



A sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy

1437 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14610
585-288-2710
mercybridges.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Mercy Bridges, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, welcomes and serves adults, including immigrants and refugees, independent of religious affiliation, providing basic literacy education and English as a second language, with compassion and acceptance, in collaboration with the Greater Rochester community.

ADVISORY BOARD

Jane Ashley-Stava (Interim)
Barbara Castle
Jack Clarcq
Vilma Goetting - Board Liaison
Sr. Miriam Nugent, RSM - Chair
Michael Tucci
David Uerz

Spring/Summer 2019
(July 2019)



Printing - Rick Speciale
585-262-7590
30 Bermar Park-Ste. 2
Rochester, NY 14624



Letter from Mercy Bridges . . .

Dear Friends of Mercy Bridges,

A special note from a former Advisory Board Member:

As a former Board Member of the literacy program, called Mercy Bridges, I was charged with program support, through recruitment of students, tutors, materials, training and financial for staffing implementation needs.

Mercy Bridges has been in existence since 2006 and has been very successful in meeting the needs of our Greater Rochester Community's need for mastery of language preparation for our adult community. So, how do we use our creative powers to find exceptional ways to fundraise so our program can continue its work?

The idea of a Field of Honor®, where we could celebrate the lives and service of those who have dedicated themselves for our freedom, health, and lives came to mind!

The decision to have flags available to be flown & watched over for 72 hours, on the front circle of the Mercy Center property, for Veterans, Firefighters, Police, EMTs and Medical Personnel, was unanimously made by the governing Advisory Board Members, the Program Directors and staff of Mercy Bridges.

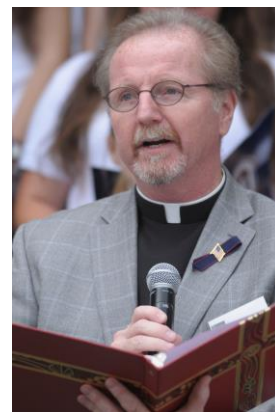
As they say, "It takes a village" – Our annual Field of Honor® is filled with hundreds of flags in honor of these heroes (living/deceased) who have worked and served our families & community well. I encourage you to support this effort in literacy, so our Monroe County Community can increase the chances for excellence and success in family life, the workplace and career advancement.

Thank you!
Dorothy R. Pecoraro

Rev. Robert S. Bourcy – Advisory Board Member Retirement

For Rev. Robert Bourcy, this is a special year. We honor his work as a priest for 35 years. With this ever-changing world, he continues to stay connected to his community and the community of priests.

Fr. Rob, as we affectionally refer to him, joined Mercy Bridges as pastoral representative, for a three- year term in 2013. After his first term ended in June 2016, he agreed to remain on the Advisory Board for another three-year term which ended June 30, 2019. We can't say how much we will miss our Board Member, supporter and friend. He as been so helpful in moving Mercy Bridges forward these last six years. He has been our prayer worrier and supporter of this mission to educate adults in the Rochester Community. He makes every fundraiser fun and draws so many more people to our ministry as donors and tutors. We wish him God's blessing for his next steps in ministry Thank you Fr. Rob!



Annual Benefactors' Reception

This year our Annual Benefactors' Reception featured three learners, Sylvia Sullivan, Neville Kerr and Igor Light. We want to share a little of their messages to our benefactors and tutors present.

Sylvia Sullivan - Sylvia has been receiving tutoring from Jane Lustyk for a year and a half. Both women have had some difficulties in their lives and through Mercy Bridges, they have formed a wonderful friendship and mentoring for learning. Each one has worked towards healing and they complement each other so well. Jane is rather shy and was concerned that she would not be able to work with Sylvia. Once these two ladies met, Jane made mention that she was so blessed to have a hardworking learner. Sylvia suffered an accident, which makes learning again, more difficult. Jane is extremely patient and is such a great encourager. Sylvia's family came to encourage her and listen to her speech. Sylvia continues to make progress and is very enthusiastic.

Neville Kerr – Neville came from Jamaica in 2015. He's a hard worker as well and enjoys his learning sessions. He is working towards taking his GED/TASC test. He wants to learn math skills as well, so his tutor has been using word problems to help him with reading and doing math at the same time. Neville will be taking a little time off, as he is going to Jamaica to visit family this summer. We will continue to encourage Neville to reach his goals in education.

Igor Light – Igor has been a learner with Mercy Bridges for a few years. He is studying at SUNY Brockport working to complete his MBA in Family Counseling. He has promoted Mercy Bridges through videos and other class work. He is very interested in becoming more fluent in English speaking & writing. He will be finishing his course work very soon and is raising 3 young children as well. He and his wife, Nicole welcomed their third child a year ago, but he continues to study in all areas. He's such a blessing and we look forward to working with him as he develops educational opportunities for his patients.

*Thank you all who participated in the set up for this event
and the special care to assist our guests.*

MERCY BRIDGES FIELD OF HONOR® 2019

Believe it or not, we are going full speed to sell Tribute Flags for 2019! We are doing well and ask our friends to invite their friends and family to participate either by purchasing a Sponsorship/Tribute Flag; or by volunteering.

There are a few changes! We will have only one ceremony this year. Details for this year are listed below as follows:

REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY
Saturday – September 14, 2019 at 11 AM – 12 PM
Mercy Center Chapel

VIEWING IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
with Free on-site parking all weekend
Thursday—9/12/19 at 3 PM through
Sunday—9/15/19 at 3 PM

Sponsorships/Flag Orders are due by Friday – August 30, 2019

Order by printing a form located on our website: mercybridges.org, or email Natalie, she will be happy to take your order over the phone.

You may also purchase a flag by paying through PayPal! Just make a note of the person/group being remembered/honored, branch of service/emergency agency, and who is the person/family/group flying the flag for their dedication.

Sign up to Volunteer - Bring a friend with you!

Volunteer Coordinator/Assistant for FOH Volunteers (work with Mercy Bridges Team)

Vigil Hospitality - (Volunteers come for 2-hour shifts during the 72 hours the Field is open).

Greeters/Guides for visitors attending the Remembrance Ceremony.

Help with dismantling the flags on Sunday- 9/15/19 at 3 PM.

If you can visit local businesses to post a flyer, sell a flag, or need more information about the event, please contact Natalie at 288-2710 Ext. 121; or, email her at ndepew@mercynypaw.org.

*Thank you in advance for volunteering your time and talent to support
the Field of Honor® and Mercy Bridges.*

Learner News!

Benjamin Choi came to Mercy Bridges to learn English. He is from South Korea and is a clothes designer. He wanted to know how to speak and understand the language of the fashion industry in his new country. His tutor was seeking out ways to help Benjamin display his work and mentioned the “Rochester Fashion Week”. The tutor helped make connections with the committee and Benjamin was granted an interview with a designer in NYC. He was accepted as a designer to show his work at the “Fashion Week” event in June 2019. He has since made connections in Rochester, NY with boutiques that may want to sell his designs in their stores. We will keep you posted on his achievements and how he is doing with learning English. We have included an article in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle early in May 2019, highlighting Benjamin’s story.

- **Benjamin Choi is making his U.S. fashion show debut in Rochester June 20.**
- **He used his celebrity as a finalist on Project Runway Korea to launch his ready-to-wear women's fashion line.**
- **After a decade of success, Choi is hitting the U.S. market at Fashion Week of Rochester’s one-night preview show in June.**

Benjamin Choi used his celebrity as a finalist on *Project Runway Korea* to launch his ready-to-wear women's fashion line, Benjamin Cadette. After a decade of success in the fashion industry in South Korea, Choi, 39, decided it was time to hit the American market.

But he’s not launching his art-to-wear line in New York City. It’s happening in Rochester during Fashion Week’s special Hot Summer Nights show on June 20.

The runway will be equally novel: Models will glide on the escalators at The Metropolitan, formerly the Chase Tower, 1 S. Clinton St. The show will feature local and national designers along with Choi.

Funds raised from Hot Summer Nights will benefit Center for Youth’s newest residence for LGBTQ and trafficked homeless youths, scheduled to open later this year.

Featured on the runway will be Rochester designers Sage Cruz Field and Lucky Nahum. Retailers include Neon Wave and Chandelier Boutique.

The fall annual Fashion Week is slated for October. This one-night show is to get people excited about the fall event while showcasing some of Rochester’s best fashions, said Meghan Mundy, a founder of Fashion Week of Rochester.



Designer Benjamin Choi will show some of his line in the Hot Summer Nights fashion show on June 20. (Photo: JAMIE GERMANO/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE)

Choi decided to launch his collection in Rochester instead of New York because in a midsized city, there are more opportunities for an international designer to meet people.

Choi said the collection that will be shown at Fashion Week’s Hot Summer Night is inspired by the endangered kakapo bird, a species of ground-dwelling parrot with short wings and tail. Many of the outfits feature pleats and cut-outs to pay homage to the bird’s look.



Katie Furfaro, one of the models set to appear in the Hot Summer Nights fashion show on the escalators at the Metropolitan.

(Photo: JAMIE GERMANO/ROCHESTER DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE)

MCHAO@Gannett.com

<https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/2019/06/06/benjamin-choi-project-runway-designer-debuts-rochester-fashion-show/1342073001/>

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS

For Giving in Fiscal Year 2018 – 2019

July 1, 2018 – July 15, 2019

Benefactors –\$1,000 +

Ronald C. Anderson
Robert & Barbara Brooks-Quinn
Dalzells Hearing Centers
DeVany Fund Grant
Robert & Amalia Earley
Richard & Rita Kane
Lewis Tree Service
Daniel & Kirsten Mahar
Paychex, Inc.
Francis Rhatigan
Sisters of Mercy - NyPaW
Kathleen B. & Charles R.
Walgreen, III Foundation
Wegmans Food Markets

Patrons –\$500 - \$999

Mary Ann Brophy
Davie Kaplan, CPA, P. C.
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Dorothy R. Pecoraro
Kevin & Christina Rhatigan
St. Christopher Church of Chili
St. Pius X Church
John & Sue Steinbrenner
Cynthia A. Storelli
Sts. Agnes, Rose & Paul Churches

Friends –\$100 - \$499

American Legion Braman Post 1229
Mary Austin
Sr. Karlien Bach, RSM
Rev. Robert S. Bourcy
Terry Bruno
Brian & Barbara Castle
Patrick Christiano
Jack & Barbara Clarcq
Bishop Emeritus Matthew H. Clark
Patricia & William Clark
Virginia Clark
Marion Clement
Tom & Frances Collier
Jack & Gayle Conners
Thomas Conners, Jr.
Arthur & Monica Cosgrove
Crossbridge Financial Group
Carol Cummings
Diane Dailey
Mary Doyle
Elite Image Salon & Spa
Fioravanti Florist
Laura Formella

Jean Galofaro
Rev. Robert Guadio
Ralph & Bonnie Gestwicki
Aline C. Glavin
Mark Henderson
Joseph Kelly
Patricia Kenny
Robert A. Keown
Klein Steel Service, Inc.
Joan Lawrence
Dorothy Lindsay
Jane Lorey
Suzanne Lorz
Dan & Nancy Loughran
Stephen MacAdam
Robert & Heidi McGee-Ryan
Luke & Dorothy McKeever
Rev. Kevin McKenna
Marcia Meagher
Gerard & Ann Ganzer Mercuri
Rosalie Milliman
Rev. Thomas Mull
Nazareth College –
Veterans Enrollment
Nazareth Elementary
Margaret M. Nichols
John & Pam Notebaert
John & Lynda Nugent
Rev. John L. O'Connor
Robert & Francine O'Neill
Leann Patel
Thomas & Mary Phillips
Thomas Rhatigan
Gary & Renee Rigoni
Goldie Rogers
Sr. Arlene Semesky, RSM
Dr. Lorraine E. Scheck
Sisters of Mercy - Rochester
Sons of the American Legion Chili
St. Catherine of Siena Church
St. Charles Borromeo Church
Michael Tucci
Rev. Robert Werth

Donors –\$10 - \$99

Linda Almeter
Calvin Ames
Andrews Center
Mary Therese Anselmi
Marianne Antczak
Felice Armignacco
Jane Ashley-Stava
Timothy & Karen Bancroft
Patricia Bartnicki
Christine Beck
Elizabeth Berliner
Dennis & Susan Bethmann
Sr. Mary Ann Binsack, RSM
Gail Bologna-Melens
Eleanor Bonagura
Mary Bostwick
Rev. Robert Bradler
Theresa Brennan
Catherine Brien
Teri Bucks
Frank & Debra Burm
Nancy Carlisle
Joseph Carney
Everett & Jane Charette
Church of the Resurrection
Sue Ann Clifford-Alvut
Patricia Corcoran
Cathie Costello
Marie L. Cunningham
Daughters of the American
Revolution – Irondequoit Chapter
Anne Davis
Bernadine DeCarlo
Sr. Margaret Deegan, RSM
Sr. Connie Derby, RSM
Elizabeth Derry
Carol DiNeri
Mary Anne DiPolito
Sisters of Mercy –
Emmaus Community
John & Barbara Englert
JoAnne Englerth
Sr. Diane Marie Erskine, RSM
Anne Fassanella
Mary Ann Faust
Betsy Fisher
David & Pamela Fisher
Tracy Fisher
Mary Fitch
Elizabeth Flanagan

Donors - \$10 - \$99 - (Cont'd)

Patricia Flanigan
Jim & Kathy Foster
Jean Fuehrer
Judy Fuller
Sr. Sheila Geraghty, RSM
Donna Gmelin
Wilma Goetting
Barbara Grillo
Jennie Gugino
Grace Gullo
Patricia Hart
Johanna Heise
Katherine Hodges
Joseph Holleran
Susan Howard
Mary Howard
Sally E. Huttemann
Carol Hynes
Robert Ingrassio
Thomas & Virginia Jabaut
Mary T. Jamison
Norm & Judy Karsten
Maureen Keegan
Roberta Kenny
Mary R. Kenrick
Catherine Kress
James & Linda Kronenwetter
Sr. Kathleen Kolmer, RSM
Kenneth J. Krotz
Rev. James Lawlor
Millie Lewis
Mary Ellen Lille
Bettie (Helen) Lindley
Miguel A. Llano, Jr.
Liz Mahle
Pauline Malone
Anita A. Mance
Marketview Liquor, Inc.
Catherine Marr
Robert McNeill
Patricia Miller
Theresa Mirante
William Moehle
Mary K. Mohan
Carol Montante
Louise Morasse
Maura Mulholland
Rosie Myers
Donna Noble
Sr. Miriam Nugent, RSM
Thomas O'Brien
Sr. Laurie Orman, RSM
Our Lady Queen of Peace
Mary Palamar
Claudette Payment
John & Susanne Perrone
Marilyn Petz

Mary Ellen Pittman
Pittsford Volunteer Fire Assoc., Inc.
Roslyn Polvino
Richard & Kathleen Powers
Anita Principi
Joseph & Jeanne Proctor
Patrick J. Quinn
William & Patricia Rahn, Jr.
Bernadette Rall
Mary Randall
Sr. Katherine Ann Rappl, RSM
Carol Redden
Sr. Jacquelyn Reichart, RSM
Sr. Jeanne Reichart, RSM
Donald & Kathleen Rimlinger
Sr. Roberta Rodenhouse, RSM
Elizabeth Rook
Sr. Theresa Rutty, RSM
Nan Schaller
Mary Scheg
Paul & JoAnne Schmidt
Edward Schmitt
Ellen Schwartz
Sr. Mary Lou Seitz, RSM
Theodore & Shirley Semesky
Peter & Mary Sheffer
Carolyn Skill
Robert Slebodnick &
Lisa Gambino
Sr. Edna Slyck, RSM
Sheryl Sorce
Sharon Spring
Mary Frances Staub-Carr
Sr. Dolores Ann Stein, RSM
Thomas Stapleton
Patricia D. Strack
Timothy Streb
Target – Irondequoit
Janeen Thompson
Margaret Todisco
Christina Trombley
David & Kathleen Uerz
Carol A. Van Atta
Maria Vasho
Dick & Anita Wagner
Betty Wahl
Sr. Kathryn Wahl, RSM
JoAnn Wawrzaszek
Sr. Edwardine Weaver, RSM
David Werth
Sr. Nancy Whitley, RSM
Sr. Marilyn Williams, RSM
Marie Wilson
Jana Wintish
Albert & Catherine Witner
Timothy & Cathy Woodlock
Mary Wychowski

John & Catherine Zellefrow
James & Karen Zielinski

*Field of Honor®
In-Kind Donors*

Brighton Fire Dept., Inc.
Brighton Police Dept.
EPI Printing & Finishing
Fioravanti Florist, Inc.
Home Depot
Knights of Columbus Trinity
Council #4618
Klein Steel Service
J. Kozel Steel

*Many thanks to our
Anonymous Donors,
Tutors & Volunteers*

CONTINUED PROGRAM NEEDS!

TUTORS NEEDED: (All Year Long)

Mercy Bridges, a ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, needs volunteer tutors for this adult literacy service. Tutors typically commit to 1 ½ - 2 hours of instructing a learner each week. Tutoring takes place in a public place such as:

- * A library
- * Community Center
- * Church Hall
- * Coffee Shop

Some tutoring takes place at the Mercy Bridges Resource Room located at 1437 Blossom Road. Learners vary in their educational experiences and instructional needs, including about 80% from foreign countries who are eager to learn English. We have an abundance of instructional materials in our recently updated resource room and tutor training is provided by professional instructors. Ongoing consultation and professional development is always available for individuals and small groups of tutors. If you are interested in knowing more about Mercy Bridges and becoming a tutor for an adult learner, please call 585-288-2710 Ext. 121 for an appointment.

LEARNERS ALWAYS WELCOME: (All Year Long)

Mercy Bridges would like a little help from our readers and supporters. We have met many new learners this year and have been blessed to have tutors waiting for them. We are working to reach out with other agencies to find adults needing our services. However, it has been a slow process and we know that there are so many not being reached. If any of you good people find an adult that could use a little assistance reading better, needing help with applications for employment, studying for driver's license exams, etc. Please encourage them to come see us. We have assessment testing on Tuesday mornings; and if a potential learner needs a different day/time for their assessment, they can feel free to communicate that with Natalie. We have a few volunteers willing to help with assessments should Jane Stava have a conflict.

We have flyers in different languages (Arabic, Nepali, Spanish, Vietnamese) which are distributed to the local libraries, but any help and encouragement from a friend is always more beneficial. Thank you for passing our service on to other friends, family and agencies.

Mercy Bridges
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas-NyPPaW
1437 Blossom Road
Rochester, NY 14610

Place
Stamp
Here

Help us Bridge the Literacy Gap!

Please give in the following ways:



Donor Designation
#2485

Wish List 2019-2020

Cases of copy paper & Postage Stamps

Gift Cards from:

Dollar Tree, Lowes, Home Depot, Target, Staples & Walmart
Empty printer cartridges

585-288-2710 Ext. 121