



Pictured (from left to right) Fred Groser, publisher, *Newsday*; Dale Cole, community affairs project manager, *Newsday*; Severio Ford, advantage program coordinator, MercyFirst; Kerri Sneden, vice president of development, MercyFirst and Paul Fleishman, vice president of public affairs, *Newsday*.

MercyFirst's Advantage After-School Program Receives \$10,000 Grant

MercyFirst has announced that it received a grant for \$10,000 from Newsday Charities, a fund of the McCormick Foundation. The grant supports MercyFirst's Advantage After-School Program, which provides high-school youth with a safe and supportive environment that encourages both academic achievement and self-development during hours when youth are most likely to engage in at-risk behaviors.

Gerard McCaffery, MercyFirst President/CEO, noted that "Having the financial

support of *Newsday* has allowed us to maintain this important after school program while also providing peace of mind for working parents. We are most grateful."

Headquartered in Syosset, MercyFirst is a not-for-profit human service agency founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1894. MercyFirst provides an integrated continuum of care for over 4,000 traumatized and neglected children, teenagers and their families at 15 sites throughout Brooklyn, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk counties.

