Who We Are
We provide essential services for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Mercy Home’s mission is to ensure the quality of life for persons with developmental disabilities through the recognition of each person’s inherent dignity and right to a life filled with learning and love. Our mission is fulfilled in practice through our core values: respect, trust, teamwork, care, and compassion.

Our Work
Mercy Home is committed to the people we serve and to elevating each person’s inherent dignity, enabling a life filled with learning and love. Our core programs are Residential, Medicaid Service Coordination, Respite, and Habilitation services.

Residential
Mercy Home hosts and manages 13 homes for the developmentally disabled in Brooklyn, Queens, and in Nassau County. Our homes are designed to promote the independence and autonomy of medically frail, intellectually and developmentally disabled adults, some with other coexisting challenges and health needs.

Medicaid Service Coordination
Our team works closely with families to help them access vital services that have a beneficial impact on the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities. We work with each participant to build a pathway of opportunity based on interests and strengths, recognizing the inherent dignity of each person. It’s vital for these individuals to have the full support they need to achieve their goals and dreams.

Respite Program
Mercy Home offers a Saturday Respite Program for adults, youth, and children designed to help participants explore the local community, enjoy recreational and social activities, and make friends. We also provide In-Home Respite, a program that provides a break for families each week and builds skills and community integration for individuals with special needs.

Our History
Mercy Home, founded in 1862, first served homeless children. Five boys orphaned by a fire, appeared on the convent steps seeking safety. In 1883, the children’s wing was completed, providing a safe and loving environment for 600 individuals.

By 1976, we began to focus on the needs of developmentally disabled children, establishing a long-term residential care facility. In 1977, we established the first Developmental Therapy Unit in New York City for children with autism spectrum disorder. In 1978, Mercy Home opened our first residential facility in Red Hook, Brooklyn, followed by 12 more over the next 30 years – each one providing individualized care in a community setting.
Creative Arts Therapy
Since 2006, the Creative Arts Therapy program has served hundreds of children diagnosed with autism or other developmental challenges that have trouble in learning and verbal expression. This program provides vital music, drama, and art therapy which allows them to become innovators of their expression, using both verbal and non-verbal contexts to be present, focused, and expressive.

Gifted Artists
The Gifted Artists program provides a creative outlet for the men and women in our program to share their ideas and thoughts through art. Each week, they work with a licensed art therapist to create special works of art. In June, Mercy Home hosts an annual Gallery in the Garden festival displaying artist works in collaboration with students from the Pratt Institute and St. Joseph’s College and local Brooklyn artists.

Melodic Soul
Music has always been a part of Mercy Home dating back to the late 1890s when children were taught to read music. As the years passed, a band was formed and grew to the pop-inspired Melodic Soul, a performance band whose members sing, create original music, and perform for local organizations, at special events, and at Mercy Home. Under the direction of Miguel Torres Castro, the band incorporates its unique message with the spirit of Mercy.

Plant-Grow-Give
Every spring and summer, residents manage and maintain an organic urban farming program. They plant and harvest fruits and vegetables. The food they produce is donated to local nonprofits that serve the hungry. The remainder is used to promote healthy lifestyles for our residents.

How You Can Help
- Visit our website at mercyhomeny.org and join our email list
- Make a donation to support our programs
- Volunteer, email Helen at hstewart@mercyhomeny.org

Mercy Home for Children, a Sisters of Mercy Ministry since 1862