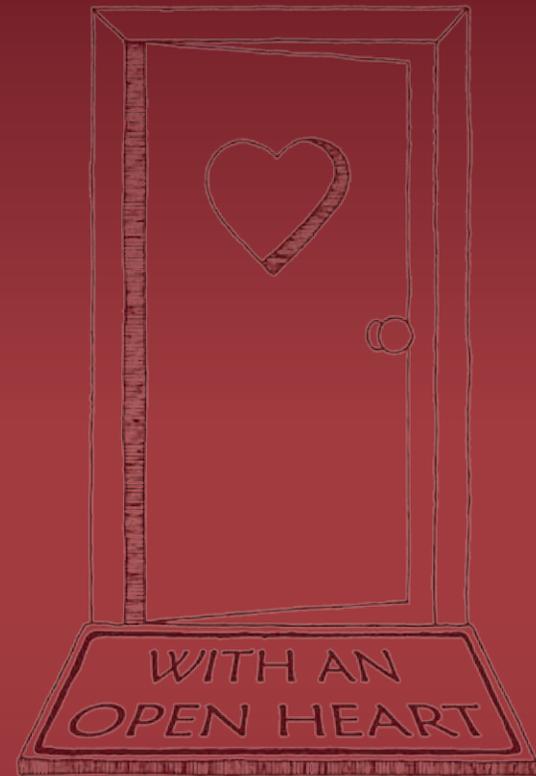


MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS



New York volunteers celebrating Phagwah, a spring festival of colors where participants 'color' one another with dye and powder to chase away the winter grays. (L to R) Amanda Sullivan '12, Annie McCabe '12, Liz Bennett '11, '12.



MY EXPERIENCE WITH MVC HAS ALLOWED ME TO DISCOVER AND APPRECIATE THE HUMANITY IN EVERY SITUATION. I HAVE LEARNED THAT EVERYONE COMES WITH A STORY AND EVERY ACTION THE POWER TO INFLUENCE THAT STORY. MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS HAS ENABLED ME TO CONNECT MY EYES MORE DIRECTLY WITH MY HEART AND I WILL NEVER SEE THE WORLD IN THE SAME WAY AGAIN.

-LIZ BENNETT '11, '12

2012-2013 MERCY VOLUNTEER CORPS

ANNUAL REPORT



Dear Friends,

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a leadership conference sponsored by the Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR). It was a privilege for me to attend and to hear some wonderful speakers. Lynn Levo, CSJ, Ph.D., spoke about awareness, which is a simple word but with a meaning that can be truly powerful.

She indicated that at the center of all our learning is the call to embrace our first vocation – to be fully human – and to understand the centrality of relationships for living and loving that we are called to today. Lynn listed three components of being human:

- To love and be loved;
- To discover our gifts and give them in service: to continue the Incarnation by creating a new world based on love, respect, equality, intimacy, reverence, mutuality and justice for all – without distinction; and
- To be in relationship with God/Mystery learning from Jesus to let the God of the Future attract us.

When she spoke about intimacy she wrote the phrase, in-to-me-see. By acknowledging our own vulnerabilities and embracing the vulnerability of others we have the opportunity to awaken ourselves to true humanity and mutuality of relationship and experience. In essence, this is what the volunteer year is about, this is what the Sisters of Mercy and the mission of Mercy Volunteer Corps encourage.

With the publication of this annual report, we are keenly aware of how God, through each and every one of you, has provided support to Mercy Volunteer Corps and to our Mercy Volunteers. This financial assistance and in-kind support enables our Mercy Volunteers to live out the continuing legacy of Catherine McAuley in a meaningful way. Your support allows Mercy Volunteers to serve over 11,000 people who are poor and marginalized each year and saves placement agencies over \$20,000 a year.

It is indeed this centrality of relationships, for living and loving, in mutuality, in which all of us will continue to move this treasured Mercy Charism into the future. God bless you.

Affectionately in Mercy,

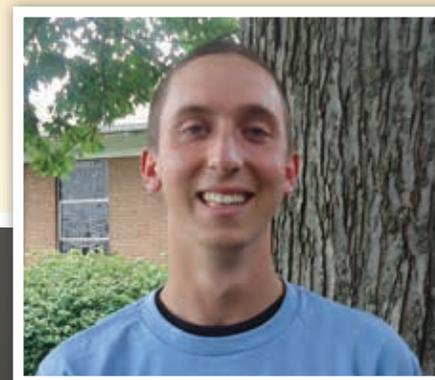
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JAKE DEMARAIS '12

Being a full time teacher is something I have wanted to do now for four years. Now, having that opportunity to have my own classroom and see the light bulbs go on in students' minds is truly rewarding.

Water Story

Life in Guyana always involved being conscious of water. If I wanted to make it through the day without severe dehydration I needed to bring clean water with me. Washing my clothes meant I had to wait for the dirt in the water to settle so that I wasn't washing my clothes in dirty water. Washing my hands was considered a luxury if there was both a way to dry them that wasn't on my skirt and soap. Going to work sometimes meant I had to track through big puddles of water with my long boots on. Guyana may have been called the land of many waters because of its geography but I call it the land of many waters because my life seemed to revolve around thinking about water in one way or the other. My life constantly reminded me of the importance of water and God used that physical lack to show me a spiritual lesson.

One night I had taken some of the boys from the orphanage on a walk by the sea wall which was only about ten feet from the ocean and was littered with garbage. Right next to the garbage filled beach was the brown ocean. The boys ended up joining another group of young kids who were playing cricket between the sea wall and the ocean. I sat on the sea wall and watched the boys. I remember thinking how when I had first came to Guyana I would have only seen the dirty ocean and the garbage next to it. I would have been focused on all the negatives that surrounded me. Eighteen months later all I saw was the boys I love dearly and the beautiful sunset. God showed me that He had changed my heart, He taught me that it doesn't matter how dirty the water is—He still dwells in everything.

I was given the opportunity to work at an HIV clinic in Guyana. After working in the clinic I often wonder how many times before I went to Guyana I looked at a statistic about HIV and didn't think twice about it. HIV's toll on the world was so easy to overlook when I only saw numbers. My life in Guyana has forever made me look at these numbers not simply as numbers but as faces, as tears, as stories that are unheard by so many people. Tears of my patients became the water I was to see too often. I thought of Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane and how He cried with those patients.



BECCA RYBALTOWSKI '11, '12

God taught me more from the tears of those I worked with than from any tears I have ever cried myself.

I taught computers at a vocational school and I was always frustrated on days where

So far, my service site has taught me that all people are entitled to live and work freely in this country, but unfortunately, many people, especially immigrants, are not given this opportunity. It is up to us to help them receive the freedoms and benefits that every person living in this country deserves. It is also up to us to show them the love of Christ as a form of service.



Ashley Harris '11, '12

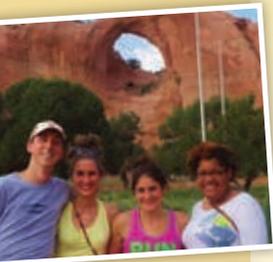


it would rain because less than half of my class would show up. As my time in Guyana went on I began to realize the struggle that came with leaving the house in the rain. Not everyone can afford an umbrella or has a second pair of shoes to wear when one gets wet. In Guyana that vast majority of people use public transportation which means walking in the rain sometimes great distances. God asked me to be merciful by showing me the struggles that I did not have to face. God gently led me from a perspective of judgment to a perspective of understanding and love.

I once heard someone say: Mercy is putting your hands in dirty water. I felt like God taught me how to pray through the image of dirty water. On mission I felt like I messed up over and over again and I began to view myself as dirty water. The Guyanese have a song which takes the perspective of God speaking to us and the chorus goes: I forgive you, I love you, you are mine, take my hand, go in peace, sin no more, beloved one. God was always speaking to me in Guyana saying: I am the one who will make you clean, I am the one guiding you, call my name and no matter how black your water is I will make it clean again. It was by becoming dirty water and reaching out for mercy that I learned God loves me.

Ashley Harris '11, '12

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top photo:
2012-2013
Arizona
volunteers at
Window Rock

middle photo:
Catherine
McCafferty '12
working with
children at her
service site

bottom photo:
Cara Brindley '12
(right) working
with one of her
clients

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LIZ BENNETT '11, '12

I felt liberated by the idea that I don't have to know exactly how to act or what to say. By emptying myself of preoccupations and misinformed assumptions, I can offer people the opportunity to be recognized for who they truly are, and allow room for divine providence to arise in the moment.

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top photo:
 Katrina Myers
 '12 (left) serving
 a client

middle photo:
 Maureen
 Browne '12
 with children at
 her service site

bottom photo:
 Ellen Davis '12
 with children
 from her service
 site visiting
 Niagara Falls



ALLI STEINER '12

The experiences we have this year will lead us towards a life of serving and searching for long-term solutions for many broken systems.



Meg Eckart '11, '12
with children from her service site

2012-13 Tributes and Memorials

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Laura Lukasik Pipitone '03
Audrey Marrah '10, '11
John McLoughlin* '90, '98, '99
Christina Meyer Bric '93
Violet Murphy '98
Susan Murphy James* '05
JoAnne Murray Schluckebier '81
Erin Nangle Vandermark* '97, '98
Colleen Olphert* '93
Gisela & Sherman Otto '06
Monica Parker '13
Antoinette Payner '96
Deanna Poggie Sokola '01
Mary Pulda '05
Elizabeth Renn '01
Carrie Rife Whitmoyer '86

Diane Ruskamp '11, '12
Michele Marie Schroeck, RSM '88
Therese Shea '00
William Simmons Jr. '01
Patricia Smith '10
Jennifer Stein Sibila '95
Lisa Stellino Lamboy '02, '03
Katherine Szymanski '98
Jill Vignola Shaddock '85
John Walsh '92, '95

Bonnie Brynn Walzer '10
Leslie Wessel '04
Irene Wilkinson Best* '97
NaShia Williams '12
Robert Wotyпка '08
Linda Dowling Youth '10



CATHERINE McCAFFERTY '12

The many lessons I've learned this year will remain in my heart and mind; moreover, I imagine that the full impact of this experience will continue to reveal itself as I journey on.

Lisa McGarry Reflection

Lisa McGarry, Ph.D. is Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at Gwynedd Mercy University, and a Mercy Associate in the Mid-Atlantic Community. Lisa has been a long-time supporter of Mercy Volunteer Corps and she shares with us her reasons for her continued support:

About five years ago, my cousin Barbara Coyne and I made a deal: rather than buying each other gifts for birthdays and Christmas, we would make donations in each other's name to a charitable organization. That first year, we agreed that each of us would choose the charity to receive our gift. I asked Barbara to send mine to Mercy Volunteer Corps for several reasons: I know many of the staff and personally witness their individual and collective passion for and dedication to their work; as a Mercy Associate, I believe in supporting the outstanding work of Mercy ministries; and having hosted volunteers for community dinners during orientation week, I know the women and men who sacrifice a year away from their family and friends to live simply and in community, while serving the poor, sick, women, and children in the tradition that Catherine McAuley established and the Sisters, Associates, and Companions continue today. The MVC staff and volunteers personify Catherine's desire that, while we place our confidence in God, we must act as if success depend[s] on our own exertions.



CARA BRINDLEY '12

When I explained this to Barbara, she was impressed, but she became committed to MVC when she received a personal note of thanks from my good friend, fellow Associate, and MVC Executive Director, Marian Uba. Since then Barbara and I have been sending our gifts exclusively to MVC.

Lisa McGarry, Ph.D.



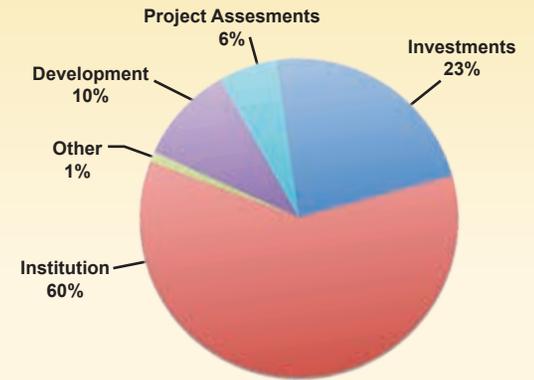
top photo: Lisa traveled with Sandy Mangano, Dean of the School of Education at Gwynedd Mercy University, visiting Mary Immaculate College, the only Mercy college in Ireland, to facilitate a relationship between the two institutions for student exchange. (L to R) Sr. Kilian Bugler, RSM, Lisa McGarry, Sr. Claire Stapleton, RSM, Sr. Jo O'Donovan, RSM, Dr. Sandy Mangano, Holly Cowman (International Relations Officer for Mary Immaculate), and Sr. Delia O'Connor, RSM. They had a comfortable cup of tea...and a few scones!

right photo: Paty Salgado '12 (left) showing off art work with a client

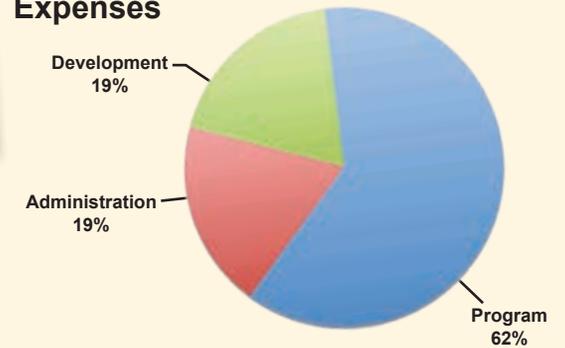


While I certainly hope I did transform the lives and perspectives of those who I worked with and for, I have also been transformed. Now, I feel better prepared to continue to work as an agent of change for those on the margins.

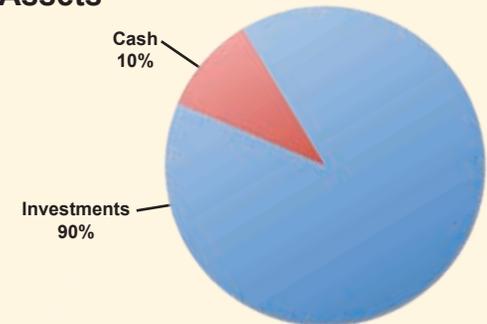
Revenue



Expenses



Assets





2012-13 Community Volunteers

P.O. Box 901
1325 Sumneytown Pike
Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437-0901

Georgetown, Guyana

Meg Eckart

Savannah, GA

Cara Brindley
Katrina Myers
Paty Salgado
Alli Steiner

Detroit, MI

Shari Allen
Karen Brustman
Leila Manongi
John McGill

Philadelphia, PA

Maureen Browne
Veronika Castellanos
Kelsey Hug
Hannah Pace
Mike Slish

St. Michaels, AZ

Jake DeMarais
Allison Hansgate
Stacy Konow
Mary Rose Lepore
Diane Ruskamp
Jamie Tadrzynski
NaShia Williams

Sacramento, CA

Maura Dunn
Ryan Flinn
Christine Poletto
Amy Streit

New York, NY

Liz Bennett
Annie McCabe
Valerie Muenz
Becca Rybaltowski
Amanda Sullivan

Erie, PA

Ellen Davis

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