

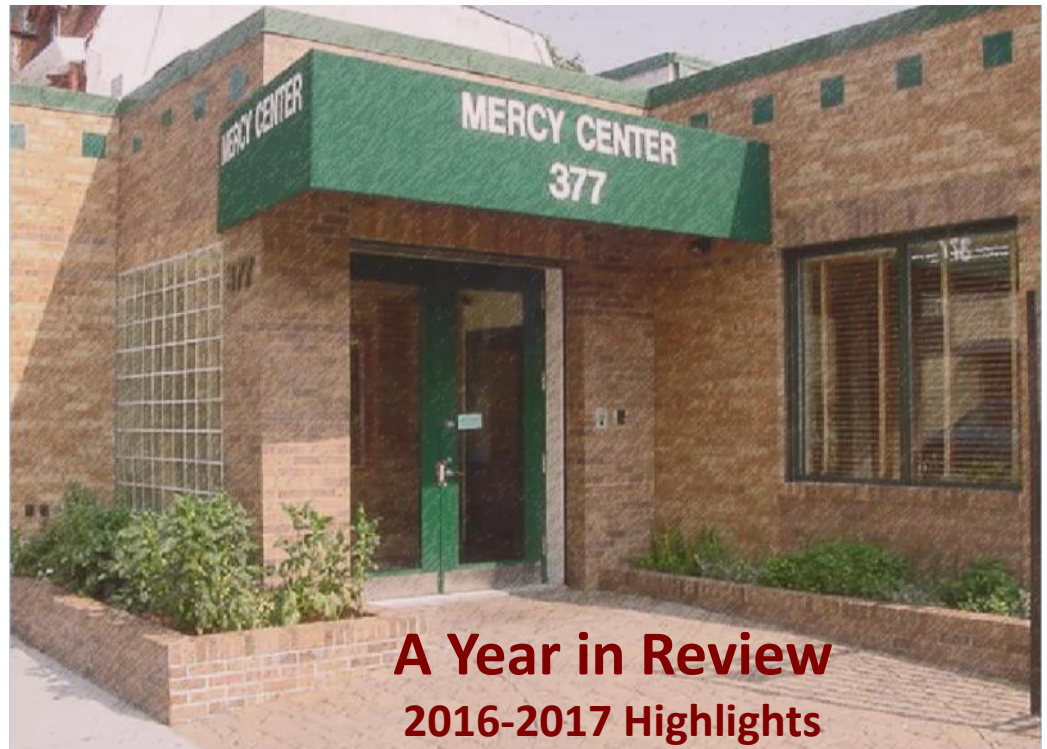
July 2017

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From the Executive Director's Desk

Each year as our fiscal year closes, we reflect on and evaluate what we have done with the funds we have received. Since we do not charge for any of our classes, programs, or services, we rely on the generosity of donors, the kindness of volunteers, the support of foundations and corporations, the government contracts we fulfill, and the success of events that bring in revenue.

As we look back on the past year, we are pleased to present some highlights. While we couldn't share all the wonderful happenings for the over 2200 participants that we serve, we feel these examples show that our monies are well spent.

If you have supported us in any way that has made our work possible, I thank you. I also invite you visit either or both of our sites to see firsthand how Mercy Center is responding to the needs of our community.

Steve Stritch

Executive Director

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Adult Education and Workforce Development



Volunteer instructor John Lundy stands proudly with his students on the last day of ESOL classes for the semester. Of the 1,133 students who enrolled this year overall, 792 made literacy gains and 535 made level gains, a phenomenal achievement!



Mercy Center participated in several rallies in support of adult literacy when the Mayor's Office announced it would not include \$12 million for adult education in the city's new budget. The rallies paid off; funding was restored, and Mercy

Center participants gained a valuable experience about effecting change in the community.



Immigrant Services



Mercy Center's Director of Immigrant Services, Bridget Meehan, provides assistance with naturalization applications, DACA application renewals, and Green Card renewals. When participants achieve their goals, they often return to celebrate. The program has exceeded its goals every year since its inception.

Family Skills



Volunteer Rocío Day, LCSW, CSW and staff member Mayra Sánchez-Estupiñán have worked together for over ten years facilitating Anger Management courses for the underserved Spanish speaking community. Family Skills participants prove every day that change can happen within a supportive, instructional environment, and that “Community and Transformation” is much more than just a tag line.

Family Development

Now in its twelfth year, the Family Development program continues to strengthen families through information and skills building workshops and programs, children's programs and activities, family days and weekends, and one-on-one meetings with family workers. Here Family Worker Magalys Collado poses with a graduating family after they completed their two-year commitment.



Personal Development



Capacitar is a wellness program utilizing movement, breath work, and meditation techniques to relieve pain and stress. Here a new group participates in the initial four-session course. This is followed by periodic refresher, or “drop-in” sessions.

Lead facilitators María Mercado and Mayra Sánchez-Estupiñán also visit ESOL classes to practice some of the techniques with students, which allows them to center themselves and focus better. This is in keeping with Mercy

Center’s philosophy that we do not only offer quality services; we also work with the person as a whole.

Youth Programs



The children in our Youth Programs spend time learning and improving skills, and they also learn about positive interaction and affirming values. All of this combined helps them to build self-esteem and to dream big. This year we celebrated with David in his first year of college. His more than ten years as a Mercy Center youth participant was instrumental in inspiring him to reach for his goals. The “first generation” of Mercy Center children, many of them now in college, return regularly to give back to the community.

Social Services

Blanca Ramirez, Director of Social Services and Community Education, provides one-on-one case management for Mercy Center participants while also organizing informational and community building workshops and leading trips throughout New York City. She led many workshops this winter/spring helping participants deal with the uncertainty of their lives as immigrants.



Workshops and Activities

Workshops and Activities are a hallmark of Mercy Center. They provide opportunities for participants to come together beyond their individual classes and programs. They help to cultivate one, larger community.

This year's workshops and activities included:

- Art Workshops
- Mercy Day Celebration
- Brides March Against Domestic Violence
- What is Domestic Violence?
- Workers' Rights Workshop
- Day of the Dead Art Workshop
- Open a Bank Account! Workshop
- Thanksgiving Celebration
- SNAP (Food Stamps) Workshop
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Cultural Celebration
- Community Holiday Party
- Know Your Rights Workshops
- Tenants' Rights Workshop
- International Women's Day Celebration
- Special Education - What is an IEP?
- Women's Health Fair



Events



340 guests attended this year's **March 16th Gala held at 583 Park Avenue** honoring George E. Grace, Shari Fallek Coats, and Stephen S. Coats. The evening began with a cocktail hour and silent auction, continued with dinner and a program emceed by Nathalia Ortiz that included the honorees, videos, a participant speaker, and an exciting live auction. Our Fund-a-Need culminated the event, whereby dozens of guests donated funds in support of immigrants and new Americans served at Mercy Center. We thank everyone who supported the event in any and every way. This year's event generated more revenue than any other Mercy Center event; it netted over \$280,000, almost \$100,000 over budget!



This was the inaugural year of our **Yankees Event and our Golf Outing**. Guests viewed the NY Yankees game while enjoying food and beverages in a Party City Party Suite at Yankee Stadium on 7/19/2016, and the event's top two supporters were recognized on field at home plate in a pre-game ceremony. Golfers gathered at Leewood Golf Club on 9/16/2016 and teed off after a hearty breakfast. Both events exceeded expectations!

Mercy Center
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On Thursday, July 27, 2017, we held our 2nd Annual Yankee Event, and it was a great evening! Mercy Center supporters watched the Yankees triumph over Tampa Bay in 11 nail biting innings while enjoying food, drinks, and the amazing views of the ball field from a Party City Party suite in the stadium.

Mercy Center was honored before the game with an on-field ceremony at home plate and our logo flashed on the stadium screen! All our guests had a wonderful time. Proceeds will benefit Mercy Center programs and services. We thank all of our supporters for being part of this successful event.

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