

IRISH NIGHT

Circles of Mercy successfully held their 5th annual Irish Night featuring Frank Jaklitsch and Friends on October 20th, 2007. The event held at the Mercy Center at 310 South Manning Boulevard in Albany across from St Peter's Hospital, included a fun blend of Irish music, door prizes, gifts, and an array of food and refreshments. All proceeds raised were used to benefit the programs supported by the Circles of Mercy. This yearly event raised \$4,000. Plan on joining us again on Saturday, October 18th. •

Corporate Sponsor

As you read this, our VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) volunteers are hard at work helping families who earn less than \$40,000 do their Income Taxes. We wish to acknowledge the accounting firm of Wojeski & Company CPAs, P.C. of East Greenbush, for underwriting the cost of this year's program. •



Save The Dates!

March 3rd
Easter Baskets are due at Circles

June 7th
Freihofer's Community Walk

June 12th
Circles of Mercy Annual Gala

October 18th
Irish Night

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rensselaer, NY
Permit No. 2

Circles of Mercy
11 Washington Street
Rensselaer, NY 12144



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.

SPRING 2008

VOLUME 8

Number 1

Director:

Richard Zazycki

Hours:

M-F, 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Programs:

- Mentoring
- Tutoring
- Computer Training
- Support Groups
- Parenting Classes
- Self Enhancement Groups
- Professional Clothing
- Advocacy
- Catherine's Closet

• • • A 10-year tradition of providing hope, hospitality and empowerment to individuals in the Rensselaer Community, especially women and women with children. • • •

Connections

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project

Christmas 2007 was a special time for 48 local families because of the generosity of the donors who participated in the Circles of Mercy Adopt-A-Family project. The families were comprised of 170 people, 113 of whom were children. This year Circles of Mercy collected an estimated \$17,000 in gifts and donations for the families who participated. Because of the cash received, Circles staff and volunteers not only purchased items to supplement the "wishes" expressed by the families, but had additional money to buy always needed items such as diapers, wipes, and children's clothing for Cate's Kids and Baby Blessings at Catherine's Closet.



Volunteers from the State Assembly Program Development Group wrap a portion of the many gifts donated for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas project.

The Adopt-A-Family project is just one way that Circles of Mercy joins those who need services with those who can provide them. Through this effort, once again, we carried out our goal of ministering to the underserved, especially women and women with children. Our thanks go to the donors who made Christmas a truly joyous time for the many families here in the Rensselaer Community. •

Catherine's Circle of Friends

An exciting new women's group, Catherine's Circle of Friends, is meeting on the second Wednesday of every month at Circles of Mercy. We are delighted to have **Mary Berry**, recently retired from a local social services agency, facilitate this group. **Mai Naito**, a psychology intern from SUNYA, assists her. At the first meeting the group surfaced topics which they would like to discuss in the future. Some of the topics include budgeting, food safety, employment, daycare, Department of Social Services and Social Security. It will be interesting to see what other topics emerge as this group continues to meet over cookies and coffee. The women are encouraged to form their own little community so they will be able to share their wisdom, in addition to receiving input from outside professionals. If you would like more information call Circles at 462-0899. •



Circles of Mercy Director Richard Zazycki has a mentoring meeting with SUNYA student Mai Naito as she begins her internship working with the women's group.

Circles of Mercy Board Members

Catherine Owens Arduini
 Rose Barba
 Sister Eleanor Guerin, RSM
 Nancy LaRow
 Anthony S. Maney, Esq.
 Kathleen G. Pingelski
 Sister Rosemary Sgroi, RSM
 Sister Jane Somerville, RSM
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Corporate Sponsors

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 St. Peter's Health Center of Rensselaer
 W.J. Lyons, Jr. Funeral Home, Inc.

CATHERINE'S CLOSET

THRIFT SHOP

11 Washington Street
 Rensselaer

Open Monday - Friday
 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Clothes & Household Goods

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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Gifts and Memorial Donations

We would like to acknowledge the following gifts to Circles of Mercy which are used to support our mission and services.

In Memory of:

Francis, Catherine and Patricia Kelly –
 by William C. Kelly
 Helen D. Cushing –
 by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki
 Sister Katherine Ryan, RSM –
 by Sister Helen Klee, RSM
 Friar Kenan G. McGowan, OFMConv. –
 by Circles of Mercy Staff
 Sister Agnes Mary Finin, RSM –
 by Circles of Mercy Staff
 Frank Joseph Conley –
 by the Director and Trustees of Circles of Mercy
 Alice E. Pritty – by Penny Hill and Richard Zazycki;
 Mary and John Linton; Rosemary Horan, Marcia
 and Herb Dunn and Catherine and Michael
 Fredette
 Louise C. Houston – by Mary and John Linton
 Thomas F. Hart – by Rosemary Horan
 Mary Kretzler – by Richard S. Zazycki
 Anthony Scrimme – by Mary and John Linton
 Sister Mary Victor, RSM –
 by Sue Ann and Francis Rodgers
 Alva Fortino Dovidio – by Staff of Circles of Mercy
 Josephine DiDomenicantonio –
 by Mario E. DiDomenicantonio
 Gertrude Salsburg –
 by Sisters Marilyn K. Murray, RSM and
 Rose Hobbs, RSM
 Therese Hobbs Neal –
 by Sisters Rose Hobbs, RSM and
 Marilyn K. Murray, RSM
 Marjorie Connors – by Mary D. Kerwin
 John T. Pregent, Sr. – by Edrie M. Pregent
 Ellen and George Bobersky – by Mary A. Bronk
 Mr. and Mrs. Martin Klee –
 by Sister Helen Klee, RSM
 Mr. and Mrs. William Cain – by Colleen M. Cain
 Mrs. Barbara "Bobbie" Bruno –
 by Volunteer Staff at Circles of Mercy
 Barbara A. Henry –
 by Staff and Trustees at Circles of Mercy
 Evelyn Wiczynski –
 by Staff and Volunteers at Circles of Mercy

In Honor of:

2007 Mercy Golden Jubilarians of the Albany Region:
 (Sisters Katherine Graber, Margery Halpin, Rose
 Hobbs, Ann Michaelson, Barbara A. Roman, and
 Jane S. Somerville), – by Sister Aloise Almond,
 RSM; Penny C. Hill and Richard S. Zazycki; Ed
 and Nancy LaRow; Sister Rita Mary Melcher,
 RSM; and Sally Conklin
 2007 Mercy Jubilarians of the Albany Region cele-
 brating their 60th (Sisters Lois Carr, Christina
 Coughlin, Theresa Gottstein, Mary Pat Nerf and
 Josephine Reynolds, RSM), 70th and 75th
 Anniversaries – by Sisters Sheila Christensen,
 RSM; Marilyn Hickey, RSM; Aloise Almond, RSM;
 Sally Conklin and Richard S. Zazycki
 Sister Jane S. Somerville, RSM –
 by Penny C. Hill and Richard S. Zazycki; Shane
 and Maureen Somerville; Mary and William
 Bowen
 Sister Barbara A. Roman, RSM –
 by Kathleen Egan and James Hedderman
 Marilyn Melcher – by Sister Rita Mary Melcher, RSM
 Sister Maureen McElroy, RSM – 50th Anniversary –
 by Circles Board of Trustees
 Rev. Kevin Mullen, OFM, President of Siena College
 – by Richard S. Zazycki
 Rev. John Close – 25th Anniversary of Ordination –
 by Mary and John Linton
 Mary Ann Cassidy –
 by Sister Jane S. Somerville, RSM
 Laurie and Alex Verardi of Hart's Collision –
 by Elizabeth Bellino
 Elsin T. Collins and Hilda Talentino –
 by Deborah Wood-Zanin
 Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community –
 by Lois and Charles Hartnett
 Sister Claire Boissy, RSM – 50th Anniversary –
 by Richard S. Zazycki
 Sister Susan L. Wiczynski, RSM –
 by Dr. and Mrs. Robert J. Capone, MD •

"It is better to receive a hundred impostors –
 if there be any such – than to suffer one really distressed person
 to be sent away empty."

– Catherine McAuley

Director's Report

In our last issue I spoke to you about our challenges in the area of generating revenue. Even though we have been blessed in all of our fund raising events, they only provide a portion of the funds we need to continue operating. During November we launched our first Annual Fund Appeal. Knowing your interest in Circles, we believed that you would want to see our many services and programs continue to be provided each day here in Rensselaer. At that time you were asked to consider becoming an Annual Fund supporter. We thought that we would raise around \$2,000; others thought we could possibly raise as much as \$5,000.

Quoting Catherine McAuley, the First Sister of Mercy, "...We should never falter in our confidence that God will make all things turn to the

best." That statement couldn't be more true. Knowing that a great deal of our financial well being rests upon the generosity and kindness of our many donors and benefactors, there is without a doubt also an element of *providence* involved in our success. Sometimes we get so busy with living our daily lives we forget to ask for His support. Catherine McAuley never faltered; she always carried out her mission of Mercy, guided by prayerful consideration of the needs of the time, as well as her preferential love for the poor and her special concern for women and children.

All things did turn to the best and I am happy to inform you that the Annual Appeal raised over \$13,000!! Your generosity has overwhelmed and surpassed our wildest expectations. I solemnly promise we will always use

your contributions with great caution and care. Know that your financial gift does make a difference; it helps us to continue the Mercy charism and it assists us in providing the hope, hospitality and empowerment to those needy individuals who come through our doors daily.

On behalf of the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community and our Board of Trustees, THANKYOU for your acts of charity and compassion. Circles of Mercy continues to grow; the circle ever widens, is never ending and is always in need of friends. •



Richard Zazycki

Make a Gift this Easter

Is there someone who has the proverbial *Everything*? Is there someone among your beloved deceased family and friends whom you would like to remember in a special way during this Easter season? Why not honor or memorialize her, or him, with a donation to Circles of Mercy? You will know the satisfaction of helping someone right here in our own community who is in need of clothing or access to other essential services.

In addition, your loved one can be acknowledged in our newsletter, if you wish, and he or she will receive a personal acknowledgement of your gift. Contributions to Circles of Mercy are tax deductible. Please call us at 462-0899 for further information or to make a donation.

Yes, I am enclosing my Easter gift of \$ _____

I request to make a donation:

IN MEMORY OF: (DECEASED) _____

IN HONOR OF: (LIVING) _____

Please check if you desire the donation to be acknowledged in a future newsletter.

Please send acknowledgement to:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to Circles of Mercy.
Mail to: Circles of Mercy, 11 Washington Street, Rensselaer, NY 12144

