

# Friends of Mercy Hospital



1000 N. VILLAGE AVENUE, ROCKVILLE CENTRE, NEW YORK 11570  
516-705-2618

**JANUARY 2021**

## COVID-19 VACCINE

With distribution of the COVID-19 vaccine now under way, the priority is to immunize frontline health care workers, public safety and essential workers, long-term nursing home residents and those over 65, as outlined by the NYS Department of Health. Following this initial phase, which will require several weeks, the process will move to vaccinating all Long Islanders.

The U.S. Food & Drug Administration granted Emergency Use Authorization to the vaccine

because in trials with tens of thousands of participants it showed itself to be extremely effective, close to 95%, with little or no side effects, lasting only 24-48 hours.

"It's important to point out that in developing a vaccine for COVID-19, researchers weren't starting from scratch," notes Catholic Health Executive Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer Patrick M. O'Shaughnessy, DO, MBA, MS-PopH, FACEP, CHCQM. "Past research on SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) had already identified potential approaches."

Other key COVID-19 vaccine facts from the U.S. Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

The COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting the SARS-CoV-2 corona virus. Two doses are needed, to be administered three to four weeks apart.

After receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, you may experience some side effects. This is a normal sign that your body is building protection. Side effects may feel like flu but should go away within 24-48 hours.

Vaccine doses purchased with

U.S. taxpayer dollars will be given to the American people at no cost.

The first COVID-19 vaccines being used have been authorized for emergency use by the FDA. Other vaccines are being developed and tested and are expected in the months ahead.

COVID-19 vaccines are one of the many important tools to help stop this pandemic. The CDC continues to encourage you to cover your mouth and nose with a mask when around others, stay at least six feet away from others, avoid crowds and wash your hands often.

## FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING GOES VIRTUAL

The coronavirus created challenges for one of our most traditional membership experiences-the Friends Annual Meeting. Although many organizations are unable to meet in person due to social distancing, it didn't stop the FOM from gathering safely. For the first time ever, the FOM gathered via Zoom for their Annual Meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>.

Topics discussed were a review of 2020 and plans for 2021:

- \*COVID-19: FOM Fund raised over \$100K, FOM very successful Car Parade (Morale Booster Day), FOM Purchased PPE for Mercy, FOM initiated talks to secure Molloy Dorms for frontline workers, along with constant communication between the FOM and Mercy Hospital President Peter Scaminaci.

- \*Introduction to FOM Newsletter

- \*Golf Outing a success

- \*1<sup>st</sup> Virtual event Mercy Ball, another success

- \*Vote/approve the 2021 FOM Slate of Officers (back page)

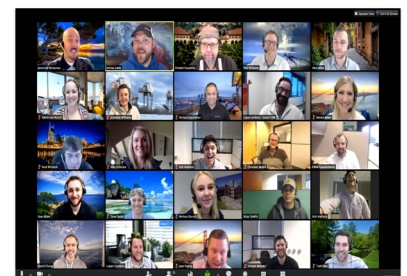
- \*Treasurer's Report for 2020

- \*FOM Strategic Planning gave donations throughout the year to RVC Food Pantries and adopted 7 families for Christmas

- \*FOM will be hosting a Men's Quarterly Health Zoom Presentations starting

in February (info on page 4)

- \*2021 Event Game Plan- at this time the St. Pat's Dinner will move to 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2021. Plans are to have the event outside in warm weather as long as the large group gathering is lifted.



## MESSAGE FROM JEFFREY B. MULHALL

### President, Friends of Mercy

I hope our first newsletter of 2021 finds you and your family healthy and well; and we hope 2021 is off to a better start.

2020 was indeed a most challenging and unique year; like nothing we had ever experienced. We can only imagine the daily challenges and hardships that Mercy Hospital staff endured, and is currently enduring, in battling this horrific pandemic. Their extraordinary heroism and dedication helped give us strength to find our way through these challenges.

For our part as the Friends of Mercy, we are very thankful for all of the effort and generosity shown by all of the Friends and Supporters in this selfless year; it was most generous and humbling.

As noted in the last newsletter, we had to cancel the following events due to COVID-19: the 54th Annual Gentlemen's St. Patrick's Dinner, honoring Jon Ledecy, NY Islanders majority owner; the Nine and Dine at Wheatley Hills Golf Club; and the Summer Luau at the Ocean Club. But, as noted in more detail in this newsletter, we were able to have a successful fall golf outing at the stunning Rockaway Hunting Club in early October. It went so well that we made plans to return, health conditions hopefully permitting, this year on September 30th. Mike Boranian, The Friends Vice President, will be leading this effort again; as he is a natural at running top shelf golf outings.

As we entered into the winter season, we realized that there were no safe ways to have events. However, we wanted to find a way to maintain the wonderful tradition

of the Mercy Ball, our signature event each year. We agreed to have a Virtual Mercy Ball and thanks to Gloria's extraordinary effort - and vast imagination - and Andy Healey's tireless efforts, we had a wonderful program celebrating both the history of the ball and saluting this year's awardees.

In sum, despite the obstacles we faced this past year, our Members and Supporters generously stepped up and provided us the means to each raise over \$100,000 in both our COVID-19 Campaign and our Virtual Mercy Ball. As a result, The Friends will be donating approximately \$200,000 in much needed medical equipment and further we will be donating a significant sum to the hospital once we finish with our COVID-19 contributions.

Regarding 2021, we understand that our current COVID-19 challenges will probably continue until at least the second half of this year and, as such, major in person events will be postponed until we know more.

But in the interim, The Friends of Mercy will be hosting a Friends Health Presentation in a Zoom town hall on a variety of health issues that would be pertinent to the Mercy community. The first Health Presentation will be presented by Dr. Dan Haller, on Monday, February 22nd, regarding his experiences with COVID-19 and what we need to do going forward (page 4). The second Health Presentation will be about heart well-being. Please look for future announcements about dates and times.

We are also planning in April to have a bicycle collection day on the front lawn of Mercy to gather donated

bicycles for the needy youth in our community. As some of our children have outgrown their previous bicycles, we hope to put them to better use. Look for those announcements in the near future.

Finally, thank you for the generosity shown this year. The Friends of Mercy are grateful to all our supporters for giving during these unprecedented times; and we need to note our appreciation for the donors who quietly stepped up in a very special way. It was most appreciated.

Please take good care and remain healthy and well.

Cheers to a healthy, happy, and brighter New Year!

## FRIENDS CORNER

If you have any highlights in your life that you would like to share with the Friends of Mercy, please send an email to [Gloria.Disciullo@chsli.org](mailto:Gloria.Disciullo@chsli.org). Highlight will be posted in the next newsletter.

*\*Congratulations to Chris Fosso for welcoming their second healthy son Finn into the world. Finn is also the 4th grandchild for John Joyce. Congrats to all!*

*\*Congrats to Chris Cells for his engagement to Liz Arnold. Wedding is set for Fall 2021.*

*\*Congrats to Andrew E. Healey for being elected President of the Rockville Centre St. Patrick's Parade Committee, (the parade that cares and shares).*



## THE GIVING GARDEN

This past summer the Friends of Mercy sponsored Mercy Hospital's vegetable garden located on the grounds of Mercy. In the years past the garden was maintained by avid gardener and Mercy employee Vito Leone, but due to his intense job obligations caused by COVID-19, Vito did not have the time to maintain the garden. Thanks to the Friends of Mercy for stepping in. Under the leadership of Gloria DiSciullo, Dir. of Special Events, and with the help of several Mercy employees, plants were ordered and planted. Throughout the summer, the garden was cultivated and maintained by the team.

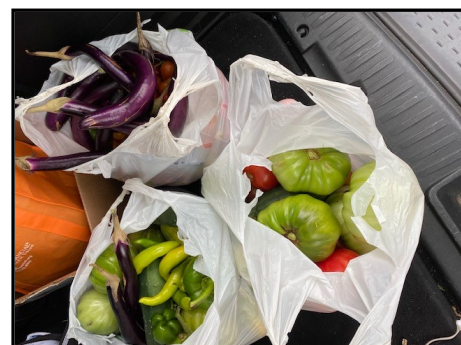
The Friends named the garden "The Giving Garden" since it supplied fresh vegetables to the nuns on Mercy's campus (Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor) and people facing hunger in the community. While vegetable plants were sold out in the local nurseries, the FOM were able to

obtain plants from FOM member Keith of Art Flower & Gift Shoppe in RVC. The garden had a late planting start due to COVID-19, but that didn't stop the Friends. The garden grew a variety of vegetables such as all types of tomatoes, cucumbers, eggplant, red and green peppers, radish, and zucchini. The garden was extremely bountiful and harvested a couple hundred pounds of fresh produce.

Weekly deliveries were made to the sisters, and additionally to several food pantries in the community such as the St. Agnes Food Pantry and the Vineyard Church Food Pantry.

Millions of families across America use food pantries every day. However, it's usually not easy for food pantries to keep healthy, fresh produce available to all of the people they help. A community garden can reduce food insecurity and improve dietary intake. The COVID-19 pandemic put many people out of work and significantly increased the need for donated food. "Our locally grown fresh food garden will help fill the gap for those who would other-

wise be unable to afford nutritious food, and this expansion further demonstrates Mercy's commitment to addressing the underlying social factors that affect a patient's health" said Gloria DiSciullo. The FOM were proud to sponsor The Giving Garden that provided fresh vegetables to the sisters and those in need.



Friends of Mercy members helping with  
The Giving Garden.

Above photo from left: Gary Russo, Joe Lanzetta,  
Chris Cells, John Joyce

Photo to right: Keith Linsalata

## SCORE!

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Mercy Golf Classic was another score. Held at the prestigious Rockaway Hunting Club in Lawrence, golfers and friends once again gathered to support Mercy Hospital.

Rescheduled after a rainout in September, we were grateful for a beautiful autumn day on October 8. The socially distanced tournament featured tee times to avoid crowding and was played with special focus upon and support for those frontline health care heroes in the fight against COVID-19.

In following CDC guidelines and COVID-19 safety rules we were unable to have a sit down dinner after golf this year. Still, golfers and guests were able to enjoy a quick bite and a drink on the outdoor patio, appropriately masked and distanced. We wish to thank all our attendees for the way in which everyone kept to the safety rules.

Golfers enjoyed a large array of over 40 raffles that ranged from golf apparel to range finders, drivers, wedges, an Apple watch and more. In addition to the golfer desired raffles, the FOM raffled off a YETI cooler won by FOM member Charlie Baldwin and an oversized basket of cheer won by John

Morahan, AVP of Finance at Mercy and a Rockville Centre resident.

In this difficult year, with a limited event and a reduced number of participants, the FOM is grateful to have raised over \$60K on behalf of Mercy Hospital. "In the midst of an unprecedented time, with Mercy facing never before seen demands upon its resources, community and donor support for Mercy Hospital was extraordinary" said golf chairman and FOM Executive Vice President Michael Boranian, Esq.

The 2020 golf sponsor was Long Island Anesthesia Partners. Other major event sponsors include Emcor, Progressive Emergency Physicians, and RVC resident Justin McCarthy.

"The Friends of Mercy and the people who support our organization and its mission have yet again demonstrated how steadfastly the community stands behind Mercy Hospital. During these tough days support for high quality health care in our communities is paramount. Once again the people and businesses that make up those communities came through for us" Boranian said.



## FOM HEALTH PRESENTATIONS SET FOR 2021

The Friends of Mercy are excited to announce a new program to their 2021 line-up! Starting in February the FOM will be hosting a monthly health presentation featuring one of Mercy Hospital's top medical experts on pressing health care issues. A thirty minute zoom session which will include 15 minutes for live questions.

Our first health presentation will be held on Monday, February 22 at 7:00pm given by Daniel Haller, MD. Dr. Haller is the Director of

Surgery at Mercy Hospital and his topic will be on COVID-19.



Dr. Haller will discuss his experience with COVID-19 from the first wave through the eyes of a front line

worker, why COVID-19 is different from other viruses, difficulties of the virus and ending with current treatments such as the vaccine.

Dr. Haller is an excellent speaker and his presentation will prove to be most enlightening. If interested, please email Gloria DiSciullo at [Gloria.DiSciullo@chsli.org](mailto:Gloria.DiSciullo@chsli.org) to receive a Zoom link and password to be admitted to the Health Presentation. We look forward to you joining this great presentation with the Friends!



## MERCY BALL- 1ST VIRTUAL EVENT

On December 5<sup>th</sup> 2020, the Friends of Mercy held their 84th consecutive Mercy Ball. A virtual event this year the Employees of Mercy were awarded the prestigious **Theodore Roosevelt Award for Outstanding Service**. The award is annually given to an individual for contributing to the development of Long Island's community hospitals in the spirit of the renowned former US President and Long Island's resident lifelong devotion to public service. The Friends could think of no one more deserving than the current employees of Mercy who daily battled the Pandemic with courage and determination.

The Honorable Judge Leo F. McGinity accepted the **Bishop John R. McGann Lifetime Achievement Award** recognizing his lifetime contributions to Mercy. Following in his father's and uncle's footsteps, who both were founding members of the Friends, Judge McGinity joined the Friends as a young professional. His involvement with the Friends spans over

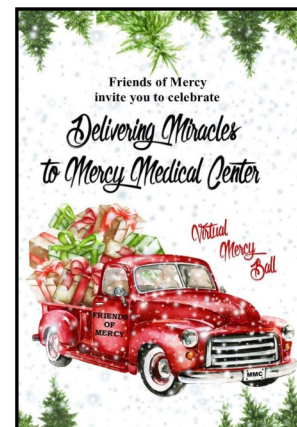
six decades beginning with his participation in the Mercy Ball Honor Guard in 1943.

This year the **Sister Mary Nadine Casey, CIJ Award** recognized the nurses and certified nursing assistants at Mercy, who together played a vital role in providing lifesaving healthcare to the patients of Mercy while providing comfort and support to their families. How appropriate it is to honor the nurses and certified nursing assistants at Mercy in this Year of the Nurse as designated by the World Health Assembly.

The Mercy Ball 2020 virtual gathering was highlighted with the celebration of "Through the Years", a theme to honor prior years honorees, honor guards, special guests, and more. Visit [www.MercyBall.com](http://www.MercyBall.com) to view various scenes of prior years celebrations.

Due to the generosity of so many, The Friends raised more than \$120,000 for the benefit of our community hospital – Mercy.

The Friends look forward to returning the annual event to the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury on the first Saturday in December 2021.



Enjoy our Through the Years presentation highlighting prior honorees, honor guard, special guests and more... Visit [www.MercyBall.com](http://www.MercyBall.com)

## KEEPING OUR LITTLE ONES WARM

The Friends of Mercy are excited to have purchased two infant warmers (also known as Panda) for the Labor & Delivery Suite. The Friends of Mercy had some money left over from their Labor & Delivery donation in 2018 and were able to use the remaining funds to purchase these warmers.

The Panda Warmer helps Mercy's dedicated staff focus on caring for our little ones. With this state-of-the-art technology the Panda warmers help keep our little ones warm, comfortable, and healthy. With the Panda warmer, all the tools are in one place, making it easier for staff to give babies the seamless care they need.



FOM Past-President Brian Croutier visiting Mercy's Labor & Delivery Suite to see the new technology.

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## MERCY RENAMED TO MERCY HOSPITAL

**Our commitment of caring for Long Island  
is well-established, so we decided  
to shorten our name.**

**We're now Catholic Health Services of Long Island.**



## DID YOU KNOW?

Your support and dollars hard at work. Over the past ten years, the Friends have raised some \$2.5 million to provide Mercy's physicians, employees and patients with new and improved facilities and equipment.

- COVID-19 PPE and Supplies
- Renovation of the Post Surgical Care Unit
- Labor & Delivery Renovation
- \$250K to Good Shepherd Hospice at Mercy
- Purchased: Molecular Breast Imaging Equipment (MBI)
- Renovated: Patio Grill to the new Friends Café
- New Construction: Sleep Apnea Center
- Purchased: State of the Art Equipment in Imaging; Radiology Department
- New Construction: Center for Hyperbaric Medicine & Wound Healing
- Renovated & Expanded: Physician Lounge
- Purchased: Equipment in Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Purchased: Equipment in Cardiology Department
- \$10K to Catholic Charities for Hurricane Sandy families

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## MESSAGE FROM PETER SCAMINACI

### President, Mercy Hospital

I hope the New Year is finding you well.

While the past year has been challenging because of the pandemic, I am proud to inform you that with adaptability and innovative thinking, we have been able to continue working on important projects and initiatives at Mercy Hospital. It is with great excitement that I provide an update on two of these initiatives:

Family Care Center

Mercy was awarded transformation grant funds from the Department of Health and Mother Cabrini to enhance patient access for the Medicaid

and underserved populations.

With those funds, Mercy is planning on replacing the old convent to develop a new state-of-the-art two-story 16,000 square-foot medical office building and move its existing outpatient medical clinics located in 5,000 square feet in the hospital (Family Care Center) to this new outpatient setting place. The new building will help expand existing Family Care Center services and expand new clinical services, including primary care, cardiology and endocrinology. It will also free up space in the hospital to provide additional clinical

services. Construction has started with an anticipated completion date of early 2022.

St. Francis Cardiovascular at Mercy Hospital

The award-winning St. Francis cardiovascular program is now available closer to home for many Long Island residents with new cardiac catheterization services offered at Mercy Hospital. Supported by a team of renowned cardiac physicians from St. Francis Hospital & Heart Center®, the additional services will include percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI). This procedure uses a catheter to

place a stent to open the heart's blood vessels that have been narrowed by plaque buildup.

Lastly, staying vital and healthy is important to one's overall general well-being. More important than ever, reducing the spread of respiratory illnesses, such as the flu, this winter is critical. According to the CDC, the best way to prevent seasonal flu is to get vaccinated and I strongly encourage you to get a flu shot, if you haven't done so already, to protect yourself, your family and your community.

For up-to-date information & events at Mercy Hospital, please visit: <https://mercymedicalcenter.chsli.org>

## PLANNED GIVING

As a loyal friend of Mercy Hospital, we are happy to share the exciting news of the establishment of The Legacy Society of Mercy Hospital. This bequest society has been formed to help ensure Mercy Hospital's tradition of providing high quality, compassionate care will continue today and in the future.

Our humble roots began with two founding principles – caring and mercy. Mercy Hospital opened its doors more than 100 years ago, and still today we build upon this mission with a focus on excellence and compassion. At our founding, the Sisters of the Congregation of Infant Jesus, imagined a better future for their patients. Today our physicians, nurses, medical community and most importantly our supporters imagine a better future for those who will seek care tomorrow. I invite you to become a member of this special group that endeavors to provide support to the hospital and patient of tomorrow.

Members of our new society will receive special recognition on our Legacy Wall in the main hospital, as well as invitations to special events, subscriptions to hospital publications and newsletters. Legacy Society members will also receive lifetime enrollment in The Mercy Benefactors Society, an annual recognition society for major donors. All members will be honored at an annual reception as well once Covid-19 precautions allow.

Please note that if you have already provided for Mercy Hospital in your will or through one of the estate planning methods described, you will automatically be granted membership. Would you like to learn more on how to make a planned gift through a bequest, gift of life insurance, or through real estate?

Please contact Temra K. Taylor in the Office of Development at 516.705.1399 to request more information.

Friends of Mercy Hospital  
1000 N. Village Avenue  
Rockville Centre, New York 11570

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# **HOT OFF THE PRESS**

## **Friends of Mercy Newsletter**

### **2021 FOM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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#### **VICE PRESIDENT**

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#### **TREASURER**

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Kevin Mulry, Esq.

#### **ADVISOR FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Brian Joesten

#### **ADVISOR FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Michael J. Boranian, Esq.

#### **MMC EXECUTIVE BOARD LIAISON**

Marc DiSciullo, MD

### **2021 EVENTS**

**St. Patrick's Dinner  
TBD - Summer 2021**

**LUAU  
TBD**

**Golf Outing  
Rockaway Hunting Club  
September 30, 2021  
Rain Date: October 14, 2021**

**Mercy Ball  
Crest Hollow Country Club  
December 4, 2021**



Questions regarding the Friends of Mercy, please contact Gloria DiSciullo, Director of Special Events,  
516-705-2618 or [Gloria.DiSciullo@chsli.org](mailto:Gloria.DiSciullo@chsli.org).