

Words of Mercy



Night of Hope Will Help Clay County Families in Crisis

State Senator Rob Bradley is Honorary Chair



**Honorary Chair-
Senator Rob Bradley**

Mercy Support Services announces its 6th Annual Celebration on Thursday, October 10, at Sullivan Hall (Sacred Heart Catholic Church) in Fleming Island from 6 to 9 p.m. Mercy's 'Night of Hope' is the signature fundraiser that provides support to Clay County families inclusive of housing, training and counseling services. State Senator Rob Bradley is the Honorary Chairman of this year's event. The Emcee is News4Jax anchor Kent Justice.

The annual event attracts a sell-out crowd of residents, business owners and community leaders who come together for an evening of dining, entertainment and live and silent auctions.

Tickets for Night of Hope are \$100 per person and seating is limited. The planning committee, chaired by Christinne Perez, is already accepting sponsorships and auction item donations.

"I can't wait to see God move on October 10th as we come together to provide HOPE to those in need. Mercy's Night of Hope fundraiser will be something you don't want to miss!" she said.



Night of Hope Planning Committee

For more information about sponsorships, tickets and donating items to the auctions, visit www.mercysupportservices.org or call 904.701.7651.

Mercy Support Services was founded in 2012 to provide help to displaced families, single parents and homeless children and adults in Clay County. Working collaboratively with churches and other non-profit agencies Mercy helps Clay County families in crisis who need assistance to get back on their feet.

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A Word From Patrick



Patrick Hayle

The summer is winding down, and as we prepare for a new season of school routine and Fall, I am reminded of the many needs of our clients and the children in our system who have no permanent home address. The Call Center gets more requests for help now than ever before, which means the demand for Mercy's services is increasing.

Since Mercy's inception in 2012, several of our foundation donors are still faithfully supporting Mercy's operations – giving on a regular basis to this very day. Without their support Mercy could not have accomplished all that it has - these vital programs and services many have come to depend on, month after month.

In honor of these faithful and generous donors who have pioneered this lasting impact in Clay County with consistent financial giving – Mercy Support Services has established the “Guardian Partners.” The Guardian Partners are all supporters who make a planned commitment to give on a consistent basis - weekly, biweekly, monthly, or quarterly.

As a Guardian Partner:

- You will become a member of an exclusive group of key stakeholders who have committed themselves to a better future for the least among us in Clay County.
- You will receive a quarterly email report that shares a more intimate perspective of the needs and accomplishments of Mercy's day-to-day mission.
- As our prayer partners, we will share our needs and offer our continued prayers for your needs and successes as well.
- You acknowledge that recurring giving offers operational benefits and savings because of less paperwork and staff hours in the general budget. With the reliability of a consistent recurring income, Mercy needs fewer appeals, and less reliance on the outcome of events and auctions.
- You will receive a welcome packet to help share the brand and educate others on the vital role that Mercy plays in Clay County.

As we explore the expansion of our programs to change even more lives in Clay County for the better, the Guardian Partners' support and commitment is crucial to the continued growth of our ministry and mission. So, we are privileged to be able to honor individuals who consistently support the future of Mercy Support Services.

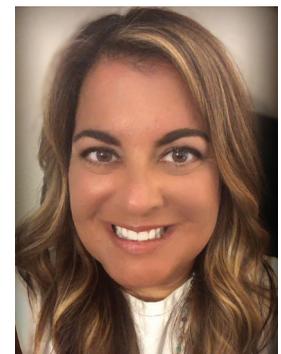
We hope and pray for you all – that this season will be a time of meaningful family experiences for you, in the anticipation of the wonderful Fall season. We truly appreciate all of you and your hearts for Mercy.

May God Bless You!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick".

Meet Melissa!

We welcome our new Program Manager, Melissa Whitaker, to our staff family. She has had a sincere passion for the issues surrounding homelessness in Clay County families since her 12 years of working as the homeless advocate for the Clay County school system. She brings extensive knowledge of the issues and a personal rapport with the clients that helps her to be the perfect choice in helping to manage the growing programs and needs. From initial intake, evaluations and the details of daily management for the families in residence, Melissa is a cheerful addition to our Mercy family!



Melissa Whitaker

Your Prayers and Support Impacted Their Lives

My husband and I were literally facing being homeless. We were struggling to make ends meet. I was not working because I was dealing with my mom's medical issues, and her drug abuse. I was also trying to care for my niece who had essentially lost both parents to drugs. My brother passed away, and my sister-in-law was an addict. My sister-in-law eventually got back on her feet and my niece went back to live with her, Praise God!!

Unfortunately, I still did not have a job, and we were no longer going to be able to get help from social security. My husband's income was not enough to cover our expenses alone, so we literally were not able to pay bills each month.

We received financial coaching from Mercy Support Services that helped us learn how to budget money properly, how to save, and how to cut costs. We also learned how to be better stewards of our time, and finally I was able to get a job.

We are doing great, we are still working on budgeting, but we are doing better. We have attainable goals and know what it will take to reach them. We both now have jobs and we communicate a lot better about our finances.

Thank you for supporting this mission. Your prayers, and support impacted our lives in a great way. Our coaches were there every step of the way to pray for us and encourage us. They were firm when needed, but never made us feel as if we had completely blown it. We love this ministry and are praying for ways we too can support it.

— Mark and Erica

Rapid Rehousing Graduate Reflects on Her Year of Working Toward Self-Sufficiency

We were a family of four, living in a hotel. We only had one income due to my husband suffering from uncontrollable seizures and not able to work. We heard about Mercy through my daughter's school. I called Ms. Frances for rental assistance and Mercy helped our family get into affordable housing through the Rapid Rehousing program.

We also met great financial counselors, Mrs. Janice and Mr. Tim, who provided guidance on saving and money management.

We are living comfortably and no longer worrying about our safety of hotel living, financially able to pay our bills and have a savings account building.

You were such a blessing to our family and just that one phone call changed our lives. Thank you for all that you do for the families in our community. You will all be forever in our hearts. You are all a blessing.

- N.H.



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“By providing intake and referral services through the call center Care Agents, and coordinating services for those who are circumstantially in need, Mercy contributes to the improvement of our community by making these services more available and more efficient,” said Mercy Executive Director R. Patrick Hayle.

Last year Mercy received over 2,295 calls in the Call Center, helping more than 5,300 people in Clay County. In 2018 alone, more than 25 families avoided homelessness through the Self-Sufficiency program, Eviction Prevention program and Rapid Rehousing program.

Introducing Our Guardian Partners Program

In honor of those donors who have pioneered a lasting impact in Clay County, with consistent financial giving – Mercy Support Services has established the “**Guardian Partners**” recognizing those who make a planned commitment to give on a consistent basis - weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Guardians will receive:

- Exclusive membership as a key stakeholder that has committed to the long-term betterment of the socio-economic levels in the future of Clay County
- Quarterly email reports that share a more intimate perspective of the needs and accomplishments of Mercy’s day-to-day mission.

Through this partnership, Mercy is privileged to be able to honor individuals who consistently support the future of the programs of Mercy Support Services.

Your support and commitment is crucial to the continued growth of our ministry and mission as we expand our programs and change lives in Clay County for the better.

You Can Help Support Families on Their Path to Self-Sufficiency

Mercy partners with local churches in our Adopt-a-Supportive-Home program. Seven churches individually sponsor our residential housing. The church teams are constantly pouring into the lives of our new residents as they are greeted with a cleaned apartment, filled with goodies and ongoing encouragement and prayers. As they develop skills with their Care Coaches, they eventually move on to a self-sufficient life, and new families move in. This means, along with the donations from the church, Mercy maintains a constant stock of specific home goods for the new families.

Our Needs List includes:

- **Twin sheet sets**
- **Twin comforters**
- **Laundry detergent**
- **Christian books and movies**
- **Full sheet sets**
- **Bath towels**
- **Dryer sheets**
- **Hygiene toiletry bags**

If you have items to donate or would like more information, please contact Dena Collins at 904.701.7652.



...getting the right help to people in need!

(904) 297-4052

MERCYSUPPORTSERVICES.ORG

CONTACT US

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Save The Date!

The 3rd Annual Jack Myers Champions for Mercy Golf Tournament will be Friday, May 8, 2020 at Eagle Harbor Golf & Country Club in Fleming Island. Tee it up on your calendar so you don't miss it!



MISSION STATEMENT

Mercy Support Services is a Christ-centered organization serving the people of Clay County who are circumstantially in need by providing services that guide them to self-sufficiency through a network of compassionate-hearted people and organizations.