

# 2024

**MERCY FAMILY CENTER**  
ANNUAL REPORT  
JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

# Dear Friends of Mercy,

Since our founding in 1992, Mercy Family Center has strived to improve access to mental health care for children, adolescents, adults and families in crisis throughout Southeast Louisiana. Because of you, we are better able to provide compassionate, community-based mental health care for those in need.

In the past year, our highly trained staff of psychiatrists, psychologists and licensed clinical social workers treated 4,133 patients ages 3 to 85 suffering from depression, anxiety, PTSD and other diagnoses, regardless of their ability to pay.

Mercy's Project Fleur-de-lis is our school-based mental health program that serves children and families, mental health professionals, school administrators and teachers. Last year, we partnered with 150 schools and community organizations throughout the Greater New Orleans area to train and support 255 mental health professionals in suicide prevention and trauma-informed care.

Your support of Mercy Family Center through our events like Catfish, Corndogs and Cornhole and the Color of Hope Gala, and through your generous donations year-round, gives hope to the children, adults and families in our community who desperately need it.

On behalf of Mercy's co-workers and providers, and those we serve, thank you for your support of Mercy's important work. Together we are changing lives.

Sincerely,



**Rex Menasco**  
Executive Director

## Mercy Family Center Receives \$1 Million Federal Appropriation for Mental Health Care

**These funds will significantly impact thousands of people in our community**

Like many communities across the nation, South Louisiana is facing a mental health crisis. Having access to quality mental health care is vital for the prosperity of our region, yet support for mental health services is often overlooked and under-funded.

Senator Bill Cassidy has made mental health funding a priority in Congress, securing \$5.5 million for mental health and substance abuse services in Louisiana, of

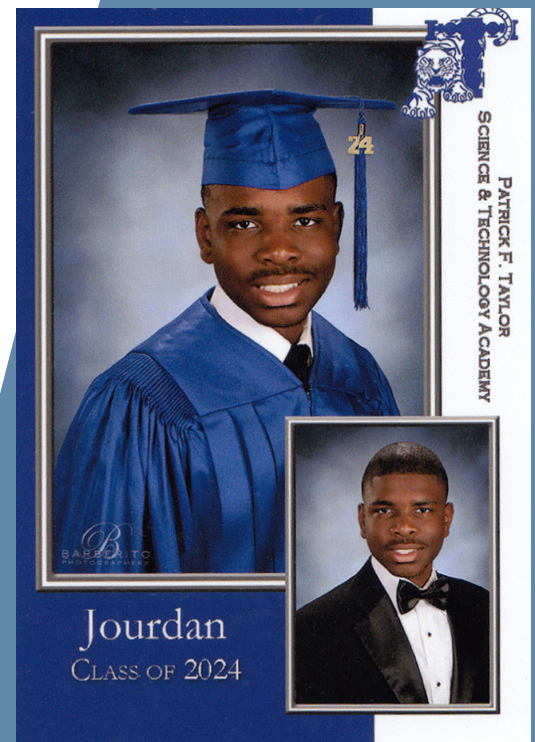
which Mercy Family Center is honored to receive \$1 million.

These funds will significantly impact thousands of people in our community who need affordable, high quality mental health care.

**Mercy Family Center will be able to expand services and increase access to care through a comprehensive, three-pronged approach:**

1. Establish a "Center for Best Practices" at Mercy that will provide effective interventions and programs for those with mental health concerns.
2. Provide education, training and support to equip primary care providers and community-based service organizations to identify mental health concerns and be a point of access for those needing care.
3. Improve access to affordable, high quality mental health care by expanding telehealth services to pediatric and family practice clinics in the New Orleans area.

We are deeply grateful to Senator Cassidy for his support in securing this funding. While this is only the first step in addressing the impacts of mental illness in our state, it will make a profound difference in the lives of many of our patients.



Jourdan, a grateful patient of Mercy Family Center

## From Grief to Greatness

Thirteen years ago, at just five years old, Jourdan came to Mercy Family Center after the heartbreaking loss of his father. Under the compassionate guidance of Dr. Baraka Perez, he began to overcome his grief.

**Jourdan's mother credits the unwavering support and compassionate care from Mercy for his remarkable achievements.**

During this journey, Jourdan and his mother Stephanie found a warm and supportive friend in Carolyn New, a medical assistant at Mercy, who embraced them like family.

Years later, when Jourdan faced new challenges, Stephanie reached out to Carolyn for help. Dr. Perez had moved on, and both Jourdan and Stephanie were apprehensive about working

with a different therapist. Trusting Carolyn's judgment, they began therapy with Laura Danna, LCSW, reassured by Carolyn's heartfelt endorsement that she would trust her own children to Laura's care.

Laura's compassionate support helped Jourdan confront his lingering grief and its impact on his mother. Both Jourdan and Stephanie dedicated themselves fully to the therapy process, working closely with Laura to heal and grow.

Their hard work and commitment paid off in big ways. Carolyn and Laura were overjoyed to receive news of Jourdan's recent high school graduation, where he proudly stood as class valedictorian. Stephanie credits the unwavering support and compassionate care from Mercy, especially from Laura and Carolyn, for Jourdan's remarkable achievements, including earning a full college scholarship. She believes none of this would have been possible without their dedication and love.

# Your Gifts at Work

Because of generous donations and continued support from donors like you, many programs and services were funded in fiscal year 2024.



## Project Fleur-de-Lis

\$152,289



## Suicide Prevention, Crisis Response, Trauma and Grief Interventions

\$137,730



## Charity Care

\$53,342



## Area of Greatest Need

\$16,136



### Our Funding Priorities

#### Charity Care:

Mercy Family Center strives to improve the health of our community and increase access to care by providing assistance to uninsured and underinsured children and families. This year, you helped us provide mental health care at no cost to 240 children.

#### Suicide Prevention:

Mercy's Suicide Prevention Program provides education and training to schools, health care providers and community organizations in Southeast Louisiana and throughout Mercy Health Ministry's communities. This year, you helped us train 1,000 people in suicide interventions.

#### Disaster Response:

Mercy's Disaster Response Program provides mental health support through collaborative partnerships during and after disasters, fostering community resilience while preparing for the unexpected. This year, you helped us support 350 people after disasters.



An innovative Crisis Kit containing activities and supplies for students who are experiencing grief.

## Project Fleur-de-lis Responds to School Crises with Innovative Crisis Kits

For over a decade, Mercy's Project Fleur-de-lis (PFDL) has responded to school crisis events, including community violence, car accidents and natural disasters that negatively affect the mental health of students. In the past two years, PFDL has seen a significant increase in the need for school crisis response.

Many children and adolescents are struggling with grief, anxiety, depression and PTSD from being exposed to, and sometimes directly affected by, violence in our community. Schools have reached out to us for resources and activities for students suffering in the aftermath of community violence.

PFDL has developed an innovative Crisis Kit containing activities and supplies for school mental health professionals to use when working with students who are experiencing grief. At a recent Crisis Kit training, one school mental health professional said, "I am so grateful that Project Fleur-de-lis has put together this ready-to-use kit for us. I've needed something like this for so long but haven't had the time or resources to put it together."

Thanks to our generous donors, PFDL can continue to offer innovative solutions that support and uplift students, teachers and staff at area schools.

**Together** we can touch more lives. Save more lives. And improve more lives.

### Mercy Family Center Board of Directors

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### Our Mission

As the Sisters of Mercy before us, we bring to life the healing ministry of Jesus through our compassionate care and exceptional service.

### Our Purpose

Through collaborative partnerships, Mercy Health Foundation impacts the flourishing of our communities by inviting into our ministry those who have a passion to improve quality of life and make care accessible for all.

**Mercy**†  
 Health Foundation

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For more information or to view a full donor list, scan the QR code or visit us online at [mercyhealthfoundation.net/MercyFamilyCenter](http://mercyhealthfoundation.net/MercyFamilyCenter)