

**Sisters of Mercy, New York,
Pennsylvania, Pacific West
Community Leadership Team**

Sr. M Jeanne Thomas Danahy,
RSM

Ministry Director

Sr. Lisa Mary McCartney, RSM
Sponsorship Council Liaison

Advisory Board 2014-2015

Sr. Michele Schroeck, RSM
Director of House of Mercy

Julia Bandecca

Sr. Rita Brocke, RSM

Sheila Coon

Barbara Edwards

Carla Ihli

Chabi Subedi

Mary Zenner

Eileen Zinchiak

The House of Mercy welcomes:

Elisha Helgen

AmeriCorpsVISTA

*Provides full-time capacity
support for the House of Mercy
in its mission to reduce poverty*

Michelle Ahrens

Sarah Anderson

House of Mercy Ambassadors

*Meryhurst University students
who live and serve at the House
of Mercy*

The House of Mercy operates

100% on volunteer staff. The

Sisters of Mercy provide for

the salary of the Director.

**Therefore, 100% of your gift
goes directly towards providing
activities and advocacy for an
economically an ethnically
diverse community.**

Volunteer Opportunities:

Contact Sr. Michele at 898-0167

- Adult mentors
- Youth programming
- Event/fundraiser
committee members
- Environmental initiatives
- Fieldtrips
- Christmas Play/Store
- Thanksgiving distribution

Christmas Wish List:

- \$1-\$5 value new items for
Christmas store
- \$20 gift cards for teens/
parents
- New coats, gloves/mittens,
boots
- Food gift certificates

**To further encourage success
in school, the House of Mercy
started a homework help hour
from 4-5pm Mon-Thurs.**



HOUSE of MERCY

A SPONSORED MINISTRY OF THE SISTERS OF
MERCY OF THE AMERICAS, NEW YORK,
PENNSYLVANIA, PACIFIC WEST COMMUNITY

2005 WOODLAWN AVE. ERIE, PA 16510
(814)-898-0167
WWW.HOUSEOFMERCYERIE.ORG

FALL/CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER
2014-2015

Summer Fun to Learn As One

Thanks to **Betty and Bill
Filipkowski, Mercy Terrace
Apt residents, Mercy
Associates and other friends
of the House of Mercy**, we
were able to distribute over
40 backpacks filled with
supplies for House of Mercy
participants.



Thanks to **Mary May and the
Catholic Daughters of
America**, we have over 40
birthday bags to make a
child's day special. Did you
know that some former
refugees who fled without
documentation have a
recorded birth date of January
1st?

Thanks to **\$2771.26** raised by
30 donors who gave to the
House of Mercy through **Erie
Gives**, 25 elementary and
middle school youth with
excellent attendance during
the Summer 2014 enjoyed a
beautiful day at Niagara
Falls.



Reading is fundamental to success in school! Many of our youth indicated that they had books to read for fun at home thanks to donations of beautiful, high quality, new books from **Hooked on Books for Kids** but few had a safe place to keep their books. Very few participants have a desk in their home and 23 out of 27 youth surveyed said that they did not have a bookcase in their room. **With \$616.45 in VTDC TANF funding, construction from Santa's Helpers and assistance from Sr. Michele's family**, 30 elementary, middle and high school youth, sanded and painted their very own bookcase/nightstand. Youth learned professional painting skills. Most youth said they were going to put books on their self. A few said they would put a lamp on top so they could read in bed!





2005 Woodlawn Ave Erie, PA

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
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Erie, PA
Permit No. 22



A place of welcome hospitality for an east side Erie neighborhood, the House of Mercy, established and sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, promotes a healthy neighborhood by providing activities and advocacy that engage children in positive experiences for the and their neighborhood.

Holiday Opportunities

Thanksgiving

The need is greater than ever this year. We have **40 families** registered for a **Thanksgiving Basket** provided by **Second Harvest Food Bank** on **November 24, 2014**. Additionally, in honor of parent conferences and to encourage good behavior, **Santa's Helpers** will provide 71 children ages 1-10 with a **handcrafted wooden toy**.

We would like to provide a \$5 gift certificate to the 56 youth ages 11-17, most of whom are the ones who assist their parents with completing the forms, especially in New American families. Won't you help? They could enjoy a meal at their favorite restaurant during a holiday when they are home.



Thanksgiving Distribution 2013



Christmas Store 2013

Christmas

While most of the families we serve are **Hindu or Muslim**, they are surrounded by images of **consumerism at Christmas!** I wonder if they think that all "Americans" do is shop! The House of Mercy strives to empower youth **to give** and not just receive.

We will have our annual **Christmas Store** at the **JFK Center** on **Thursday, December 18, 2014** from **3-6pm**. Every child is able to select a new gift for each family member. At this time we have fewer gifts than other years. We are especially in need of \$1.00 new items for moms, dads, brothers and sisters.

We are also in need of **volunteers:** wrappers, shopping assistants and cashiers for that day. **Can you HELP children understand the true meaning of Christmas?**

We also have our annual **Christmas Play** on **Tuesday, December 16** at **5:00pm** at the **JFK Center**. House of Mercy youth get to learn the real meaning of Christmas and be the "star" of the show! **Please join us!**



Christmas Play 2013

During the cold, winter weather, many children come to the House of Mercy without **socks, boots, mittens, hats, or warm coats**. We would like to provide every participant with a \$20 gift card to purchase winter boots or a coat. **We need your help!**

Donations may be sent to:
House of Mercy
2005 Woodlawn Ave.
Erie, PA 16510

Or call us with any questions:
(814) 898-0167