



## Financial Independence, A Step Out Of Poverty

### A Resident Gains a Bank Account & Confidence

"I wanted a bank account and haven't had one in many, many years, like since my 20's." Jolene knew that in order to move forward, she needed to gain financial education and independence. During her stay at House of Mercy, she developed goals for her health and housing, and she knew financial independence needed to be near the top of her list. Through a partnership with Common Wealth Charlotte, a local nonprofit helping individuals increase their financial capabilities to attain financial sustainability, program participants gain access to no-cost checking and savings accounts, financial workshops, and confidence to thrive. Jolene described the application process in simple steps, "They gave me a debit card the day I went in. The process was to provide all my documents, and it was free to open."



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#EndHIV #EndStigma

#EndDiscrimination

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Jolene looked forward to this for a while and wished she had known it would be such an easy process. She also shared that she had never put any money away or saved before, and gaining a bank account will help with that new goal.

Based on improved health outcomes, Jolene graduated from our PALM Program and became an active participant in our Positive Connections program. With the support of our Positive Connections case manager, she began focusing on developing the life skills necessary to help her thrive when she transitions back into the community and independent living.

She secured an income with SOAR benefits, attended financial management workshops to develop a budget, opened a bank account, and obtained housing in the broader community. As she thinks about moving out of House of Mercy she is reminded that she is not alone. She has the support team at House of Mercy to support her as she builds a new life in a new community. In fact, people 55 and older account for the largest number of people living with HIV in the Charlotte Metro region, according to the 2020 HIV Surveillance Report by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services.

"I look forward to putting money in my savings, and I know that will be a good thing." Jolene is right, saving is a good habit and necessary for securing safe, decent and affordable housing.



WALK for AIDS



# Belmont WALK for AIDS

## \$37,482 RAISED

We did it! House of Mercy wrapped up its 28th Annual WALK for AIDS Belmont 2022 event on September 17th, 2022. Together, we raised \$37,482 for House of Mercy at the WALK for AIDS Belmont 2022.

We had a big goal for our WALK for AIDS Belmont 2022 target, and we made significant strides to have a lasting impact to help stop the stigma and end HIV.

We had over 115 NEW donors to House of Mercy. We understand that many organizations deserve your support, and we are grateful that House of Mercy came to mind. Please know that we sincerely appreciate your partnership. Our sincerest thanks to Ramona Holloway for being a fantastic emcee; her energy captivated the crowd, Buddy Love as our DJ, and Meredith, with ISI Belmont, and her pre-walk stretch had us ready to GO. From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!



WELCOME

## Tonia Grimes

Positive Connections Case Manager

A transplant from Youngstown, Ohio, and living in Gaston County most of my life, I was educated in the Gaston County school system. In 2003, I received my Associate's Degree in paralegal technology from Gaston College and worked as a paralegal for a local attorney for five years. I then found myself praying about what I wanted to do with my life and asked for assistance in finding that way from God. I began volunteering with an established non-profit in Gaston County before having my own bout with homelessness in 2010. During this time, I gained respect and empathy with the homeless community and began working in the community soon after.

In 2014, I earned my SOAR certification and began processing disability applications in Gaston, Lincoln and Cleveland Counties. While joyous, I noticed a void within the programs and wanted to help stabilize clients and have them achieve a sense of security. I was offered the case manager position in 2017 and was then able to help families find their place of independence. Working with families helped cultivate my love for the ministry of helping others. Being a case manager at the same place that was generous enough to help my family in our time of need was a humbling and exciting experience. In 2018, while Executive Director of a local housing non-profit, I honed my leadership skills by developing programs to assist families and individuals out of homelessness and into permanent housing. I am loyal, diligent and committed to this work, and I look forward to continuing the effort and being that vociferous soundboard for our community in every way.

Together  
we give.



Nov 29, 2022

GIVING  
TUESDAY

#GIVINGTUESDAY  
GivingTuesday is a global generosity movement unleashing the power of radical generosity. Celebrated on November 29th, millions of people are inspired to give, collaborate, and celebrate generosity.

We welcome your gift – every Tuesday and every day – whether it's some of your time, a donation, or your voice to increase compassion and mercy in our community.

Join us on Nov. 29th by helping to update the residence.  
Donations appreciated.

## World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day, designated on 1 December every year since 1988, is an international day of awareness to reflect on the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS while honoring the lives of those lost to an AIDS-related illness. We renew our commitment to supporting the well-being of those living with HIV/AIDS and the importance of equity in our response to end the epidemic.

Putting Ourselves to the Test: Achieving Equity to End HIV is this year's theme. Please follow us on social media for details regarding our WORLD AIDS DAY memorial and to reflect on the justice work before us as we emphasize the importance of accountability and action in our response to end the epidemic.



## Birthday Fundraiser

Facebook makes it incredibly easy to rally friends and family members to give. Two weeks before your birthday, you'll receive a notification directly from Facebook inviting you to host a campaign for the nonprofit of your choice. We hope House of Mercy and this article will come to mind.

After following these steps, you will be able to set up a fundraiser for your birthday and other events,

STEP 1: Select Fundraisers from the left menu on Facebook

STEP 2: Click "Select Nonprofits"

STEP 3: Search for "House of Mercy"

STEP 4: Edit the amount, time and information for why you are fundraising



## Resident Update

Trina has a place of her own to call home! She entered House of Mercy just 17 months ago as a Palm Program participant. Upon reaching her health goals and showing improved health outcomes, she immediately started working on her life skills. As she became an active participant in our Positive Connections program, she received supportive services while in a transitional housing program with a sister organization. While there, she visited House of Mercy regularly and began focusing on gaining her independence.

Housing is closely linked to successful HIV outcomes, so we work closely with each resident of the PALM program to develop a housing plan upon admission. We also celebrate when a resident finds a place to call home because it is another major step along their journey of wellness and an improved quality of life.

Positive Connections provides case management and supportive services to those who transition out of the PALM program or live independently in the community. Participants thrive while navigating their pathway to wellness with the support of a network of caring, informed and compassionate people. We believe that you must “Connect to Thrive,” so we offer participants a variety of resources as they continue on their journey to a higher quality of life.

A significant pillar of wellness is housing, so we focus on creating or maintaining housing stability for those we serve through emergency assistance, permanent housing placement and life skills. Individuals may also receive support with a range of needs through a referral to our partners. Participants have received assistance regarding financial matters, obtaining GED, computer literacy, securing benefits, legal matters and employment search support.

## Pastoral Ministry

By: Sister Camelita Hagan

The Sisters of Mercy, an international community of Roman Catholic women who dedicate their lives to the Gospel of Jesus and take vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service, envision a just world for people who lack the resources necessary to live a full life. As a sponsored ministry of the Sisters of Mercy, our commitment to creating a just world continues today and is an important part of our ministry here at the House of Mercy.

Each resident of the PALM Program is offered Pastoral Ministry along their journey. Ministry begins with building a relationship with the residents, respecting their individuality and showing them how much Christ loves them. Another important aspect of ministry is to help alleviate the anxieties and fears that individuals experience, such as, being alienated from family or not being accepted by others and being uncertain about the future. Each resident has their own story to tell, and often is a very painful story about their journey that brought them to the House of Mercy.

The House of Mercy is a home staffed by a very loving, compassionate, caring group of caregivers. Residents know and experience the loving care that is given to them. The Pastoral Minister helps the person on entering the house to become comfortable in their new home by being present to them and listening to their anxieties and concerns. Offering to pray with the person often brings a sense of peace and helps the person to share their faith journey.

# VOLUNTEER

House of Mercy is looking for volunteers.

We have volunteer opportunities such as

- Clerical support
- IT Support
- Yardwork
- Cleaning Volunteers
- Basic Life Skills Volunteers
- Meal Volunteers
- Drivers
- Special Event Volunteers

If you are interested in these opportunities,

we would love to have you involved.

Visit our website at

[www.thehouseofmercy.org](http://www.thehouseofmercy.org) and fill out the Volunteer Application.



PO Box 808  
Belmont, NC 28012

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## Ways to Support House of Mercy

### 1 Donate

Your recurring donations help more people attain safe, affordable housing and access to medication. Make a long-term impact in the life of an individual today.

### 2 Volunteer

Love connecting with people? Want to prepare a meal for our residents? Want to join us for some fun and competitive games? Learn more about individual and corporate volunteering.  
[www.thehouseofmercy.org/volunteer](http://www.thehouseofmercy.org/volunteer)

### 3 Workplace Giving

Can you give to House of Mercy through your employer? Use our online search tool to find out if your employer participates in our workplace giving program.

### 4 Host a Fundraiser

Are you great at partying for a cause? You can host a fundraising activity for House of Mercy. Create a Facebook fundraiser, share it with friends, get donations and reach your goal! This is a great way to raise money on your birthday.

### 5 Legacy Giving

Have you included House of Mercy in your Estate Plan? Planned giving leaves a lasting legacy. Legacy giving helps continue the charitable giving timeline.

### 6 AmazonSmile

You shop. Amazon gives. AmazonSmile donates .03% per purchase to your charity of choice. (House of Mercy) "Manage your account by visiting "Settings > AmazonSmile."