

# HEARTS OF MERCY

## Focusing on the Hearts and Minds of Today's Youth

Hearts of Mercy is a nonprofit organization that provides support, care and guidance in the lives of underserved children in the Barnegat and Manahawkin communities. With a focus on the hearts and minds of today's youth, HOM has established close relationships with local elementary, middle, and high schools in order to deepen our understanding of the needs of the children in their program. They provide tutoring, mentoring, access to sports and enrichment throughout the academic year as well as summer camp. With these opportunities, HOM exposes their students to new people, places, and experiences that aid in positive growth and development.

## History & Background of HOM

Kristin Santorelli is the founder of Hearts of Mercy. HOM is a 501c3 organization serving youth in Barnegat and the surrounding communities. While walking through one of the neighborhoods in her town, was saddened by the sight of needy children in her community. When she started to connect with them, she learned that many of them lacked direction and hope for the future. These kids have fallen through the cracks. This downhill slide seems to speed up as soon as the kids enter middle school. Kristen was moved by compassion and decided to take action. She collaborated with friends and neighbors and local businesses who shared her concerns. As a result, Hearts of Mercy was born. Hearts of Mercy, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, serves as an advocate for low income families that are living in need, providing programs, events, and assistance to families and kids in Barnegat and surrounding communities.

# HOM's Legacy of Support & Giving

The following is a list of some of what HOM has been able to provide to residents in need through their amazing staff of volunteers, sponsors, and community partners, including OCAG:

- Food
- Diapers
- School supplies
- Summer activities
- Camping trips
- Trips to the Lakewood Blue Claws
- Backpack giveaways
- Pool parties
- Fishing events
- Thanksgiving dinners
- Holiday gifts for kids and families
- Mentors
- Reading buddies
- After school tutoring program
- Transportation to and from tutoring program
- Transportation to and from local youth group
- Party in the park event
- a butterfly garden to teach life science, **AND . . .**
- **an after school art program through a new partnership between HOM and OCAG!!!**

## HOW OUR OCAG MEMBERS CAN HELP

Hearts of Mercy wants their community to thrive. OCAG would like to support their continued efforts. This year, we have chosen HOM to be the recipient of the proceeds from our holiday concert. Please join us in our effort to support needy children and their families this holiday season.