

Church Rep. Notebook Index

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## ***MISSION STATEMENT:***

MERCY COMMUNITY CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER WAS FOUNDED TO PROVIDE BIBLICALLY BASED VOLUNTEER PEER COUNSELING AND SUPPORT SERVICES IN THE GREATER READING AREA FOR WOMEN AND MEN FACING UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES.

### LOCATION:

105 South Fifth Street, Reading, PA 19602  
(Mercy CCPC is located directly across from the main Library in the heart of Downtown Reading)

Phone: 610-376-0828 (general office number)  
FAX: 610-376-0958  
E-MAIL: [mercycpc@dejazzd.com](mailto:mercycpc@dejazzd.com)

### MAILING ADDRESS:

Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center  
P O Box 979  
Reading, PA 19603  
[www.mercypregnancycenter.org](http://www.mercypregnancycenter.org)

CONTACTS: Please use the contact information listed below when calling regarding Mercy events, and church rep. information. If you have any questions, would like to schedule a tour, or work project, please let us know.

Sherry Camelleri      Executive Director – 610-376-0995  
e-mail: [mercycpc@dejazzd.com](mailto:mercycpc@dejazzd.com)

Terri Hicks            Administrative Assistant – 610-376-0848  
e-mail: [terrimccpc@dejazzd.com](mailto:terrimccpc@dejazzd.com)

Please note that Mercy's website is up-dated on a regular basis and contains all the information you may need: [www.mercypregnancycenter.org](http://www.mercypregnancycenter.org)

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF MERCY COMMUNITY CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER**

Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center began in 1989 when a group of Christians from the greater Reading area formed a Steering Committee to develop a ministry that would offer practical alternatives to abortion for men and women facing an unplanned pregnancy.

In 1990, Mercy opened a small office located at the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Cherry Streets. Staffed by volunteers, an average of 15 clients per month received services. By 1992, the Center had a part-time Director, a \$40,000 annual budget and an average of 20 clients per month received services through volunteer staff. Two years later, the Center had a full-time Director and purchased a building located at 105 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, the location of our office to date.

By 1996, the volunteers and staff were seeing more than 100 clients monthly, and the annual budget increased to over \$120,000. Three annual fundraising events provided 45% of the funds needed by the Center. Individuals and churches provided the remaining necessary funds.

The number of clients receiving services continues to increase. Currently, the number of clients receiving services averages 40-50 per week. Our current annual budget is \$160,000 for the center located at 105 South Fifth Street. Mercy employs two full-time employees consisting of the Executive Director, and Administrative Assistant. Volunteers continue to provide vital assistance in various areas of the ministry. **Please note that an annual budget for Mercy's Hope Center is estimated at \$80,000. Please refer to the information on Mercy's Hope Center for additional information.**

Individuals, churches, businesses and fundraising events provide the financial resources necessary for the ministry of Mercy. Fundraising events serve as a vital source of income and are held throughout the year. Not all, but many local churches support the ministry of Mercy on a monthly basis through their missions budgets. Mercy CCPC does not receive government funds, does not bill insurance companies for services rendered and is not a funded by United Way.

All services are offered to the community free of charge regardless of income, race, age, religion and marital status. Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center provides the following:

- \*Free Self-Administered Pregnancy Test
- \*Confidential Volunteer Peer Counseling
- \*Education – Prenatal, Parenting, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Abstinence
- \*Supplies – Maternity & Baby Clothing, Diapers, Formula, Strollers
- \*Referrals – Prenatal / \*\*Medical Care, Adoption, Church, Professional Counseling, Food, Public Housing, Maternity Home, WIC, Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling, Domestic Violence/Anger Management, English (as a second language)
- \*Post Abortion Healing – (completing a Bible study directs the individual towards forgiveness through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord)

(\*\*As a pro-life ministry, Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center does not provide referrals for abortion.)

The most important aspect of Mercy CCPC is the opportunity we have, with each client, to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. A high percentage of our clients have NEVER heard the gospel. Realizing the forgiveness and restoration of God in hearts and lives is the very foundation of this ministry.

Services provided by Mercy CCPC are provided as a means of assisting individuals and families with a HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT.

## LIST OF ON-GOING NEEDS:

- \*Diapers – **ALL SIZES (Newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & Pull-ups)**
- \***Formula –GOODSTART, LIQUID ONLY**
  - \*CANS should NOT be dented
  - \*ALL FORMULA/FOOD items MUST be given to clients PRIOR to the expiration date
- \*Baby Wipes
- \*Baby Shampoo
- \*Baby Bath (Liquid Soap)
- \*Bottles – large & small sizes
  - \*NO PLATEX Bottles PLEASE – due to the expense of replacing the liners
- \*Baby Bath Towels (Boy, Girl, Neutral)
- \*Baby Wash Cloths (Boy, Girl, Neutral)
- \*Bibs (Boy, Girl, Neutral)
- \*Receiving Blankets (Boy, Girl, Neutral)
- \*Heavy Blankets
- \*Snow-Suits/Buntings (Boy, Girl, Neutral & Sizes Newborn to 6T)
- \*Onesies – ALL SIZES
- \*T-Shirts – SIZES – Infant to 6 T
- \*Sleepers – ALL SIZES – Infant to 6 T
- \*Outfits/Clothing – SIZES- Infant to 6 T
- \*Strollers – **MUST MEET CURRENT SAFETY STANDARDS**

### **When collecting donations PLEASE NOTE:**

\*ALL items should be **CLEAN** & NEW OR in LIKE NEW condition. Items utilized in the Layette Packages are NEW.

\*BABY POWDER is no longer being used in the care of infants and children. Therefore, Mercy CCPC does NOT distribute BABY POWDER to our clients.

\*BABY LOTION is considered a nice item to use. HOWEVER, it is MORE important for Mercy to be able to provide Baby Shampoo and / or Baby Bath (liquid soap) so the baby is clean. Therefore, we elected to not include baby lotion in the above list.

\*CRIBS – DUE TO SAFTY ISSUES ARE NOT ACCEPTED AND/OR DISTRIBUTED.

\*STROLLERS – MUST HAVE A T-STRAP, **CLEAN**, and be in good working condition

\*Due to safety issues and in accordance with the requirements of our insurance company, Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center does NOT accept and / or distribute the following items:

- |                  |                            |                |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| *CAR SEATS       | *JOHNNY JUMP-UPS           | *BOOSTER SEATS |
| *INFANT CARRIERS | *WALKERS and/or EXERSOCERS | *INFANT /      |
| *INFANT SWINGS   | *BOUNCIE SEATS             | TODDLER GATES  |
| *CRIBS           | *CHANGING TABLES           | *HIGH CHAIRS   |
| *BASSINETS       | *PAC-N-PLAYS               | *PLAY PENS     |

## **SPECIFIC LAYETTE ITEMS:**

- \*Baby Wipes
- \*Baby Shampoo
- \*Baby Bath (Liquid Soap)
- \*Bottles – large & small sizes
  - \***NO PLATEX Bottles PLEASE** – the expense of replacing the liners presents a hardship for our clients
- \*Baby Bath Towels
- \*Baby Wash Cloths
- \*Bibs
- \*Diapers – Newborn & SIZE 1
- \*Receiving Blankets
- \*Heavy Blankets
- \*Snow-Suits/Buntings (SIZE – Newborn / 3-6 Mo.)
- \*Onesies – SIZE – Newborn / Infant
- \*T-Shirts – SIZE – Newborn / Infant
- \*Sleepers – SIZE – Newborn / Infant
- \*Outfits/Clothing – SIZE – Infant
- \*Diaper Bags
- \*Burp Cloths
- \*Crib Sheets
- \*Small Diaper Bags
- \*Pacifiers

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

**\*Layette items are needed in Boy, Girl & Neutral colors and/or designs.**

\*BABY POWDER is no longer being used in the care of infants and children. Therefore, Mercy CCPC does NOT distribute BABY POWDER to our clients.

\*BABY LOTION is considered a nice item to use. HOWEVER, it is MORE important for Mercy to be able to provide Baby Shampoo and / or Baby Bath (liquid soap) so the baby is clean. Therefore, we elected to not include baby lotion in the above list.

\***NO PLATEX Bottles PLEASE** – due to the expense of replacing the liners

\*Clients receive a Layette package after completing the parenting classes. Individuals opting NOT to participate in the parenting classes receive used items rather than a package consisting of 99.9% new items. This policy has been implemented as a means of effectively preparing new parents for their responsibilities. Services provided by Mercy CCPC are provided as a means of assisting individuals and families with a HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT.

## **SERVICES PROVIDED BY MERCY COMMUNITY CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER**

ALL services are provided free of financial charge to ALL clients regardless of age, race, sex, marital status and religion. Distribution of items is based on availability.

### **\*Free Self-Administered Pregnancy Test**

The self-administered pregnancy test – the volunteer peer counselor provides instruction for the client to perform the test. Mercy does NOT provide blood tests to determine pregnancy.

### **\*Confidential Volunteer Peer Counseling**

\*Confidentiality is vital and honored in our ministry.

\*Clients meet with volunteer peer counselors NOT professional counselors. Mercy provides volunteers with training and oversight.

### **\*Education –**

\*Prenatal – general information regarding infant development

\*Parenting – series of parenting videos are utilized in the parenting classes, completion of the parenting classes are **REQUIRED** to receive a Layette Package

\*Sexually Transmitted Diseases – general information regarding the risks of sexually transmitted infections, importance of testing and making healthy choices

\*Abstinence – presented as God's plan until marriage

\*Abortion – general information concerning the procedures, risks involved and aftermath (physical, emotional, and spiritual)

\*Adoption – general information regarding adoption and agencies available

### **\*Supplies**

\*Maternity & Baby Clothing – available to active clients 4 times per year (1 time each season), non-active clients are required to meet with a volunteer peer counselor prior to receiving maternity and / or baby clothing

\*Diapers and / or Formula – available to clients once a month in an emergency situation, however, if a client returns two consecutive months, she is required to meet with a volunteer peer counselor

\*Strollers – are considered loan items and are available to clients for the period of one year. An active client is required to make and keep two appointments in order to have her name placed on our waiting list for a loan item. The client will be allowed one loan item only. Just because a client's name has been placed on the wait-list does NOT guarantee receiving the item requested.

### **\*Referrals**

\*Prenatal and / or Medical Care - as a pro-life ministry, Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center **NEVER** refers for abortion – even in the hard cases. If a client has determined her self-administered pregnancy test to be negative, the volunteer peer counselor will suggest that the client seek medical attention.

\*Referrals for Adoption, Church, Professional Counseling, Food, Public Housing, Maternity Home, WIC, Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Addiction Counseling, Domestic Violence/Anger Management, English (as a second language) are made with the written consent of the client and in accordance with the policies and mission statement of Mercy CCPC in mind.

**\*Presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

\*This is the most important aspect of the ministry of Mercy CCPC. We have made a commitment to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every client – in word and deed. The plan of salvation is presented in a loving and simple manner with an opportunity to accept Christ. Bibles, tracts, and Daily Breads are offered to individuals and families in English and Spanish. The Bibles and tracts presented to clients through the ministry of Mercy CCPC are purchased. Clients are provided with the name, location, and phone number of a church located close to their home. Please note that Mercy does NOT present the gospel in a manner that is forceful, or coercive. Clients are not rewarded or do not receive supplies or services based on their willingness to make a commitment to Christ.

**\*Post Abortion Healing**

\*The Bible study directs the individual towards forgiveness through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and an understanding of His Word.

\*Individuals participating in the Post Abortion Bible Study are given their book and workbook at no cost. However, the majority of individuals who have participated in this program have contributed towards this expense and in most cases their donation has exceeded the cost of the supplies.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Mercy CCPC has a “No Call / No Show” policy which means that if a client misses two consecutive appointments and does not call on the day of the scheduled appointments, she or he will not be eligible for services for 90 days. This policy is explained to all clients at the time their appointment is scheduled and is in written form (both English and Spanish) at various places throughout the building.

Pregnancy test services are available to clients during the time they are on probation.

Distribution of supplies is based on availability and in compliance with Mercy’s policies.

Services provided by Mercy CCPC are provided as a means of assisting individuals and families with a HAND UP NOT A HAND OUT.

# **MERCY'S ANNUAL CLIENT CHRISTMAS EVENT**

## **Items are needed on or prior to Nov. 17, 2011**

Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center provides support services for women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy who choose to carry and parent their child. All services and goods are provided at no cost to the client. Mercy CCPC is supported solely by the generosity of individuals, churches and businesses in addition to annual fundraising events. Mercy does not receive government funding. United Way does not fund client services provided by Mercy.

Clients serviced by Mercy CCPC are among the working poor of our community. For individuals and families facing daily challenges, the holidays present an additional strain. Each year Mercy holds an annual Client Christmas Event in which clients participate in a life skills class, select and wrap a gift for each of their children, and are thereby able to present the gift to their child/children on Christmas morning. The goal of this event is at least two fold: 1) continue to build the parent child relationship, and 2) provide life skills instruction that can be utilized beyond the walls of our center for individuals in need (giving them a hand up not a hand out). This is also an additional opportunity to be the hands of Christ extended – presenting the gospel in word and deed.

Each year, we prepare for approximately 300 children to receive gifts on Christmas morning as a direct result of their mom or dad participating in Mercy's Annual Client Christmas Event.

**Please note that clients are required to participate in life skills classes such as:**

- |                                  |                             |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bible Study                   | 4. GED & Employment         |
| 2. Preparing for a Job Interview | 5. Healthy Relationships    |
| 3. Budgeting                     | 6. Career Link - employment |

With this in mind, we request that you consider donating **toys for children age birth to and including 8 years of age. All contributions should be received one week prior to the scheduled Client Christmas Event to allow sufficient time for volunteers to sort and display the items accordingly.** Donations for this event will be accepted throughout the year. Tissue paper and gift bags of all sizes are needed. **UNWRAPPED** toys should meet the following requirements:

- |   |                              |                |
|---|------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. <b><u>NO TOY GUNS</u></b>                    | 4. No small parts            | 7. No clothing |
| 2. <b><u>No toys that promote violence</u></b>  | 5. No used toys              |                |
| 3. <b><u>No toys that require batteries</u></b> | 6. <b>NO STUFFED Animals</b> |                |

**Gift Suggestions: Games, Dolls, School Supplies/Book Bags, Toy Cars, Toy Trucks, and Infant Toys.** Please feel free to call with any questions (610-376-0995). **If you miss the deadline for 2011, gift items can be collected and donated throughout the year.**

Donations of homemade cookies (no nuts) are appreciated, as refreshments are made available throughout the week of the Client Christmas Event. **The success of this event is dependent upon contributions of faithful individuals, churches, and businesses and impacts the lives of families beyond the Christmas Season.**

Bulletin inserts are made available to inform and encourage church participation and can be photocopied to promote this unique ministry opportunity (sample enclosed).

On behalf of our clients and their little ones, THANK YOU for your dedication and faithfulness to the ministry of Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center. Your faithful prayers and continued support is greatly appreciated.

Dates for 2012: Items needed by Nov. 12, 2012. Client Christmas Event – Nov. 26 – 29, 2012.

## FUNDING

Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center is funded by contributions from individuals, churches, businesses and fundraising events held throughout the year. Monthly contributions received from individuals and church mission budgets provide income throughout the year as well as assist in the budgeting process. Monthly contributions received at the present time are not adequate to cover the budget.

As we move forward with Mercy's Hope Center additional funds will be necessary to complete renovations, an estimated \$60,000. Should funds raised to complete renovations exceed the amount necessary, the balance will be utilized towards the annual budget for Mercy's Hope Center. An estimated annual budget is \$80,000.

### **\*Church Financial Support:**

A number of churches support the ministry of Mercy CCPC through their mission's budget. Mercy CCPC is considered a home missions work and is therefore a line item in their annual mission budget. However, other churches contribute financially on a random basis. It is our goal to have a consistent monthly income that will cover the on-going expenses of the ministry.

### **\*Fundraising Events:**

Income utilized through an event serves as a means to supplement the financial shortfall of the ministry. In addition to raising necessary financial support, fundraising events also serve as a means to accomplish the following:

- \*Keep our donors informed
- \*Acquaint individuals, churches and businesses with the mission and ministry of Mercy
- \*Secure additional prayer partners and donors
- \*Engage additional volunteers
- \*Challenge individuals, churches and businesses by presenting the needs of the ministry and present the opportunity for involvement

### **\*Ambassador Advisers: Planned Financial Giving is available.**

Have you ever wanted to give substantially to the Lord's work at Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center, yet were unsure where to begin?

Mercy CCPC has recently invited Ambassador Advisors, LLC to come alongside us and offer effective stewardship solutions to meet our financial partners' giving goals. Ambassador Advisors goal is to support and promote Biblical Stewardship through appropriate financial planning, estate strategies, and money management services for the benefit of religious non-profits, charities, individual donors, and investors.

If you are interested in learning more about our new relationship with Ambassador Advisors and how they can help you maximize your giving to God's work, please call our Executive Director, Sherry Camelleri at 610.376.0995, or speak directly to our Executive Advisor at Ambassador Advisors, at 1.800.395.7660.

**Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center**  
**105 South Fifth Street, Reading, PA 19602**  
**610-376-0995, e-mail: [mercycpc@dejazzd.com](mailto:mercycpc@dejazzd.com)**  
**2012 Calendar of Events (this page is all NEW information)**

**[www.mercypregnancycenter.org](http://www.mercypregnancycenter.org)**

**Please check our website for information on ALL of Mercy's Events**

**January:**

\*Sanctity of Human Life Month

**February:**

Winter Crop (Scrap Booking) – Date Pending

**March:**

**23 – \*\*Banquet – Glad Tidings Church (RSVP by March 12)**

Please note Mercy's Banquet is earlier this year to avoid a conflict in schedule with Easter>

**April:**

**May:**

1 – \*Roslyn George Mother/Daughter Tea – held at Grace Bible Fellowship Church

**June:**

**July:**

2 – 6 Office Closed for Vacation

**August:**

**September:**

8 – \*Walk for Life (Watch for Location)

**October:**

Fall Crop (Scrap Booking) – Date Pending

13 – \*Volunteer Training (RSVP by Oct. 1)

20 – \*Church Rep. Meeting (9 am – 11 am)

**November:**

2– \*Volunteer Appreciation Event

12 – Deadline for Client Christmas Items (See Info. On Client Christmas Event)

26 – 28 Client Christmas Event

**December:**

21 – January 1, 2012 Office Closed for Vacation (January 1, 2012 – Holiday – office closed)

**PLEASE NOTE:**

\* - Indicates that this event is held consistently during that particular month

## BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS PROGRAM

### Baby Bottle Blessings

Are you looking for a simple way for EVERYONE to get involved in supporting life? Perhaps the Baby Bottle Blessing program is the answer. During the past year Churches, Sunday School Classes, Youth Groups, Men's / Ladies Bible Study Groups and Volunteers have been blessing the ministry of Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center with Baby bottles filled with change. How does the Baby Bottle Blessings program work?

1. Get permission from your Pastor / Missions Committee/ Sunday School Department, etc.
2. Determine how many Baby bottles you will need to distribute (one per person / per household).
3. Call Mercy CCPC and request the number of Baby bottles needed. Please provide Mercy with the time line
4. Pick up the requested Baby bottles or request to have them delivered along with general information about the ministry of Mercy CCPC.
5. Made an announcement / put the information in your church bulletin, and display or distribute the Baby bottles. (Each Baby bottle contains an informational sheet on the ministry of Mercy.) Please indicate the date when the Baby bottles should be returned to the church or to you directly. (A one-month collection period has proven successful with most groups.)
6. Make arrangements for the change to be counted / rolled in coin wrappers and funds submitted to Mercy. Please note that a check from the church is preferred.
7. When individuals submit a check to Mercy for the baby bottle program, they receive a thank you letter directly from Mercy. **Their contribution is not included in the amount listed on the total amount received from the church.**
8. Return the Baby bottles to Mercy to be utilized by additional groups.
9. Please inform your church group of the total amount collected through the Baby Bottle Blessings program and extend our heartfelt appreciation.
10. Individuals or families who desire to keep a baby bottle for the purpose of contributing to Mercy on a regular basis are welcome to do so.
11. Please note that unreturned bottles need to be replaced at an expense to Mercy.

Call 610-376-0995 for additional information.

\*Please note: a copy of letter contained in each bottle follows.

## **Baby Bottle Blessings**

Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center began in 1989 when a group of Christians from the greater Reading area formed a Steering Committee to develop a ministry that would offer practical alternatives to abortion for women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy.

In 1990, Mercy opened a small office staffed by volunteers. An average of 15 clients per month received services at that time. Currently, the number of clients receiving services averages 40 – 50 per week. While volunteers continue to fill a vital role in the ministry, Mercy employs staff members consisting of the Executive Director, and Administrative Assistant.

Individuals, churches, businesses and fundraising event provide the financial resources necessary. Fundraising events serve as a vital source of income and are held throughout the year. Mercy CCPC does NOT receive government funds, does not bill insurance companies for services rendered, and is not a United Way agency. All services are offered to the community free of charge regardless of income, race, religion and marital status. Mercy CCPC (105 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Reading, PA 19602) provides:

- \*Free Self-Administered Pregnancy Test
- \*Confidential Volunteer Peer Counseling
- \*Education – Abstinence, Prenatal, Parenting, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Abortion
- \*Supplies – Maternity & Baby Clothing, Diapers, Formula, Strollers
- \*Referrals – Prenatal / Medical Care, Adoption, Food, Housing/Maternity Home, WIC, Church

Individuals and / or families opting for abortion are welcome to return to Mercy CCPC to talk with a volunteer and / or to participate in a post abortion support group (Bible Study).

The most important aspect of Mercy is the opportunity we have, with each client, to present the gospel of Jesus Christ. What a blessing! The majority of our clients have NEVER heard the gospel. Realizing the forgiveness and restoration of God in hearts and lives is the very foundation of this ministry.

As you and your congregation invest in the ministry of Mercy CCPC, you are answering the challenge set before us by God – reaching out with His love, mercy, hope and forgiveness to those who are facing an unplanned pregnancy as well as individuals and families who have experienced the pain of abortion. Your faithful prayers and continued financial support are greatly appreciated. Thank you for joining hands with us in this ministry of mercy.

**Visit our web site at: [www.mercypregnancycenter.org](http://www.mercypregnancycenter.org)**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Mercy CCPC  
105 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St.,  
Reading, PA 19602

Church where you received this Baby Bottle \_\_\_\_\_

Yes! I would like to support the on-going ministry of Mercy with a monthly contribution of:

\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$75    \_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_ \$35    Other \$ \_\_\_

\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to receive the quarterly prayer calendar.

\_\_\_ Please add my name to your mailing list.

\_\_\_ Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

**OUR MISSION:** Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center provides biblically based volunteer peer counseling & support services in the Greater Reading area for women & men facing unplanned pregnancies.

Phone: 610-376-0995

e-mail: [mercycpc@dejazzd.com](mailto:mercycpc@dejazzd.com)

Revised 01/22/10 sc

## **Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center's Prayer Calendar**

As a ministry dedicated to presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ, we at Mercy CCPC realize the importance of prayer. To this end, we have enlisted approximately 300 dedicated individuals and churches that serve in this capacity faithfully. Semi-annually, Mercy prepares a Prayer Calendar listing the on-going needs. The prayer calendar serves as a tool – providing guidance, direction and education.

Please note that the names of volunteers are not listed on the prayer calendar. In the past we listed specific names of volunteers of the day they served at Mercy. However, when there was a change in their schedule it was impossible to change the prayer calendar. Therefore, we decided to keep the prayer requests general in nature, (ex: God's anointing on volunteers as they meet with clients today).

Individuals and churches can receive the prayer calendar via e-mail. Please remind individuals and churches receiving the prayer calendar via e-mail to inform us if or when they change their e-mail address.

We appreciate the dedication of our prayer partners and trust that this area of ministry support and involvement will continue to grow.

Please note that as a means of keeping mailing costs down, we appreciate individuals providing their e-mail address so the prayer calendar can be sent in that manner.

## Mercy's Hope Center

Several years ago, an individual donated a building located at 921 & 923 Walnut Street in Reading. We are in the process of remodeling this facility in order to provide the following services at a location **within walking distance of The Citadel and Reading High School:**

- \*Free self-administered pregnancy test
- \*Confidential volunteer peer counseling
- \*Education – prenatal, parenting, Sexually Transmitted Diseases, abstinence
- \*Referrals – prenatal / medical care, adoption, professional counseling, food, public housing, maternity home, WIC, church, mental health, substance abuse / addiction counseling, domestic violence / anger management.

**The PRIMARY FOCUS of Mercy's Hope Center (in addition to the services listed above) will be offering our clients Life Skills Classes. Life Skills education will include:**

- \*Parenting**
- \*Computer**
- \*Food Preparation**
- \*Budgeting (writing checks, balancing a checkbook, etc.)**
- \*Selecting a childcare provider**
- \*Bible Study for Dummies**

**In addition, support groups will be added dealing with single parenting and grief.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**\*MERCY CCPC WILL CONTINUE TO SERVE CLIENTS AT OUR LOCATION AT 105 SOUTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET.**

### **\*Presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

This is the most important aspect of the ministry of Mercy CCPC. We have made a commitment to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to every client – in word and deed. The plan of salvation will continue to be presented at the Hope Center facility in a loving and simple manner with an opportunity to accept Christ.

Please note that funds are needed to complete the remodeling process, and support this second facility. An estimated \$60,000 is necessary to complete the remodeling work. Should funds raised to complete renovations exceed the amount necessary, the balance will be utilized towards the annual budget for Mercy's Hope Center. An estimated annual budget for this facility is \$80,000.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

All potential volunteers are required to complete the application process beginning with the completed application being submitted to Mercy CCPC. The volunteer application used by Mercy CCPC is a standard form utilized by crisis pregnancy centers throughout the United States. Criminal and Child Abuse background checks are required for all board members, staff, and volunteers. In accordance with the requirements of our insurance company Mercy CCPC is responsible for obtaining both. It is NOT sufficient for an individual to present a copy of one or both forms from their place of employment and / or place of current or previous volunteer involvement, and / or church.

Also, in compliance with our insurance company's requirements, males are not utilized in providing volunteer counseling. Male volunteers are needed to provide general maintenance of our facilities.

In addition to the criminal and child abuse background checks, the application process involves the following requirements:

\*Completed Volunteer Application

\*Sign the Statement of Faith as part of the application

\*Sign the Statement of Principle as part of the application

\*Pastoral reference

\*Two personal references (other than family members)

\*Interview with the Director

\*If a potential volunteer has had an abortion and the individual intends to share that experience with clients, it is necessary for the family (at the very least the volunteer's husband) be informed about the abortion and supports his wife's decision to volunteer with Mercy and share her experience. The individual interested in volunteering should have worked through a Post Abortion Bible Study. A past abortion cannot be hidden from the family of the potential volunteer and utilized during a peer counseling session with a client. It is our position that if a past abortion is hidden from a spouse, the individual is not a candidate to serve as a volunteer peer counselor. She may be able to serve in another capacity.

### **Specific Volunteer Opportunities**

#### **Church Representative:**

The Church Rep. serves within the local church as a liaison- representing the ministry of Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center. The Church Rep. will be the person Mercy contacts regarding ministry up-dates, events and opportunities for ministry involvement.

#### **Volunteer Peer Counselor:**

After completing the application process, the individual seeking to serve as a volunteer peer counselor will need to complete the volunteer training. As a means of acclimating new volunteers to our facility, policies, etc., we encourage all volunteers to begin by serving in various areas of the ministry (ex: sorting clothing, or general office work) and shadowing volunteers. When the new volunteer has completed the volunteer peer counseling training, she will shadow several volunteers dealing with a variety of issues – pregnancy test, supplies and parenting education. Prior to seeing clients on her own the new volunteer will be shadowed by the director or by an appointed volunteer. A staff member is ALWAYS available for support, oversight and information.

## **Resource Room:**

This is a hands-on volunteer position. Donated clothing / supplies must be sorted by season, boy / girl and size. The Resource Room is ALWAYS a work in progress – there is ALWAYS something to be sorted. In addition to working in the Resource room, volunteers are needed to prepare Layette's packages for clients who have completed the parenting educational videos.

## **Help Line:**

After completing the necessary training, volunteers can serve on Mercy's Helpline during our normal business hours. Phone calls are transferred to an individual's home during a specific time of day each week in accordance with Mercy's office hours only.

## **General Office Support:**

Preparing Baby Bottles  
Collating office forms  
Making photo copies  
Mailings

## **Assisting with Events:**

Phone calls  
Assisting on the day of the event – assistance is specific to each event  
Picking up necessary supplies / donations

## **General Maintenance:**

Yard work – spring, mid summer, fall  
**Snow removal from sidewalks**  
Cleaning  
Painting

## **Board Members:**

After completing the required application process, the individual has an interview with the board, a vote is taken to accept or reject the applicant. Consisting of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and members at large, the board serves in the capacity of providing direction and oversight to the ministry of Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center.

**Note: Groups interested in volunteering should contact the Director with regard to specific opportunities. One-day or one-time projects are always available.**

## **Suggestions for Involving Individuals and Various Age Groups in the ministry of Mercy:**

(Please note that the Baby Bottle Blessings program is a vital tool that can be utilized throughout the year by ALL age groups.)

We encourage you to use the following suggestions as a means of involving and educating the members of your congregation about in the ministry of Mercy.

### **Tour:**

Schedule a tour of Mercy. If you have NOT taken a tour of Mercy's facility, please schedule one. Invite the missions committee, or various groups from your church to tour our facility.

### **Christmas:**

Hold a Birthday Party for Jesus

Have a Baby Shower for Mary

Instead of a gift exchange collect baby items

Set-up a small tree with cards listing suggestions of items needed, if space is limited use post-it notes on a paper tree

Collect items in a bassinet / crib / specially decorated box

### **Sanctity of Human Life:**

Schedule a speaker from Mercy Community Crisis Pregnancy Center

Utilize bulletin inserts

Have a display of baby items at a prime location

Utilize the current DVD in Morning Worship, a Sunday School Class, Small Group, etc.

Collect baby items – fill a bassinet / crib or specially decorated box

### **Valentine's Day:**

Make a large heart – place post-it notes on the heart (list items needed on one side of the post-it)

Set-up a Love Tree or Agape Tree– use valentine cards to decorate (list items needed on back side of card)

### **Mother's Day:**

Create a floral arrangement (paper or silk). Tag each flower with a suggested donation from Mercy's current or layette needs list. Use a large basket, decorated box or bassinet as a collection container for donated items.

Host a Mother's Day breakfast, desert or lunch or tea event. Cost: bring a baby item for Mercy.

Host a Mother / Son or Mother / Daughter event. Cost: bring a baby item for Mercy.

### **Crop Event (Scrap Booking)**

Host a scrapbooking event at your church. Invite ladies to come and fellowship with other women and work on their scrapbook projects. Invite a Creative Memories representative to attend and help with any scrapbooking needs. If you do not know a Creative Memories representative, please contact Sherry or Terri. We will be able to refer you to several individuals who are available to assist you in this process. Mercy holds two Crop Events (Winter & Fall). There is a suggested donation per

person with the proceeds being donated to Mercy. A light meal and refreshments are available for all in attendance along with door prizes. This is an opportunity to inform the ladies in attendance about the ministry of Mercy by showing a current DVD, having a display, or a representative of Mercy as a guest speaker. Please note that sharing the ministry at this type of event is limited, however a representative of Mercy is available if anyone has questions.

### **Ladies or Mother / Daughter Tea**

Host a Tea at your church. Invite Ladies or Mother / Daughters to host a table for six to eight friends and provide refreshments, and decorations for their table. Another option is for the church to provide the refreshments and decorations, and request a donation with the proceeds being donated to Mercy. Use this as an opportunity to inform the ladies in attendance about the work of Mercy by showing a current DVD, doing a short “Day in the Life of Mercy” skit, and / or having a representative of Mercy as a guest speaker.

### **Father’s Day:**

This is a perfect opportunity to challenge men to get involved in the ministry of Mercy.

Host a Father’s Day breakfast, desert or lunch event. Proceeds benefit Mercy.

Host a Father’s Day activity – bowling, golf, etc. Proceeds benefit Mercy.

Host a Father / Son or Father / Daughter event. Proceeds benefit Mercy.

### **Super Bowl / World Series Event:**

Use this time of year as a tool to provide individuals and families of the ministry of Mercy. Bring an item for Mercy and admission is free. For anyone who does not bring an item, a minimal charge would be suggested. Proceeds benefit Mercy.

### **Labor Day:**

Host a picnic or Baby Shower on Labor Day. Request a donation of a baby item for Mercy.

### **Celebrate Your Birthday / Retirement Party:**

Instead of guests bringing gifts for the “Honored Guest,” have each person bring a wrapped gift for a baby and have the “Guest of Honor” open the gifts.

Ex: A young girl decided to celebrate her birthday in a unique manner. A Birthday Party was held at her home. Each friend brought a special gift – for a baby. The “Birthday Girl” opened the gifts and brought them to Mercy. When this account was shared with a local congregation one teenager in attendance was inspired to celebrate her birthday and at the same time help others. Her friends were invited to her home for pizza, cake, ice cream, games and a movie. Each guest was asked to bring a gift card from a local store (Wal-Mart or K-Mart, etc.) rather than purchase a gift for the “Birthday Girl”. After the party, the teenager and her parents went shopping for baby items for Mercy.

Please note that celebrating a birthday in this manner is not limited to young people. One individual who was celebrating her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday decided to invite her friends to join in the celebration. The front of her invitation read: “I’m going to be 65 and I’m having a baby “shower for Mercy” was on

the inside of the card. Additional details were included listing the date, location, time and suggested baby items. Each guest brought a wrapped baby gift and the individual celebrating her 65<sup>th</sup> birthday unwrapped the gifts for Mercy's babies. Needless to say, everyone had a great time.

### **Eagle Scout Project:**

Several individuals have collected items for Mercy as their Eagle Scout project. Please keep this in mind.

### **Garage / Yard Sale:**

Hold a garage or yard sale and donate the proceeds to Mercy.

### **Read-a-thon:**

Sponsor a read-a-thon for elementary age children in your Sunday School Department. Ask each child to secure sponsors who will donate a specific amount or a specific amount per book. Establish a beginning and ending date as well as a list of age appropriate books and a collection date. Provide some type of age appropriate education regarding the ministry of Mercy.

### **Bike or Rock-A-Thon:**

Sponsor a Bike-A-Thon for youth, or Rock-A-Thon for Senior Citizens. Ask each participant to secure sponsors who will donate a specific amount per mile (youth) or per hour (senior citizen). Provide appropriate information regarding the ministry of Mercy.

Please note that a fund raising event for Mercy can be used as a tool to educate our young people with regard to the value of life.

### **Remember Mercy in your Will and/or request that in lieu of flowers donations be made to Mercy:**

**Remembering Mercy in your will is not complicated. Mercy can be listed as you would any other benefactor. If you are interested in learning more about our relationship with Ambassador Advisors and how they can help you maximize your giving to God's work, please call our Executive Director, Sherry Camelleri at 610.376.0995, or speak directly to our Executive Advisor at Ambassador Advisors, at 1.800.395.7660.**

**Several individuals have requested donations be made to Mercy in lieu of flowers. That has been a great blessing in many ways – their loved one is honored keeping eternity's values in mind, individuals and businesses become acquainted with the ministry, and this has proven to be a great financial blessing to the ministry.**

### **One-Time Work Projects:**

**General building maintenance projects are available. Please contact the Director for additional information at 610.376.0995**

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