

Mercy Seekers

“... Go and find out the meaning of mercy.” Mt. 9:13

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Mary's Mercy Center, Inc.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR
FATHER MICHAEL BARRY, SS.CC.

There is a beautiful Christmas poem by Robert Burns about two children at Christmas whose father is like the Grinch. Their requests for gifts is turned down and definitely refused. The children are in bed thinking of and naming their denied gifts. They say that if their mother was alive they would have all of these gifts and be happy. They decide to pray to God and their Momma to answer their prayers and tell their father what they want. Meanwhile their father is listening to their tearful prayers. He is heartbroken because he misses his wife and their mother. He determines to rush out into the snow drenched night and answer their requests. The poem teaches us a lot.

First of all the feast of Christmas is a feast and it is not all about you. It is about you and God. It is about a gift that is out of this world. It is about God in the fullness of time giving us His Son and a gift that is eternal.

So often we hear about keeping Christ in Christmas. We don't keep Christ in Christmas when we refer to Christmas as the Holiday season for fear of offending non-believers or other people. We don't keep Christmas when we refer to it as Xmas. Jesus told us "Unless you become like little children, you will not enter the kingdom of God" At Veronica's home this Christmas you will see a real Christmas. At Mary's Table on December 22 you will see a real Christmas at the Children's Party. Even as an adult you can return to your memories of Christmas and get rid of the clutter of Christmases past and bring what God gave us at the first Christmas to life once again. Remember it is better to give than to receive but remember when you give you bring joy to others.

Happy Christmas!
- Father Mike

Jesus, joy of man's desiring,
Holy wisdom, love most bright;
Drawn by Thee, our souls aspiring
Soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
With the fire of life impassioned,
Striving still to truth unknown,
Soaring, dying round Thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
Hark, what peaceful music rings;
Where the flock, in Thee confiding,
Drink of joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
Theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead Thine own
In the love of joys unknown.





Irene comes twice a month and shares her spirituality with the residents. This month Irene and her friend also hosted a pizza party for the residents. We are very grateful to Irene for her support and the encouragement she gives to our moms.

Breaking Bread with Pizza

Our wonderful tutors from the school district help the children of Veronica's Home of Mercy with academics and encourage the love of learning. On Halloween they hosted a Pizza Party where the children ate pizza, had candy bags, and played games. It was fun for all involved.

Thank You!



The Ripple Effect We often talk about the progress made by the residents of Veronica's Home of Mercy and the impact these life changes have on their children. What is less often noticed is the impact this has on their family of origin and the community as a whole. Clearly, healthier families creates a healthier community but can you imagine the relief felt by the parents, siblings or other family members when their loved one gets much needed help? Here is note we received from one dad:

"Thank you so much for looking out for our daughter .. You have saved her in ways that I never could. Bless you and the work that you do. ~ B"



Stepping Up & Speaking Up

Rebecca and Erica attended the 2nd annual Champions Breakfast as guest speakers from Veronica's Home of Mercy. The event was hosted by Home Aid IE. The ladies shared their experiences of being at Veronica's Home and the difference it has made in their lives. It was a valuable experience for them to speak in public. We are happy they were invited and proud of them for stepping up to the challenge.

There was a large out pouring of generosity from individuals and organizations for our Thanksgiving Day meal and the food bags distributed the preceding day. Were we ever surprised when several pallets of whole frozen chickens arrived! It meant, while we didn't have enough turkeys for every bag, everyone who came for a food bag would have a little extra something. Then, just before the food bag distribution, we received 30



more turkeys and were able to have a drawing so that about 1 in 5 received a BIG something extra.

Pictured above: Sabrina, Macy, Keilani, Ryan, Ivy, Rennah, Aine, and Aubree. (Not pictured, are Audrey and Eliyyah.)

THANK YOU to among many: Girl Scout Troop #70154, who held a food drive outside their local grocery store: Good Fellas, they donated the turkeys for our Thanksgiving Day Lunch; Arrowhead Credit Union brought canned goods donated by their members;

&

We cannot forget the many volunteers who came on made short work of the event.

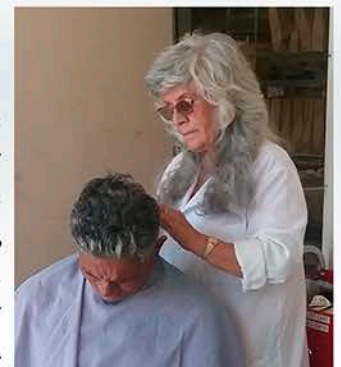


That's Dedication

Yawa' means acting on one's beliefs. The youth of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians were living their call to 'Yawa' as they sold crafts and other items at their 2018 Pow Wow, and donated the proceeds to Mary's Mercy Center. Pictured to the left are the youth group's representatives and our administrator.



Ever wondered about the haircuts at Mary's Table? For more the past 10 years, have been provided, in large part, by Mercedes Smith. We and our guests appreciate her heart and her constancy.



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PO Box 7563
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We are a non-profit public benefit corporation and organized exclusively for charitable, religious and educational purposes.

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Did You KNOW



In October 2018 Mary's Mercy Center through its Mary's Table and Mary's Children provided the following services;

Meals served: **6,599** (includes lunches for parolees)

Food Bags: **595** (over 3 Wednesdays)

Showers (including a change of clothes): **422**

Hygiene kits: **391 plus 78 shaving kits**

Hair Cuts: **21**

Clothing (2-4 outfits and shoes): **174 of which 149 were for extreme emergencies**

Thursday Giveaway: **300 individuals & families**

Children's Program: **28 families' needs were met. We were able to help these families with 1 play pen, 1 high chair, 1 box of baby food, and 1 box of toys.**

We were able to help the needy of community with: 1 box of dishes, 1 box of pots and pans, 2 stools, 3 chairs, 1 youth bed, 2 double mattresses, and 1 twin mattress.

THANK YOU - what we are able to do is possible because

"Prepare the way for the Lord"



Advent (from "ad-venire" in Latin meaning "to come to") begins the Church's liturgical year. It encompasses the four Sundays (and their following weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas. It is a time of preparation that directs our hearts and minds to the second coming of Christ as well as the anniversary of the Lord's birth.

The themes of the weeks reflect how we should prepare:

HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE