

## An Altruistic Woodside Resident

Stephanie Gullotti, a resident of Woodside, NY, learned about service during her four years at Fordham University, but this year she lives a life of service as a Mercy volunteer for MercyFirst in Brooklyn, NY. She serves as a youth development assistant in MercyFirst's administrative office in Brooklyn Heights, MercyFirst, a sponsored ministry of the Mid-Atlantic Community, serves more than 4,000 children, teenagers and families each year through a network of more than 20 service locations in New York City and throughout Long Island.

Although Stephanie is only 23-years-old, she helps 14-to-21-year-olds navigate the foster care system by helping to supervise the mentoring program, developing workshops, helping foster care children and young adults obtain referrals and needed services, explore possible careers, write resumes, and find jobs if needed.

"My focus at MercyFirst is to understand the lives and realities of children and young adults in foster care," says Stephanie. "I now know that to succeed in any job, it is most important to be present and caring to those whom you are serving. You need to take the time to have conversations and develop genuine relationships."

During my Mercy Volunteer orientation, I was inspired by the words of Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy. "There are things that the poor prize more highly than gold, among these are the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look,

