

# Feeding Our Community

**Body**

*Community Garden*

**Mind**

*Education & Training*

**Spirit**

*Empowerment & Caring*

# 2013 Financial Report

For year ending December 31, 2013  
(unaudited)

## Total Revenue \$1,365,390

Program Fees	\$625,930	46%
Investment	\$26,180	2%
Donated Services	\$43,055	3%
Miscellaneous	\$8,159	<1%
Special Events	\$118,629	9%
Grants	\$337,900	25%
Contributions	\$205,537	15%

## Total Expenses \$1,387,476

Program	\$1,140,648	84%
Fundraising	\$118,964	8%
General & Management	\$127,864	8%

- Total Net Assets \$1,937,910
- Change in Net Assets \$114,036
- Net Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments \$136,168

### Major Sponsors

Catholic Health Partners  
Mercy Health  
Sisters of Mercy, S. Central Community  
Health Span  
Huntington Bank  
JTM Food Group  
Messer Construction Company  
PG LifeLink  
Superior Home Care  
City of Cincinnati

### Dear Friends and Supporters

In 2013, we continued to respond to real needs in our community and to achieve positive outcomes, as you will see in this annual report. More than 1,600 unduplicated individuals received the Touch of Mercy through one of our Services.

Through our Senior Services, some 135 seniors living on very low incomes regularly received advocacy support, help meeting their basic needs, spiritual visits and other aid. This included nutritious food from our monthly pantry and fresh produce from our community garden, which is featured in this report. With our help, they were able to maintain their independence. And individuals with mental health challenges achieved stability in meeting their basic needs.

More than 100 older adults, many of whom are shut-ins, received home health care through the year-round services of our home care team. These aides and nurses provided over 20,000 hours of care and definitely proved to be real heroes during the record-breaking snow and cold of the 2013-2014 winter.

### *Achieving empowerment*

A record 15 adult learners earned their GEDs through the work of our Education Services, which continue to develop new programs to meet the changing needs of 160 students annually.

One hundred and sixty-six unemployed and under-educated women (and a few men) learned the skills needed to become home care aides in our Home Care Aide

Training program (HCAT). Expanding this program was a primary focus for the year. On the facing page, read about the enthusiastic support this program received from one group of benefactors, and the results HCAT achieved.

In 2013, we initiated new partnerships and projects, to respond to changing needs, and to adjust to significant systemic changes in our service areas. These changes required that we work even harder, often with fewer resources.

### *With our deepest thanks*

But...we succeeded in large part because of you, our friends and supporters, who choose to partner with us. Your generous and faithful support made it possible for us to educate, heal, comfort, guide, encourage and empower our neighbors who are poor and marginalized. For this support, we are deeply grateful. And we promise to continue to work hard to remain worthy of your support and trust.



Sue Kathman  
Executive Director



Jane H. Shea  
Board Chairperson



# Donations & Doorways

*Big hearts – and they do windows*

**O**n a rainy, cold day in March, the training center used by our Home Care Aide Training program (HCAT) got a thorough spring cleaning by members of Impact 100 and their husbands. This philanthropic group of more than 300 women extended its involvement with MNM, through hands-on help, in addition to its generous \$107,000 grant, which expanded HCAT in 2013.

Impact 100 made a “wise investment” in HCAT, Sally Nugent, Nonprofit Liaison, told MNM supporters. “The effects of education are far-reaching and we are very proud to be a part of that.”

HCAT has been improving the health status of older adults throughout southwestern Ohio by training and certifying hundreds of new home care aides to meet the rapidly growing needs of home-bound seniors. Additionally, HCAT has improved the personal status of its many students – mostly women – by opening doorways for them to enter successful career paths and to improve their own and their families’ lives.

## *Numbers show success*

With support from donors like Impact 100, the four-week program (offered monthly) was able to train 166 individuals who attained their certificates to work as home care aides, representing a 90 percent graduation rate. Some 80 percent of these graduates then gained employment at one of the area’s many home care agencies, including MNM’s own Home Care Services.

The success of HCAT has further been noticed by Ohio government officials, who are working with Sue Kathman, Executive Director, and Mary Lou Wolf, Director of Home Care, to use HCAT as a model in setting achievement standards for home care aides statewide.

Whether they are opening doors to career opportunities for HCAT students through their grant, or washing doorframes and windows at the HCAT training center, the members of Impact 100 – and their spouses – have become enthusiastic friends of Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

“In recognition of this support,” said Sue Kathman, “we are delighted to present to Impact 100 our 2014 Touch of Mercy Award.”

**S**haron Smith, RN, HCAT Coordinator, instructs a student in the training center, which got a thorough spring cleaning by energetic members of Impact 100 and their husbands, who then posed with HCAT “Mac,” the practice mannequin.



# Small Garden Produces Big Benefits

*850 pounds harvested & distributed*



**O**n a rainy early-spring day university students turn-over protective winter grasses. The garden is a flurry of activity as plant placement is laid out, tired soil fertilized, flower beds cleared and summer supplies are stored in the garden shed.

**S**mall hands in an after-school program at Doherty School repot plants started from seeds under a grow light box in their classroom. The students watered and fed the seedlings everyday.

**A**mong her duties, Garden Coordinator Jocelyn Coulter transfers plant material collected last fall over to the last stage reduction area of the compost pile.

**P**lump purple eggplants, red tomatoes in many shapes, lots of green zucchini, beans, kale, onions. Located between two houses in the middle of a quiet block in Cincinnati's Walnut Hills neighborhood, the Julie Hanser Community Garden is a vital part of Mercy Neighborhood Ministries.

Though it is one of MNM's smaller programs, the garden produces big results for senior nutrition year after year. Starting with harvests as early as April and stretching well into the fall, fresh vegetables are available to our senior clients through MNM's monthly food pantry, and are often delivered to clients' homes by MNM Senior Services and Home Care staff or volunteers.

Achieving these results requires a year-round effort and persistent work by dozens of garden volunteers. Education Specialist Sue Plummer serves as Garden Manager, committing part of her MNM work week to garden tasks, plus many additional volunteered hours. Jocelyn Coulter is part-time Garden Coordinator. Student volunteers from Xavier University, Mother of Mercy High School, Mercy Montessori and other schools help with garden projects, explained Sue. "But the backbone of our garden is the corps of many regular volunteers who plant and weed and fertilize and harvest week after week."

In the past three years the garden has grown some 20 different kinds of vegetables in 150 different varieties. In 2013 garden production totaled 850 lbs. of fresh vegetables, a 52 percent increase from two years earlier.

Founded in 2005 through a generous gift from the late Julie Hanser, MNM's community garden is helping area seniors establish and maintain healthy diets. Additionally, the flower bed that borders the garden creates a beautiful green space in this inner-city neighborhood. Overall this small plot of ground is producing great benefits for clients and friends.

## *A Knock on The Door Brings Fresh Vegetables & Supper Fixin's*

**A**t a time when many seniors struggle to maintain healthy diets, the Julie Hanser Community Garden provides a bounty of vegetables for MNM clients to pick up at the monthly food pantry, which serves approximately 135 seniors, according to Kathy Durkee, Director of Senior Services.



**D**uring summer months young volunteers are eager to be part of the garden crew. Watering, weeding, picking cucumbers, tomatoes and placing them in delivery bags are their favorite tasks.

**F**or Education Specialist and Garden Manager Sue Plummer, the community garden means year-round activities, from winter planning, to planting and fertilizing, and then harvesting late into the fall.

**S**r. Louise Huitink, RSM, Senior Services Outreach Specialist, delivers a supply of collard greens to Odessa Nelson, who promptly prepares them using a handed-down, family recipe.

# Neither Ice nor Snow nor Winter Cold...



**W**e'll never forget it! The winter of 2013-2014. Piles of snow, record low temperatures;

garage doors frozen shut and icy driveways that trapped us in our homes. Schools and even many businesses closed for "snow days."

But when you're a Mercy Neighborhood Ministries home care aide you can't take a "snow day." Your job is to help other people – especially older people – with their everyday lives. The seniors count on MNM aides to help them get out of bed, prepare breakfast, and assure them that they are safe. Being a friendly, supportive presence brings a welcome warmth as the cold makes their lives seem even lonelier. As a home care aide you have an everyday job – no matter what the weather.

In the 2013-2014 winter, MNM home care aides came through for their clients. "Our aides were real heroes," said Mary Lou Wolf, Director of Home Care. That meant a very early morning start most days. And since many of our aides don't have cars, their travel to clients meant trudging through snow drifts to freezing bus stops, often making one or two transfers to arrive at a client's home. Making sure her client had heat and plenty of food in the refrigerator was an important duty during those cold days. After a big smile and a hug, it was back into the cold to travel to her next client. "Yes," repeated Mary Lou, "they were real heroes!"



**C**ynthia Browne, Program Assistant and Home Care Aide, helps a client with his exercises on a freezing morning.

**Center:** The coldest, snowiest winter on record called forth heroic efforts in order for MNM home care aides to reach their clients on schedule.

**Far left:** Four MNM aides leave an early morning staff meeting, heading for their clients' homes.

## *In a record breaking winter our aides were heroes!*

Meanwhile, back inside the MNM Home Care office, the temperature was warmer, but the pace was just as hectic. "At times it was almost frantic," said Candy Montgomery, LPN, Staffing Manager. Clients called with urgent problems that needed changes in their regular care schedule. And despite our aides' own best efforts, some did get stranded, so Candy had to juggle other schedules to ensure that all clients were served. But in the end, all MNM clients were cared for because of the hard work of people both outside and inside the office.

Everyone recognized that these were extraordinary months for our home care aides, but even in ordinary times, home care aides are often the unheralded providers of essential health services to an ever-growing population of seniors. In 2013 MNM Home Care Services employed 27 aides, who cared for 107 senior clients, providing 10,500 visits and 23,000 hours of care. These services are often provided in a coordinated, cooperative manner with other home care agencies serving southwestern Ohio.

"Home care will always be a challenge," said Mary Lou, "but through the dedication of our aides and by working together, we can provide the highest possible level of care for seniors in our area."



**I**n the office, Operations Manager, Kim Cook and Staffing Manager Candy Montgomery continually needed to juggle home care schedules.

## *GED Program Graduates Record Number*



Graduates De'Nisha Lee and Hope Turnage with (left to right) Kathy Atkinson, Director of Education; Dr. Mark Mussman, Education Coordinator; Marty Hogan, volunteer; Br. Bill Grundish, SM, Education Specialist; Mark Garvey, volunteer; Bill Thielman, volunteer; Sue Plummer, Education Specialist, and Sue Kathman, Executive Director.

**I**n 2013, 15 students in Mercy Neighborhood Ministries' GED program reached their personal goals of graduating, after hours of class and study and, in some cases, years of pursuing their dream.

The total was a record number in the 18 years since the GED program began under MNM's predecessor Mercy Connection. In recent years, it has been more usual to have three to five graduates, according to Kathy Atkinson, Director of Education. "Last year many of our graduates – and our staff – made an extra push to complete the program, before extensive new procedures came into place in January 2014," said Kathy.

Through all of 2013, the number of students in the ABLÉ/GED program totaled 161, who were supported by Kathy and three other full-time staff members, as well as by 22 volunteers, who donated 1,587 hours of service conducting classes, tutoring individual students and mentoring them toward success.

For the Education program, 2013 was a great success. For graduates like Hope Turnage, earning her GED was the fulfillment of a promise she had made to herself, her husband and her two daughters. "The staff and volunteers encouraged me and helped at every step," she said.

"Moving into 2014, we're developing new approaches to help our students succeed," said Kathy. Education remains vital to MNM's mission of empowering individuals to take charge of their own lives.

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*Mercy Neighborhood Ministries*

DeSales Crossings Center • 1602 Madison Road • Cincinnati, Ohio 45206  
513.751.2500    [www.mercyneighborhoodministries.org](http://www.mercyneighborhoodministries.org)