

# Looking through the Eyes of our Children

Tomorrow is never promised but wrapping our presence around children who are deserving impacts our mission. On average Mercy Center for Women serves 38 to 40 children each year. These young minds hunger for a better future. They closely observe and appreciate a warm place to sleep, food and a new beginning.

Recently, this young man pictured delivered a note to his mom from his teacher which read:

**Your child was selected this quarter by the classroom teacher as a Lincoln Lion Reader. This is a special award reserved for those students who consistently demonstrate the 10-character traits of citizenship, perseverance, honesty, trustworthiness, fairness, compassion, self-discipline, responsibility, respect and integrity.**

An accomplished young man with a future full of countless opportunities to enrich the lives of others. There is no doubt – his mother has inspired him. She is a seamstress, a certified nail and hair specialist and holds an associate degree in business management. She plans to earn a bachelor’s degree in business management. “The apple does not fall far from the tree.”

This is one more way your gift enriches the lives of others to pursue future dreams.



*“A child’s mind is not a container to be filled but rather a fire to be kindled.”*

*-Dorothea Brande*



**81** Women and Children housed in 2018-2019

Women in Families **24**

Single Women **18**

Children **39**

**1.2 MILLION** dollar Operating Budget

**19%** homeless youth (ages 18-24 years of age)

**100%** of women served have a mental health diagnosis

**57%** struggle with drug and/or alcohol abuse

**83%** have a history of Domestic Violence

**59%** currently fleeing Domestic Violence

Total Shelter Nights in 2018-2019 – **7164**

MERCY CENTER FOR WOMEN  
1039 East 27th Street / Erie, PA 16504  
(814) 455-4577 / [www.mcwerie.org](http://www.mcwerie.org)



## Friendships Take Flight

At the Mercy Center for Women, friendships are celebrated with each other. The Annual Butterfly Celebration walks us through the journey of the Mercy Center. There are definite steps to the journey, through the life cycle of a butterfly. Each transitional development is observed and opportunity for growth provided. Our women and children come full-circle into limitless ways to spread their wings and fly. **Roots to Wings for women, children and caterpillars.**

## The Mercy Center for Women *Building the Present into a Future of Hope*

Will Build a Life of Recovery • Shelter a Mother and Child in Need  
Provide Endless Opportunities to Embrace a New Beginning • Turn a Struggle into a Triumph



ANNUAL FUND 2019-2020

*Through YOU... these Possibilities become Realities*



Dear Friends of the Mercy Center for Women:

Thanks to your generosity, women and children have a safe place to stay, 3 meals a day, necessary programs and career development. On behalf of the women and children we serve at the Mercy Center, thank you for enhancing their self-respect through your kind-heartedness.

Susan left an abusive relationship... **a mother involved in the lives of her children who turned to alcohol to numb the pain of abuse.** She was an active member in the Parent Teacher Organization where her children attended school. A victim of domestic violence, Susan struggled with physical, mental, and emotional abuse. Leaving an abusive home life would mean Susan would have to fight for her children. She entered the Mercy Center for Women and found inner peace. Susan established friendships, independency and the strength to fight for her children. Today, Susan works full-time at a physician's practice and has joint custody of her children. She has permanent housing, a career, car and the love of her children.

Stories like Susan's is how your gift can make an impact. Without your support, Susan would not have the opportunities to move forward on her journey to re-unify with her children.

Today, we are launching our 2019-2020 Mercy Center for Women Fund. Our hope is to help women and children escape poverty, addiction and domestic violence. Our goal of **\$250,000** will allow **40** women and children to come in from the inclement weather into a community of warmth and security. Your gift will provide shelter, food, transportation, social services, education and childcare to the women and children we serve.

We need your help to make this happen.

December is the largest giving month in the calendar year. There is something special which allows for one to give with an open heart and mind. The Mercy Center for Women cannot do this **without** you. Your gift will make a lasting impact on the women and children we serve.

The Mercy Center continues to celebrate 25 years in the community. Thank you for understanding our impact in the community.

Warmly,

*Jennie*

Jennie Hagerty  
Executive Director



*“Always give without remembering and always receive without forgetting.”*  
– Brian Tracy



*“Everything is possible  
for one who believes.”*  
*Mark 9:23*

## Life-changing Words from a Graduate

The Mercy Center for Women impacted my life in so many ways. They took a woman who was physically and spiritually drained and transformed her into a strong, compassionate, independent woman with a strong desire to live. Mercy Center for Women gave me the tools I am going to need to conquer my fears and to cope with my mental health in a healthy, positive way.

The Mercy Center for Women taught me gratitude and humility, and gave me the strength and willingness to move forward. By the Grace of God, I will begin the next chapter of my life. I will soon be on my own and in my new apartment. I will begin career searching but more importantly continuing my road to recovery. I need to put this first. My life is far too important to risk spiraling backwards.

Thank you, Mercy Center for Women!