



SPONSORED BY
THE SISTERS OF MERCY
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY

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

Connections

A Taste of Mercy Gala

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 2018/
SUMMER 2019

VOLUME 17

NUMBER 1

Director:
Richard Zazycki

Hours:
M-F, 10 a.m.– 2 p.m.
Tues. only, until 3 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

Wednesday evening June 12, the friends and supporters of Circles of Mercy did it once again! The gala and signature fundraising event held at Shaker Ridge County Club in Loudonville, was an overwhelming success raising over \$38,000 - most ever raised! This year Circles of Mercy honored Virginia L. Golden, the former President of St. Peter's and Albany Memorial Hospitals, with the annual Hope and Hospitality Award.

Mrs. Golden received the recognition to honor her for completing an exemplary 48-year career at St. Peter's Hospital. During that period she has shared her time, talent and treasure, serving people who are socially disenfranchised, suffering from poverty and especially those who are sick and in need of medical care. Virginia recently served in the role of president for both hospitals from April 2016 to July 2018. She has dedicated her life to the continuation of and building upon a "Mission of Mercy". There isn't any doubt that Virginia "...loves mercy, has been living justly and walks humbly with God". We are very



Honoree Virginia L. Golden (left), former President of both St. Peter's and Albany Memorial Hospitals, poses with the 2019 Hope and Hospitality Award, after receiving it from Richard S. Zazycki, Executive Director of Circles of Mercy (right).
Photo by Sister Barbara Roman, RSM

happy to recognize Mrs. Golden's work with our annual award and offer our sincere congratulations and best wishes.

Circles of Mercy Trustees and the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community also presented their annual Sister Gail Rieth, RSM Volunteer Service Award honoring the "Friends of Frank Jaklitsch" band members and singers for their volunteer work assisting Circles of Mercy.



Richard S. Zazycki (left), Executive Director of Circles of Mercy, presents the Gail A. Rieth, RSM 2019 Volunteer Award to the "Friends of Frank Jaklitsch" band members (left to right) Michael Roche, Michael Donegan, Frank Jaklitsch (Posthumously) accepted by Eileen Jaklitsch, Robert Long, Kathy Quinlan and Chris Gill (missing Michael Eck), for their outstanding volunteer service.

Photo by Sister Barbara Roman, RSM

For the past 13 years, the "Friends of Frank Jaklitsch" have raised nearly \$90,000 by doing a terrific job in continuing Frank Jaklitsch's tradition of playing and singing the music for our annual Irish Night event. On behalf of the Sisters of Mercy and the Circles of Mercy Board of Trustees, we are grateful to the "Friends of Frank Jaklitsch" for their kindness and support in promoting and nurturing this ongoing collaboration. •

Connections

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

Eleanor Guerin, RSM, Editor
Joanne Scheibly, Editor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS:
Judith Dougherty
Kathleen Pingelski
Richard Zazycki

LAYOUT
Barbara A. Roman, RSM

Circles of Mercy
11 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144
ph (518) 462-0899
fx: (518) 462-2892
www.circlesofmercy.org

Circles of Mercy Board of Trustees

Judith L. Dougherty, Chair
Janice A. Labas-Lucht, Vice Chair
Reverend John J. Bradley
Sister Nadine Farnum, RSM
Sister Eleanor C. Guerin, RSM
Dr. Stephanie M. Hutchins, PhD
Sister Patricia A. Lynch, RSM
Sister Judith Kapp, RSM, Ministry Liaison

Corporate Sponsors

“HOPE” LEVEL

Albany Medical Center
Alexander W. Cruden & Co., CPA
Maria College
Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany
SEFCU
Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community
St. Mary at Clinton Heights
St. Peter’s Health Partners
Store Away Self-Storage, East Greenbush
The Closet Shop – Delmar
W.J. Lyons, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc.

HOSPITALITY” LEVEL

Amtrak Rail Service
Catholic Charities of the Albany Diocese
Church of the Holy Spirit
Franciscan Center for Service and Advocacy at Siena College
MicroKnowledge, Inc.
Modern Press
Nigro Companies
OrthoNY
Pierro, Conner & Strauss, LLC
Polsinello Fuels, Inc.
St. Michael the Archangel Parish
Parish of St. John/St. Joseph
Women’s Cancer Care Associates
2Shea (Catering)

Director’s Remarks by Richard Zazycki

“Mercy Association – 50th Anniversary...

Thirteen years ago when I became the Executive Director of Circles, my feeling at that time was as its leader, if I was going to be one of the public faces locally for the Sisters of Mercy, I should know all that was possible to know about Mercy, its founder, her charism, the history and traditions. I made a promise to the Sisters then and became a Mercy Associate. Recently I was given the honor and privilege to offer the reflection at a liturgy where new candidates made their formal promise to the Mercy Community.

The promises made by an Associate is an important witness to the history and tradition of Mercy. As Associates we join a mercy family and tradition rooted in the core elements of *Community, Service and Prayer*. Our covenants reflect our own personal commitment to this way of life (or to borrow a phrase – “Mercy, A Legacy, A Promise”).

The “legacy” of Mercy began in our area over 155 years ago in “New Greenbush” (now known as Rensselaer). Since then the Sisters of Mercy and their Associates have taken care of the poor, the sick and uneducated, by living their vocation with the promise of

performing the corporal and spiritual works of Mercy. Our solemn promise, builds upon the shoulders of the Sisters and Associates living now and upon the “legacy” of all those who have gone before us.

As Associates we “promise” to support and participate along with the Sisters through our working commitment. There remains tremendous suffering and injustices needing to be rectified. We must strive to be like our founder Catherine, who devoted her life to the care of the poor, trying to meet the needs of the times with the thought that; “Our charity must be in our hearts and from our hearts...”

The corporal and spiritual works of mercy lead us from contemplation to action. To live “a legacy” of mercy means “a promise” to live a life fully in, and of, the Spirit. On this observance of the 50th anniversary of Mercy Association, we extend grateful thanks to all my colleagues for your promise to Mercy. To all my friends and family, would you please think about answering the call of the Spirit, and look at exploring and sharing along with our Mercy family?

“Mercy, A Legacy, A Promise”... •

Partnership with Living Resources

We have had an ongoing partnership with the Living Resources operations for nearly two years here in Rensselaer County. This agency’s mission is to provide growth opportunities in a safe and nurturing environment for people with disabilities, helping these individuals meet and exceed their personal goals. Weekly, the “work team” of client volunteers helps in Circles’ office area and in Catherine’s Closet, performing various types of tasks. All of these individuals are very professional, courteous, friendly, and do a fantastic job with work activities assigned. We are grateful to the client volunteers from Living Resources for their kindness and support in promoting and nurturing this ongoing collaboration. Thanks to everyone on the Living Resources “Work Team” who participated by helping us to help others. Our “Circles” of Mercy continues to grow, ever widens, is never ending and is always in need of friends. •



Members of the Living Resources Work Team (L to R): Jay, Jadine, John, Josh and Steve, who volunteer weekly in Catherine’s Closet (photo courtesy of Circles of Mercy)..

Honorary Gifts and Memorial Donations

Fall 2018 – Summer 2019 Memorial Contributions and Honorary Gifts...

Circles of Mercy gratefully acknowledges the following donations and gifts made:

In Memory of:

- John Robert "Bob" Carpenter – by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki
- Paul J. Eriole, Jr. – by Circles of Mercy
- Karen Stiffen Pologa – by Richard Zazycki and Stephen Zazycki
- Dolores Purcell – Mary and Gena Purcell
- Josephine DiDomenicantonio – by Mario E. DiDomenicantonio
- Beverly A. Nead – by Richard F. Nead
- Sister Mary Coons, RSM – by Nicolena P. Barone
- Margaret and Andrew Hammerl – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Mary and Willis Cox – by Phyllis M. Raymond
- Agnes Mary "Merry" Donlon – by Nancy L. Flaherty and Roseann C. Quinn
- Scott T. Owens – by Circles of Mercy
- Sister Mary Agatha Smith, RSM – by Paula M. McNulty
- Kathleen Legnard-Purcell – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Ola F. Wiencke Flournoy – by Sara Lownsbury
- Sister Mary Thomasine, RSM – by Circles of Mercy
- Marie Rose Lefebvre Cebula – by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki
- Mimi Sommers – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- John W. "Jack" Hickey – by Janet M. Hickey
- Vera Carman – by John K. Carman, Todd Daukas and Angela Markessinis
- Marie Gutta Franke – by the Mercy Choir and Circles of Mercy
- Robert DeSignore – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Dorothea "Dottie" Keleher – by Circles of Mercy
- Joyce A. Sousa – by Circles of Mercy
- Charles H. "Chuck" Jordan – by Cheryl & William Richardson and Circles of Mercy
- Thomas R. Hirt – by the staff of Catherine's Closet
- Debra A. Zazycki – by Circles of Mercy Board, Staff and Volunteers, CapCom Employees, Sister Barbara Dudley, RSM, Sister Jane Somerville, RSM, Dr. Janet Gargiulo, MD, Dr. Marie Hilliard, Rosemary Horan, Lise & Robert LaLonde, Joseph Cardinal McInerney, Cindy & Robert McLean, Gloria & Andrew Perreault, Kathryn Quick, Diana Ruzicka, Jo Anne Saulsbery, Martine & Butch Stapleton, Carolyn & Brian Trombe-Hains, Kathy Zazycki & Family, Stephen R. Zazycki, Penny Hill and Richard S. Zazycki
- Sherwood A. Taylor – by Circles of Mercy
- Robert "Pick" Pickett – by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki
- Jean Mahan DeNyse – by Circles of Mercy
- Dr. John H.F. Coughlin, Jr. – by Circles of Mercy
- Magdalena Guarnieri Salamack – by William Bowen and Richard Zazycki
- Helen M. Gregory – by Kathy Beers, Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki
- James George – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Nancy LaRow – by Rosemary Doyle
- Michele A. Wink – by Circles of Mercy
- Mary Beth Jordan – by Circles of Mercy
- Joanna Prunty – by the National Catholic Nurses Association
- Agnes Mary "Merry" Donlon – by Nancy L. Flaherty
- Sister Rosemarie Murray ("Sister Tim"), RSM
- Woodrow J. "Woody" Maxwell – by Circles of Mercy
- Eugene A. Tranelli – by Circles of Mercy
- David L. Schrimsher, Sr. – by Candice Brady, Shirley Hirt, Doris Beardsley, Rita Dykstra, Victoria Cangemi, Christina Bender, Richard Zazycki, and the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Joseph G. Shea – by The Zazycki Families
- Stella Theresa Pike – by Circles of Mercy
- Mary A. Femia – by Richard S. Zazycki, Circles of Mercy Staff and Volunteers
- Kevin W. Stackman, Sr. – by The Zazycki Families
- Mary O. Beals – by Circles of Mercy
- Sister Jane McCullough, RSM – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Darlene B. Hughes – by Circles of Mercy
- Janet M. Golden – by Virginia and Kenneth Golden
- Patricia A. Varno (spouse of Fire Chief Thomas Varno) – by Richard S. Zazycki
- Bernadette "Bernie" Ryan – by Circles of Mercy
- Mary E. McGreen – By Circles of Mercy
- Doris Tamburello – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Loretta "Sally" Conklin – by Circles of Mercy
- Marguerite A. Hampton – by Gerald Smith and Circles of Mercy
- Virginia Dubuque – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Fiore Femia – by Circles of Mercy
- Arthur J. Picard – by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki
- Theresa M. Grimm – by Maureen and Shane Somerville
- Dorothy M. Czyzewski – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Sister Florence Joy, RSM – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Constance M. Hayek – by Joanne Passineau and Richard Zazycki
- Paul Makowski – by Cindi Gorzynski and Rob Norsek
- Margaret A. "Peggy" Puls – by Alice & Nicholas Abrams; Mary & George Agars; Anna Bayly, Joseph & Lucille Buttiglieri, Janice & Mario Ciprioni, Mark Conroy, Kathleen Curran, Robert & Elizabeth Delaney, Nancy & Kenny Downs, Matthew & Marcy Fiet, Linda & Thomas Haggerty, Joyce & Kevin Haggerty, T.V. & J.M. Mahar, John & Lynn Mooney, Michael O'Neil, Susan Parry, Louis & Judy Polsinello, Jr.,

- James Poole, M/M James Porpeggia; Denis Puls, Sister Jane Somerville, Sister Barbara Dudley, Joanne Scheibly, Mary Ellen Scheibly, Sklenar Charlot; Shelley Spierman, Frederick J. Talarico, Anne & Dominick Testo, Ellen Tolan, Anne & John Vadney, Marianne K. VanDerHyden, Mary Ann West, Denise & Jeffery Wright, and Circles of Mercy
- Sue Ann Rodgers – by Susan Innes, Michael Kelly, Dorothy Young, Stephanie Ryan, Joan Nuir, Shirley Hirt, Mary LaFleur, Karen Minasian, Deacon Bill Dringus & Tita Dringus and Circles of Mercy
- Rita C. Regina – by Circles of Mercy
- Mary C. O'Brien – by Circles of Mercy
- Karen S. Ammons – by Circles of Mercy and the Rensselaer Chapter of the CA\$H Coalition
- Sister Monica Murphy, CSJ – Circles of Mercy

In Honor of:

- 2017 Mercy Jubilarians: Sisters Katharine Kelly, Christina Coughlin, Theresa Gottstein, Katherine Graber, Ann Michaelson, Margery Halpin, Barbara Roman, M. Rose Hobbs, Jane Somerville, and Mary Ann LoGiudice, RSM – by Sister Patricia Mannion, RSM, Mary Femia, the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Sister Theresa Gottstein, RSM (70th Jubilee) – by Karin and Robert Shepherd
- Michael Bruni – by a friend
- Michelle Azar – by a friend
- 2018 Mercy Jubilarians: Kathleen O'Hara, Helen Dillon, Elizabeth Dovidio, Laureen Fitzgerald, Kathleen Turley, Julia Mary Werner, and Mary Ellen Owens, RSM – by Sister Patricia Mannion, RSM, Emily Jordan, Richard Zazycki, the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- 2018 Albany's New Mercy Associates: Maura Bellanger, Lois & Raymond Hannan, Dr. Stephanie Hutchins, Dr. Anne S. Jung, Jillian Mertzluft, Barbara Oliver, Patricia A. Sager and Karen Wajda – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy
- Barbara and Armand Guerin (50th Wedding Anniversary) – by Joann & Ronald McKay, Mary & David Joly, Mary & Francis Rogler, Eleanor & John Driscoll, Sister Eleanor Guerin, RSM, Richard Zmijewski, Scott Rogler, Helen Dassance, Mary & William Bowen, and Sister Teresa Walsh, CSJ
- Albany's 2019 New Mercy Associates: Gail Ann Chrisafulli, Andrew D. Ledoux, Patricia Meehan, Marjorie Ann Milanese, and Elizabeth Mary Wales – by the Board, Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy

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

Catherine McAuley

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BOARD – SISTER JUDITH KAPP, RSM

Sister Judith Kapp, RSM recently joined the board of Circles of Mercy as the new Ministry Liaison from the Northeast Sponsor’s Council replacing Sister Peg Sullivan. Sister Jude has a BS in Mathematics from St. John Fisher College, an MS in Reading and an MS in Educational Administration and Policy Studies from SUNY Albany. She also has a certificate in Pastoral Ministry from St. Bernard’s Institute. After nearly 30 years of teaching high school math, Sister Judith recently had been the Pastoral Associate at Blessed Sacrament in Albany and now works as the Program Director at the Dominican



Sister Judith Kapp

Retreat and Conference Center in Niskayuna, NY.

“Having grown up in Rensselaer, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to be a part of the Circles of Mercy Board. In doing so I will be lending my support to this important ministry, helping those who are most vulnerable.”

We are very pleased and happy that Sister Jude is a part of our community of Mercy here at Circles. •

Make a Gift to Circles of Mercy

Is there someone among your loved ones 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