

• • • Circles of Mercy has more than an eighteen-year tradition of providing hope, hospitality and empowerment to individuals in the Rensselaer Community, especially women and women with children. • • •



SPONSORED BY
THE SISTERS OF MERCY
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY

Mission Statement

Circles of Mercy honors the dignity of each person, offers hospitality, and provides services to instill hope and empower individuals to reach their full potential.

FALL 2015/
SUMMER 2016

VOLUME 15

NUMBER 1

Director:

Richard Zazycki

Hours:

M-F, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Tues. only, until 5 pm
or by appointment

Programs:

- Holiday Programs
- Baby Supplies
- Mentoring
- Financial Tutoring
- Computer Training
- Support Group
- Free Tax Return Prep
- Professional Clothing
- Advocacy
- Social Service Referrals
- Catherine's Closet

Connections

A Taste of Mercy Gala

The friends and supporters of Circles of Mercy have done it again! The gala and signature fundraising event held at Shaker Ridge County Club on June 8 was an overwhelming success, raising \$31,000!

This year Circles of Mercy honored local business professional Beth Coco with the annual *Hope and Hospitality Award*. Beth is SEFCU's Chief Financial Well-Being Officer and a founding member and initial board chair of Circles and also a Mercy Associate.



Honoree Beth Coco (right) SEFCU's Chief Financial Well-Being Officer and a founding member and initial board chair of Circles of Mercy, receives the 2016 Hope and Hospitality Award from Richard S. Zazycki, Executive Director at Circles of Mercy (left). Beth is also a Mercy Associate.

Beth received the recognition for her involvement in assisting the agency over the past 18 years. She has served as a founding trustee and its initial chairperson. Beth has dedicated a great deal of her time serving and supporting people who suffer from poverty, sickness and a lack of education, with a special concern for women and children. There isn't any doubt that Beth "...loves mercy, has been living justly and walks humbly with God".

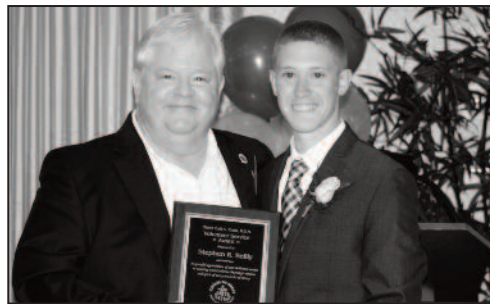
Circles of Mercy Trustees and the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community also presented their annual *Sister Gail Rieth*



Circles of Mercy recently presented posthumously its 2016 Sister Gail A. Reith, RSM Volunteer Service Award to Thomas J. Horan, for his volunteer service to the organization. Accepting the award is Mrs. Rosemary Horan (right, Tom's spouse) from Richard Zazycki.

Volunteer Service Award posthumously to Thomas J. Horan, for his volunteer service to the organization, and to local youth Stephen Reilly, a recent graduate from Columbia High School, for his volunteer work assisting at Circles.

We gratefully acknowledge all of our honorees for their contributions to the community and offer sincere thanks to the gala's corporate sponsors, honorary donors, those who attended the event, those who donated goods and services, and all who provided support for this important fundraising function. •



Accepting the 2016 Sister Gail Rieth Volunteer Service Award from Richard Zazycki (left), is Columbia High School Student Stephen Reilly (right), for his recent volunteer community service.

"Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts..."

Catherine McAuley

Connections

A newsletter to promote the mission and values of Circles of Mercy, a program sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy.

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Circles of Mercy Board of Trustees

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Director's Remarks by Richard Zazycki

In Memoriam...Frank 'The Songman' Jaklitsch

On Thursday, August 11 we lost a very dear friend and benefactor, Frank Jaklitsch. For more than ten years, Frank saw to the coordination of the musicians and musical selections for our annual Irish Night benefit. During that period Frank's generous sharing of his time and talent helped raise substantial funds in support of our programs here at Circles.



Frank Jaklitsch

There were many things we learned about Frank during these collaborations – his family and friends came first, he was an ardent fan of the New Orleans Saints football team, was forever touched by a visit to Hawaii (he always wore a Saint's Hat and a Hawaiian

shirt), and he particularly loved helping others. Frank devoted his life to service, including a 31-year career with the NYS Office of Mental Health. Though Frank's passing came as a shock to us, he will always be remembered as a loving husband and father, a faithful friend, a font of compassion to those in need, and especially for his music.

On behalf of the Sisters of Mercy NE Community, the Circles of Mercy Board of Trustees, the staff and all who volunteer here at Circles, we extend our heartfelt sympathies to Frank's wife Eileen Finnen-Jaklitsch, his son Tommy and all his family and friends. Please know you are close in our thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.

May the peace that comes from God through the memories of love and times shared with Frank comfort us as we continue our life journey, and may Frank's soul rest in everlasting peace. •

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD – Sister Nadine Farnum, RSM

Sister Nadine Farnum recently joined the board of Circles of Mercy as a Trustee. She earned her BS in Human Development from State University College at Buffalo and received her MSW from State University of New York at Albany. Sister currently works for Family Promise of the Capital Region in Albany, where she provides case management, counseling and advocacy services to homeless guest families participating in the program.

Sister Nadine has a strong commitment to the mission of mercy in her personal relationship as a member of the Sister of Mercy for the past 34 years. As a current practicing social worker, she also has a particular interest in assisting those who are most vulnerable, disenfranchised and lack resources.

As a Sister of Mercy, she is immersed in the works and charism of Mercy, and as an active social worker, she possesses case management background and skills that will assist our ministry.



Nadine Farnum, RSM

Because of the similar missions of the agencies and needs of the clients, it also affords both Circles of Mercy and Family Promise an opportunity to partner and collaborate in providing the works of mercy to those in need. We are very pleased and happy Sister Nadine is a part of our community of Mercy here at Circles. •

Maria College – A MERCY PARTNERSHIP

For several years we have had an ongoing partnership with Maria College, where students volunteer in Catherine's Closet during the spring break. This program provides an opportunity where the students can help others by performing ten hours of community service. This internship allows the students to perform the 'works of mercy' which is significant since the internships take place during the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

This past semester we were very fortunate to have four students – Naomi Mukasa, Elena Horbata, Madeline McNeil and Taylor Vigay, participate in the program. Naomi continues to volunteer weekly. We are grateful to the college's leadership, Tom Gamble, John Kowal, Beth Wales and Sister Victoria Battel, RSM, for promoting and nurturing this ongoing collaboration, as well as the chance to develop a larger association with the Maria College faculty and staff. Our "Circles" of Mercy continues to grow, ever widens, is never ending and is always in need of friends... •



Maria College nursing student Naomi Mukasa (left) works with Catherine Closet volunteer Rosemary Horan (right), during this year's community intern service program.

CATHERINE'S CLOSET THRIFT SHOP

11 Washington Street, Rensselaer
Open Monday – Friday, 10 am to 2 pm
Tuesdays – open until 5 pm
Clothes and household goods

Honorary Gifts and Memorial Donations

Circles of Mercy gratefully acknowledges the following donations.

In Memory of:

- Theodore Joseph Matthews – by Constance Caldwell, Mary Femia, Elizabeth Gaynor, Emily Jordan, Michael Lofrumento, Pamela and Daniel O'Rourke, Ralph Serino, and Friends at Lake Village Sunshine
- Richard A. Dacey – by Shirley and James Hicks
- Vittorio (Victor) Cipollari – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Robert J. Geraghty – by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki, and the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Elizabeth M. (Bette) Donnelly – by Richard Zazycki
- Sister Patricia (Mary Agnita) Casla, RSM – by Mary Femia and the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Catherine Frances Dovidio Lake – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Vita Molinari – by Chris M. Molinari
- Hilda Talentino – by Elsin T. Collins and Jennifer Wood
- Marlyn Riccio Andryszczyk – by Edmund A. Andryszczyk
- Anthony (Tony) Paradise – by Christine M. Paradise
- Reverend Cabell B. Marbury – by Karl F. Kligenberger
- Mary A. Kligenberger – by Karl F. Kligenberger
- Sister M. Elizabeth (Mary Richard) McDaniel, RSM – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Helen S. Osgood-Barnhart Colvin – by Richard Zazycki, and the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Rev. James E. Clark – by Richard Zazycki
- Edward "Eddie" O'Brien – by Richard Zazycki
- Maureen A. "Reen" Straney – by William J. "Bill" Straney and Richard Zazycki
- Charles E. Hartnett – by Joanne & Art Picard, Susan & Jack Sweeney, Stephen Zazycki, Penny Hill & Richard Zazycki
- Joan A. Blaauboer – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Sister Marilyn A. Hickey, RSM – by Sister Sheila Christensen, RSM and Richard Zazycki
- Thomas J. Horan – by Rosemary Horan and Family, the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy, Betty Bellino, Paula & David Boughtwood, Regina M. Boyce, Joneta & Alexander Chupa, Anne & Michael Cronin;

- Deborah M. Divorl; Joyce & Kevin Haggerty, John & KC Harrison, Marilyn T. Hart, Edward Hester, Mary Ann & David Hilker, Shirley Anne Hirt, Robyn A. Hurley, Martin P. Kelly, Lise and Robert LaLonde, Mary Lu & Albert Lubbe, Rosie & Don Lyman, M. Christine Maddalena, Mary and Ted Minissale, Patricia & Wesley Petrone, Anna & Joseph Riley, Nelson A. Ringwood, Kathleen & Stephen Wiech, Mary & Dan Yurista, Penny Hill & Richard Zazycki
- Marcia Anne Buell – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Sister Marie Matthews, RSM – by Joan and Chad Finck
- Sister Mathilda Druke, RSM – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Maryann Kelly – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Sister Marie Matthews, RSM – by Joan and Chad Finck
- Carroll L. Lucht – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Antoinette Jones – by Kathy Beers & the Staff & Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Fire Chief Philip B. Smith – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Edward E. "Eddie" Hirt – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- James Edward "Jimmy" Jordan – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Rita P. May – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Joseph Patrick "Chip" Houlihan – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Gregg Baldwin Millett, PhD – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Dina A. Roman – by Vince W. Colonno, Employees of SEFCU, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Frank "The Songman" Jaklitsch – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Deborah Dickson – by the Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy

In Honor of:

- Marie E. Hogan – by James E. Hogan, Jr.
- Kathleen G. Pingelski – by Ellyn E. Ford
- Albany Region's New Mercy Associates: Jean Francois, Janice O'Rourke, Kristen George, Cindy Tracey, Jack Sweeney and Chris Steppich – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy •

Our programs for 2017 are listed on page 4. For more information about any of these programs, please visit our website www.circlesofmercy.org or call us at 518-462-0899. These are wonderful community builders and can be great service opportunities to introduce more people to the works of Circles of Mercy and the Sisters of Mercy. Invite your family and friends so that our "Circle" of Mercy continues to grow!

Make a Gift to Circles of Mercy

Is there a loved one whom you would like to remember in a special way for a birthday, anniversary, or even at the time of death? Why not honor him or her with a donation to Circles of Mercy? If you choose, donations will be recognized in future newsletters. We will also send a personal acknowledgement of your gift. Contributions to Circles of Mercy are tax deductible. Please call us at (518) 462-0899 for further information.

I am enclosing my gift of \$ _____

In honor of: (living) _____

In memory of: (deceased) _____

PLEASE SEND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please mention my loved one (name only) in your newsletter:

Yes No

Mark Your Calendar!

Upcoming Activities and Programs at Circles

- **Irish Night Celebration** is October 22, 2016 at Blessed Sacrament School, 605 Central Ave., Albany, from 6 to 10 pm. Reserve a table for an evening of great food, raffles and entertainment featuring "A Musical Tribute to Frank Jaklitsch by his Friends".
- It is never too early to consider **Cate's Adopt-a-Family Christmas Program**. Begins October 24, finishing December 19.
- Circles of Mercy 2016 **Annual Appeal** begins November 21. Think about Circles as one of your "end of year" beneficiaries.
- **"MyFreeTaxes.com"** is a free, safe, secure online income tax filing program. Circles will offer access to this service after January 30, 2017. The web link is available on our home page at www.circlesofmercy.org.
- **VITA Free Tax Prep Program** begins the 2016 tax filing season the week of January 23, 2017. It is a free program that goes until March 30th, with IRS-certified volunteers preparing your federal and state tax return. If you want to help volunteer, please call or visit our website for additional information.
- **Cate's Kids 2017 Easter Basket Program** runs from March 1st – April 11th. See the Circles' website link for further details.
- **Annual Gala "A Taste of Mercy"** will be held June 14, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Shaker Ridge Country Club, hosted by 2Shea's Catering. Details will be mailed and posted on our website.
- **Cate's Kids 2017 Back to School Supplies** drive begins July 1st – August 25th. The collection supports our area high school and pre-k students in need of school supplies.