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11 Washington Street | Rensselaer, NY 12144-2821 | t 518-462-0899 | f 518-462-2892  
EMAIL: circlesofmercy@nycap.rr.com | www.circlesofmercy.org

November 14, 2017

Dear Friend of Circles,

Thank you for all the ways that you have supported our continuing efforts here at Circles of Mercy, as we celebrate 20 years of providing hope, hospitality and empowerment to the needy who come through our doors. Through the generous support of our donors, we have had a strong year. A total of 87 cents of every dollar went directly towards our programs.

Here are a few examples of how your contributions have helped us serve hundreds of people the past year:

- During 2016 Circles of Mercy served over 1,600 clients who required 6,362 service transactions. Catherine's Closet (our thrift clothing store) provided 375 adult and children clothing grants, 76 diaper / wipe grants and 61 baby clothing, newborn layettes and baby supply grants.
- Over 150 children from needy families received backpacks and school supplies at the beginning of the school year.
- Forty-one low income families totaling 123 people (81 of them children) were adopted at Christmas time last year and received holiday gifts that they may not have been able to afford otherwise.
- We are proud of our continuing partnership with the IRS and CA\$H Coalition to provide free income tax prep service through our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) and AARP Taxaide programs. During the recent tax season, 490 returns were filed resulting in total tax refunds (including credits) of over \$698,000 for low-income families/seniors.

These accomplishments are especially impressive in light of the country's fiscal situation. Everyone is suffering in some way due to the state of the economy, but our clients are suffering the worst of all. Think about how tough it must be to face high energy prices, runaway food bills, and an increasingly tight job market with little or no resources to fall back on. Think about how difficult it is to have to decide between food for your children or warm clothes for them during our harsh winter. Consider the struggle between paying the utility bill or getting needed medications. These are the kind of decisions many of our clients face every day.

Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, clearly understood the impact of financial difficulties for the poor. Her values of respect for the dignity of each person, compassion and a special concern for the poor and disadvantaged, without regard to a person's religious affiliation, ethnicity or gender preference continue to guide our Mercy mission today.

**Recognizing the reality of the financial conditions our clients face each day, we need your help more than ever. We are sending you this note as part of our Annual Fund drive. Consider sending a personally significant gift today that will help us in fulfilling this Mercy mission.** Please fill out the enclosed donor reply form and use the return envelope for your gift. Circles of Mercy is a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. Your gift will be deductible under the IRS tax code. You can also make a secure donation with a credit card via the PayPal link on our website at: [www.circlesofmercy.org](http://www.circlesofmercy.org)

We thank you for your continuous and generous support, and we look forward to your participation in our programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard S. Zazycki".

Richard S. Zazycki, Executive  
Director and Mercy Associate

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara L. Dudley R.S.M.". The initials "R.S.M." are written in a larger, more prominent font.

Sister Barbara L. Dudley, RSM, Chair -  
Circles' Annual Fund Committee

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A TWENTY-YEAR TRADITION OF PROVIDING HOPE, HOSPITALITY AND EMPOWERMENT TO INDIVIDUALS IN  
THE RENSSELAER COMMUNITY, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND WOMEN WITH CHILDREN.

*Circles of Mercy - Board of Trustees:*

*Janice A. Labas-Lucht, Acting Chair, Judith L. Dougherty, Sister Barbara L. Dudley, RSM, Sister Nadine Farnum, RSM, Sister Eleanor C. Guerin, RSM, Sister Patricia A. Houlihan, RSM, Dr. Stephanie M. Hutchins, Dr. Danica Nowosielski, and Sister Peg Sullivan, RSM, Ministry Liaison.*



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***Yes, I want to support the Circles of Mercy Annual Fund!***

Enclosed is my gift of: \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$80 \_\_\_\_\_ \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ Other Amount (Please specify): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to *Circles of Mercy***

State and Federal Employees via this year's SEFA and CFC Federated Campaign Appeals, can designate Circles of Mercy as one of your choices for making a charitable donation.

You can select Circles of Mercy by writing Code Numbers:  
#50-00419 (for SEFA); or #56846 (for CFC), on your Campaign Pledge Form.

*You can also make a secure donation with a credit or debit card,  
Via the PayPal link on our website at: [www.circlesofmercy.org](http://www.circlesofmercy.org)*

**Thank you for your gift and for continuing to support the mission of Circles...**

*Circles of Mercy is a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization;  
Your gift will be deductible under the IRS tax code.  
Please note that no goods or services were provided in exchange for this contribution.*

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