



HOUSE OF MERCY

Fall/Winter 2020 News

Providing Hope, Healing, and a Home for Persons Living with HIV

The 27th Annual Walk for AIDS Goes Virtual!

The 2020 Walk for AIDS, which was postponed in late March following state safety guidelines for the pandemic, is getting a virtual makeover!

Join us on Saturday, September 12, as we band together (and walk separately!) in support of people living with HIV. The newly re-designed virtual walk will feature, among other things, a video kick-off, the chance to register to receive a t-shirt and other goodies, and the opportunity to interact with us by sending us your story of who you walk to honor, along with a photo or video of you and/or your team wearing your walk t-shirt.



House of Mercy

Visit our event page at <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/2020Walk> now to register, donate, or become a sponsor of the Walk. And keep reading to learn more about how you can join us virtually on Walk day!

continued on page 2



Window visits from our favorite therapy dogs helped keep resident spirits up through this summer of social distancing.

INSIDE

- 2020 Virtual Walk Details.....2
- New Staff Welcome.....2
- Mercy Moments.....3
- House of Mercy Notes.....4
- Residence Wish List.....4

Receive House of Mercy Newsletters Online

Send your email address to: houseofmercync@gmail.com

Visit Our Website

www.thehouseofmercy.org

Find Us on Social Media

-  [houseofmercync](#)
-  [houseofmercync](#)
-  [houseofmercy1991](#)
-  [house-of-mercy-inc](#)

Leaving a Legacy



Shirley and one of the many residents whose lives she touched in her time with House of Mercy

This June, we said goodbye to our longtime Director of Nursing, Shirley Stowe, as she retired after 22 years of service to House of Mercy. During her time with the organization, Shirley was instrumental in developing the program into what it is today, and, for those who made a home here, she was a force for love and mercy in a world that often treated them unkindly.

We will certainly miss her, and we are excited for the new adventures that await Shirley in her retirement years. She leaves us with the wish that House of Mercy continues to do the good work

which she has invested so much of her heart into for all these years.

In Shirley's own words, "there is still a lot of work yet to do, and I know this special ministry will continue the awesome work set forth by the Sisters of Mercy back in 1991. It is truly a home filled with love, and I invite you to find a way to be a part of it or stay a part of it along with me." Best wishes, Shirley!

Virtual Walk for AIDS

continued from page 1

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1

Register: Sign up for the Walk and bring your friends and family! For the registration fee, you get to support people living with HIV, and you'll get a Walk packet with a t-shirt and other goodies!

Tell Your Story: After you receive your Walk packet, throw on that t-shirt, take a Walk, and take a picture or short video! Send it to us with a statement about why you walk, or who you walk to honor.

2

Join in on Walk Day: Log on to the event site on September 12 to view our kick-off video and other Walk content. And keep an eye on our social media... you might see your photo or video featured!

3



Other ways to get involved:

- **Sponsor the Event** Sign up as an individual or business sponsor through the event page.
- **Start a Fundraising Page** Create a peer-to-peer page, set a goal, and raise money in support of your walk.
- **Share on Social** Help us spread the word about the event.

Questions? Call 704-825-4711 or email development@thehouseofmercy.org for assistance.

<https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/2020Walk>

Sponsors*			
			
			
			<p>STORE \ SCAN \ SHRED \ SECURE *Confirmed at time of printing</p>

Welcome New Administrative Staff!



Rochelle Myers
Administration & Human Resources Manager



Kesha Lay
Director of Nursing

Mercy Moments *Reflections from the President & CEO*

By Emily E. Chambers Sharpe

“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

In the last few months these words from Ecclesiastes came to mind often, as our world faced a pandemic, swooping economic impacts, and struggled with racism. Here at House of Mercy, we have experienced many seasons in a short few months.

This has been a season of hellos and good-byes. In late February, House of Mercy staff and residents said goodbye to a young man who lived here a few months before he passed away. Just after his death, we rapidly started preparing for COVID-19. A new Administration & HR Manager started. As the virus was declared a pandemic, we learned that our Director of Nursing for 21 years, Shirley Stowe, would retire at the end of May. We hired a new Director of Nursing, Kesha Lay, and celebrated as she finished her administrator training in record time.

This is a season of many people living with HIV in great need, calling House of Mercy looking for help. We looked for ways to help people living with HIV in the midst of the dual economic and public health crisis. Staff worked creatively to provide activities and keep residents' spirits up.

This is a season of generosity, when donors like the NC Healthcare Foundation developed funds to “Fill the Gap” and allow House of Mercy to reach even more people living with HIV through our bridge to the community effort. We reached out to community and global partners and secured donations in-kind and financial (like the Gaston County Virus Relief Fund) to ensure that House of Mercy caregivers and residents have ample personal protective equipment. Our own generous donors gave in response to appeals in record ways.

For me personally, this is a season for a change and bittersweet endings. My family is facing some challenges and I have been recruited for a position that will offer the flexibility that we need in this moment.

For our Board of Directors, this has been season of wonderful leadership. Together with Charlotte-based Next Stage, they are working to find a new President & CEO to lead House of Mercy as we continue on this path of growth and change. Their dedication to House of Mercy's mission and success in this time is admirable.



Residents enjoying time together at the piano

In this season with many transitions and unknowns, House of Mercy continues to provide hope, healing, and a home to people living with HIV. Between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021, we are positioned to reach more people living with HIV with our caring support than in any year since our founding.

Like the Sisters of Mercy who founded us, we see the needs of people living with HIV in our community. We hear the calls of a woman in need of a gas card so that she can get to doctor's appointments and to work. We recognize the struggle of the man who is trying hard to stay on his HIV treatment regimen, and unsure how he will pay this month's rent. With the support of generous foundation donors, we are launching an emergency fund in the coming weeks to support these and other urgent needs made more critical by the current pandemic. This is a season of moving forward with hope and faith, knowing that it is always right to bear witness to the compassion and love of God for people living with HIV.

Thank you for being part of our mission in this season, and in many others. We hope you join us for our virtual Walk for AIDS. While we wish we could gather in person, we gladly receive the gifts of technology that allow us to join in and share why we walk. Though I will be gone from House of Mercy by then, I look forward to joining on September 12 with my family, knowing that I walk because in all seasons, God's love for people living with HIV shines through House of Mercy.



House of Mercy residents with staff member Frankie and our new Director of Nursing, Kesha Lay



HOUSE OF MERCY

PO Box 808, Belmont, NC 28012
www.thehouseofmercy.org

*Providing hope, healing, and a home for
persons living with HIV*

NONPROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 16



House of Mercy residents and staff, Spring 2020

HOUSE OF MERCY NOTES

- **Welcome to House of Mercy's newest board member!**



LaTanya Johnson
Director of Learning,
Hospice & Palliative Care
Charlotte Region

- **House of Mercy appreciates recent grants** from Bank of America, Carolinas Care Partnership, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, Gaston County Virus Relief Fund, The Howe Foundation, MAC AIDS Fund, North Carolina Healthcare Foundation, Poverty, Justice & Peace Fund, and Wells Fargo Foundation.
- **Please consider a donation to House of Mercy** via the reply envelope or credit card at www.thehouseofmercy.org. All donations go directly to fund care for those we serve.

RESIDENCE WISH LIST

Items can be dropped off or delivered to the House of Mercy residence, located at 304 McAuley Circle, Belmont, NC. Questions? Call 704-825-4711.

- Meals and drinks (bottled juice, soda, Kool-Aid, Crystal Light, tea bags, Gatorade)
- Individually wrapped snacks, fruit cups
- Pantry staples, canned foods
- Gift Cards: WalMart, Cook-Out, Pizza Hut, Golden Corral, Tony's Ice Cream, KFC, Dairy Queen, local restaurants
- Personal Care Products: Dove soap (bar or liquid), Dove body wash, deodorant, shampoo, conditioner, triple-blade razors, Vaseline, Chapstick, flushable wipes
- Cleaning Products: liquid laundry & dish detergent, Clorox, Lysol, Mr. Clean
- Household Items: XL garbage bags, toilet paper, towels, washcloths, paper towels, hand sanitizer, Kleenex

Visit our Amazon Charity List at
<http://bit.ly/HOMWISHES> for more ideas!

House of Mercy Board of Directors

Cicely Johnson, *Chair* • Jennifer Aliff, *Vice Chair* • Yates Dunaway IV, *Treasurer* • Nicole Fitz, *Secretary*
Emily E. Chambers Sharpe, *President & CEO* • Sarah Flaherty • LaTanya Johnson • Daniel Kling • Zeke Panzica