



The Circle of Mercy

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

HONORING
25 Years
ON EAST 145TH STREET

AND EXPANDING
OUR FUTURE AT
LA CENTRAL

Mercy Center's Campaign for
Renewal and Growth



A Note from Our Board Chair



Michael Termini

Dear Friend of Mercy Center,

For more than thirty years, Mercy Center has been a steadfast presence in the South Bronx, grounded in the belief that every person deserves opportunity, dignity, and community. Since its founding in 1990 by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Center has grown in response to the needs of its neighbors, adapting thoughtfully while remaining deeply rooted in its mission.

Throughout this history, the Board of Directors has played a vital role in guiding Mercy Center's growth and ensuring its long-term stability. At key moments, the Board has stepped forward to invest in the infrastructure and leadership necessary to sustain and strengthen the organization for the future. The Circle of Mercy Capital Campaign represents one of those defining moments.

As Chair of the Board, I am proud to share that the Board of Directors stands fully behind this campaign and the move to La Central. Securing a 15-year lease and building out a long-term second site reflects careful planning, prudent stewardship, and a shared commitment to Mercy Center's future. This campaign is not about expansion for its own sake, but about ensuring that Mercy Center has the space, security, and resources needed to serve the community with excellence for years to come.

The Board has made this campaign a priority, and members are leading by example through their own generous commitments. We do so with confidence in Mercy Center's leadership, staff, and financial stewardship, and with deep respect for the donors and partners who make this work possible.

We invite you to join us in this important effort. Your support of the Circle of Mercy Capital Campaign is an investment in continuity, stability, and the enduring impact of Mercy Center's mission. Together, we can honor the organization's history while building a strong foundation for the next generation of families who will walk through our doors.

Thank you for your belief in Mercy Center and for your partnership in this pivotal moment.

Sincerely,
Michael Termini
Chair, Board of Directors
Mercy Center

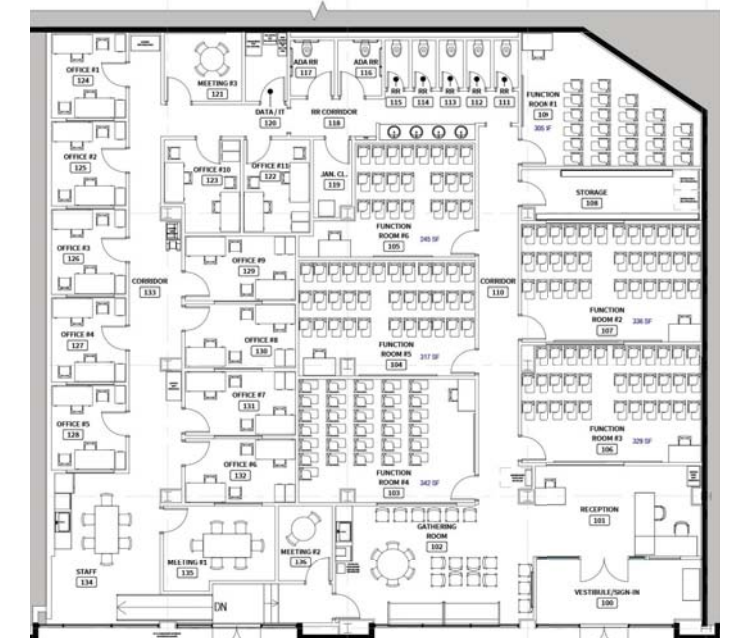
Executive Summary

Since 1990, Mercy Center has been a beacon of hope, education, and empowerment in the South Bronx. Our headquarters at East 145th Street has served as the heart of our mission for the past 25 years, providing a welcoming place where women, men, children, and families access education, workforce development, immigration services, family support, youth programming, and other critical resources. While this building has faithfully supported our growing community, it has not undergone significant capital improvements since it was constructed a quarter century ago and now requires important repairs and upgrades to remain safe, welcoming, and functional.

For the past decade, Mercy Center's second site on East 149th Street has helped thousands of immigrants and newcomers each year. As our ten-year lease concludes, we are relocating to La Central, 435 Westchester Avenue, where we have secured a new 15-year lease that will provide the stability and space needed for the next chapter of our growth.

Through the Circle of Mercy Capital Campaign, we seek to raise \$250,000 to support two critical priorities. First, campaign funds will complement the property owner's planned \$1.2 million base build at La Central by helping furnish, equip, and prepare the new space to create a modern, safe, and welcoming environment for participants and staff. Second, campaign proceeds will address long-overdue capital improvements at our East 145th Street headquarters, including roof repairs, replacement of worn floor tiles, interior wall restoration, and other building projects that have accumulated after 25 years of continuous use.

Together, these investments will preserve Mercy Center's longstanding home while preparing a long-term second location that will expand our capacity to serve the South Bronx community and beyond. By strengthening both facilities, Mercy Center will continue providing high-quality programs and compassionate support to thousands of individuals and families for many years to come.



Division: 3-4 bays

THE CASE FOR SUPPORT

A Critical New Chapter at La Central



Our Mission

Mercy Center creates opportunities for women, men, and families in the South Bronx to grow and thrive through education, family, civic, social, and economic programs. We build community with a spirit of hospitality, respect, and equity in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy.

145th Street Renovations

While the building has served our community exceptionally well, it has not undergone significant capital improvements since it was constructed. Campaign funds will support critical upgrades, including roof repairs, replacement of worn floor tiles, interior wall restoration, and other essential building improvements to ensure that our longtime home remains safe, welcoming, and fully equipped to serve the South Bronx for decades to come.



Our Opportunity at La Central

The move to La Central represents a vital step forward for Mercy Center. This **new, long-term home** will provide a stable foundation for program expansion, community gatherings, and continued growth--within a **transit-accessible hub** that keeps us close to the participants and families we serve.

Our Growth

Mercy Center's reach has grown dramatically in FY25:

- More than **4,200** individuals served annually
- Over **1,580** adults enrolled in ESOL and workforce development classes
- **70** youth participating in more than **8,800** hours of programming
- More than **600** job seekers supported through training and coaching
- More than **1,500** immigrant participants and families receiving legal screenings and immigration services

Demand continues to grow as new immigrants arrive, families seek economic stability, and our community turns to Mercy Center for trusted support and opportunity.



Your support ensures Mercy Center's next chapter is as strong and welcoming as the last 35 years.

Campaign Overview

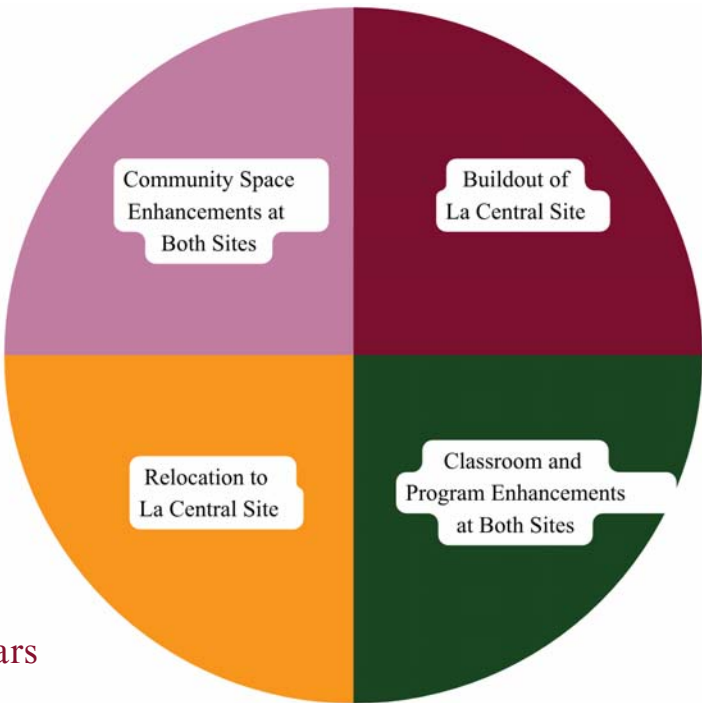
How the \$250,000 Campaign Will Be Used

The Circle of Mercy Capital Campaign will support improvements at both Mercy Center's East 145th Street headquarters and our new La Central location.

La Central

(Owner's \$1.2 million investment covers the core build-out.)

- Classroom and program enhancements
- Technology and audiovisual equipment
- Security and access control systems
- Community spaces and reception furnishings
- Signage and mission branding
- Contingency and project close-out



East 145th Street Improvements

- Roof repairs and preventative maintenance
- Replacement of worn floor tiles
- Interior wall restoration and painting
- Additional building improvements after 25 years of continuous use



A Note from Our Executive Director



Stephen Stritch

Dear Friend of Mercy Center,

Thank you for considering an investment in Mercy Center's future through **The Circle of Mercy Capital Campaign.**

If you have supported us in the past, you know that we take our role as stewards of this work and facility very seriously. While our main site for Mercy Center has been well taken care of over the last twenty five years, even with the continual care shown, time has taken its toll. We see the combination of refreshing our original site and expanding to our new site as an opportunity to serve the growing needs of our community.

We hope that you will partner with us to make this a reality for our participants and families. You will be helping to ensure that there is a lasting home with opportunity and hope for our neighbors in the South Bronx and beyond. Together we can ensure that the Circle of Mercy continues to grow stronger, wider, and more welcoming than ever. I hope you will join us.

With gratitude and hope,

Stephen J. Stritch III
Executive Director

Why Now?

- Our impact has grown fourfold in the past decade.
- Our participants depend on us for education, employment, and family support more than ever.
- The South Bronx remains one of NYC's most economically challenged communities.
- Our new 15-year lease at La Central secures our future and expands our capacity to serve.
- Our main site needs updating after twenty five years.

A Note from Our Development Director



Archie Crawford

Dear Friend of Mercy Center,

As Director of Development, I have the privilege of seeing firsthand how philanthropy strengthens every part of Mercy Center's work. Behind every class, every family support service, and every opportunity we provide is a community of generous supporters who believe in the dignity and potential of the people we serve.

The Circle of Mercy Capital Campaign represents an exciting and important moment in Mercy Center's history. As we celebrate 25 years in our East 145th Street home and 35 years as an organization, we are also preparing for the next chapter of our mission through our new 15-year lease at La Central. This campaign is about **both renewing the place that has served our community for a quarter century and building the future that will allow us to serve even more families in the years ahead.**

At our East 145th Street headquarters, campaign support will fund long-overdue capital improvements, including roof repairs, replacement of worn floor tiles, interior wall restoration, and other building upgrades that have become necessary after 25 years of continuous use. These improvements will help preserve a safe, welcoming, and dignified space where thousands of women, men, children, and families come each year for education, workforce development, immigration services, family support, and youth programming.

At the same time, our move to La Central provides the opportunity to create a long-term second site intentionally designed to support learning, connection, and growth. Campaign funds will help furnish classrooms, equip the space with technology, create safe and inviting community areas, and ensure that every participant walks into an environment that reflects the care and respect they deserve.

What excites me most about this campaign is its lasting impact. Donors will see their generosity reflected not only in a vibrant new home at La Central, but also in the preservation of the Mercy Center that has faithfully served the South Bronx at this location for the past 25 years. Together, these investments will strengthen the spaces where lives are transformed every day. We also know that thoughtful giving takes many forms. Whether you choose to make a one-time gift, fulfill a pledge over time, or explore a naming opportunity, every contribution brings us closer to completing this important work.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to speak with you, answer any questions, and discuss how your philanthropy can make a meaningful difference through this campaign.

Thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your belief in Mercy Center and the participants we are privileged to serve.

With sincere appreciation,

Archie Crawford
Director of Development
Mercy Center



Your Gift Completes the Circle

Every dollar helps Mercy Center establish a lasting home for opportunity and hope in the South Bronx. Together, we can ensure that the Circle of Mercy continues to grow – stronger, wider, and more welcoming than ever before.



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