

PRESS RELEASE-FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Circles of Mercy Honors Local Boy Scout and Volunteers with Awards



Photo Caption (IMG 1843):

Eagle Scout Kyle Gorzynski (center left); his mother Cindi (center right) with his father Steve and brother Chris (back ground), accepts the Sister Gail A. Reith, RSM Volunteer Service Award from Richard Zazycki, Director-Circles of Mercy are (standing far left) and Kathleen Pingelski, Circles' Board Chair (far right) for his volunteer work of renovating Catherine's Closet (a thrift store operated by Circles of Mercy in Rensselaer) as his Eagle Scout Community Project.

Circles of Mercy and the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community recently presented their annual Sister Gail A. Rieth, RSM Volunteer Service Award honoring a local Boy Scout for his volunteer work assisting Circles of Mercy in Rensselaer.

Boy Scout Kyle Gorzynski of Colonie who for his Eagle Scout Community Project worked with our staff to renovate Catherine's Closet our thrift store at Circles of Mercy. The renovation project required consultation, detailed planning, recruitment of human resources to assist with the work and the need to solicit donations of materials and hardware in order to complete the project. With the help of his family, fellow Boy Scouts and Leaders from Troop 96 – at St. Pius Church in Loudonville and their parents, the project was successfully coordinated and completed resulting in the tripling of the hanging space for clothing in the thrift store.



Photo Caption (IMG-1844):

Circles of Mercy Board Chair Kathleen Pingelski and Executive Director Richard Zazycki (far right) present the Sister Gail A. Rieth, RSM Volunteer Service Award honoring the Circles' VITA Tax Program Volunteer Staff. Accepting the Volunteer Award is (L to R): Marilyn Hart, Dick Klee, Joanne Scheibly and Mark Owen.

Circles of Mercy and the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community recently presented their annual Sister Gail A. Rieth, RSM Volunteer Service Award honoring the VITA Tax Program Staff, for their volunteer tax prep work assisting Circles of Mercy in Rensselaer.

For over 700 hours this year, Circles of Mercy provided economically challenged individuals; families and seniors, appointments with an IRS-certified volunteer who helped them file their federal and state tax returns free of charge. Circles participates in a regional coalition called CA\$H (Creating Assets \$avings and Hope), which supports and coordinates the free VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Circles is the lead non-profit agency for CA\$H; both for the Rensselaer County Chapter as well as the Capital Region Coalition, where it partners with the IRS, many financial institutions and other community service agencies including the United Way and Catholic Charities. Together these volunteers recently completed the filing season where 351 returns were filed resulting in combined refunds and tax credits of over \$609,000 Dollars for the working poor of our community. Locally in Rensselaer County the total result was \$2.4 Million Dollars the VITA program generated.

Both volunteer awards were presented during the "A Taste of Mercy" annual fund raising gala recently held to celebrate "Catherine's Circle of Friends" and to benefit Circles of Mercy. Circles is an out-reach center for those in need, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community. It was established in 1997 in the City of Rensselaer and has a thirteen-year tradition of offering programs and services to provide hope, hospitality and empowerment to individuals in the Rensselaer Community, especially women and women with children.

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