva  
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Cosulich  
Mr. Michael G. Cotter  
Mr. Eugene J. Cozzolino  
Sister Catherine Crumlish, RSM  
Mr. Keith A. Cunningham  
Mr. and Mrs. Scott L. Dabreu  
Sister M. Rosina Dalton, RSM  
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Danielson  
Mr. Robert D'Auria  
Mr. and Mrs. David Davidowitz  
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Degnan  
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Dr. and Mrs. Richard H. Fairbanks  
Mrs. Rosaria R. Fairbanks  
Mr. and Mrs. David S. Finkel  
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