



I am interested in  
*The Circle of Blessings*

I am interested in becoming a member of The Circle of Blessings by making an annual gift to Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services, Inc. I would like to make a gift at the following level:

- Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$10,000 or more
- \$5,000
- \$1,000

I am interested in:

- supporting outreach services
- supporting educational services
- supporting wellness services
- making unrestricted gifts

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

All inquiries will be kept confidential. Please return this form to:

Director of Development  
Our Lady of Mercy Community  
Outreach Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 607  
Johns Island, SC 29457

Telephone (843) 559-4109  
Fax (843) 559-8819  
www.olmoutreach.org

*Dear Friends and Supporters of the Outreach:*

*In 1989, the Sisters of Charity of Our Lady of Mercy established Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services, Inc. "to provide educational, health and direct outreach services to people in need on James, Johns and Wadmalaw Islands and at the Neighborhood House in Charleston, while encouraging and supporting self-sufficiency and self-esteem."*

*Over the years the program has grown to include not only outreach services, but a wide array of educational and wellness services. Last year the agency served over 11,000 individuals.*

*The work of the Outreach is made possible through the generosity of many people who believe strongly in the agency's mission of service – over 200 people who volunteer their services as tutors, office workers, dentists and physicians, and many more who support the Outreach through financial contributions.*

*That is where the Circle of Blessings comes in. The Circle of Blessings is a group of lay people who agree to support the Outreach with a gift of \$1,000 or more each year. Members may give at three levels: \$10,000 or more; \$5,000 or \$1,000. Donors may designate which program they wish to support – education, wellness, or emergency outreach – or they may make their contributions without restriction.*

*Please consider becoming a member of the Circle of Blessings. On behalf of those we serve, I thank you.*

*Sincerely,*

*Sister Mary Joseph*  
Sister Mary Joseph Ritter, OLM  
Executive Director



*Annual Giving*

in Support  
of Our Lady of Mercy  
Community Outreach Services, Inc.

## Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach Services, Inc.

Known by many simply as “the Outreach,” the organization provides emergency outreach, education and wellness services to the economically poor of James, Johns and Wadmalaw Islands, and the Neighborhood House in Charleston. Assisted by the services of over 200 volunteers, and supported by donations from the community, The Outreach serves over 11,000 people per year.



## The Circle of Blessings

The Circle of Blessings is a group of lay people who agree to support the Outreach with a gift of \$1,000 or more each year. Members may make their gifts unrestricted, or in support of these services:

### Outreach Services

The organization provides outreach services in four areas:

• **Direct Assistance** is provided to residents in need of food, clothing and financial support through an interview process conducted by the Outreach Social Worker.

• **Home Visits** are made periodically by the Outreach Staff to assess needs and share information on services. Client referrals and collaboration are conducted with other social services organizations.



• **Special Events/Seasonal Services** are provided as needed. Outreach to the residents in the Migrant Camps generally occurs during the summer months.

Seasonal requests are anticipated by the Outreach Staff, such as fans for summer, winter bedding, Christmas gifts and other emergency needs.

• **Community Meetings** including AA, Al-Anon, interagency meetings for collaborating organizations serving the Charleston area, and the Migrant Task Force are hosted at the Outreach.

## Education Services

Education programs currently include:

• **Family Literacy Classes** include English as a Second Language, General Literacy for Adults and GED preparation. While adults are in class their children are learning new developmental skills in the Child Learning Program.

• **English as a Second Language (ESL)** classes are also offered in evening sessions with a curriculum designed to meet a variety of skill levels. Child care is provided for adults who need this service in order to attend the classes.

• **Life Skills Classes** include parenting, budgeting, health and nutrition, environmental concerns and almost everything in between.

• **YES I CAN! After School Program** meets during the school year and is designed to assist elementary school age children with their homework and basic academic skills. “Yes, I Can” summer enrichment program is generally held in July for elementary students.



• **Quilting Lives** participants gather to work on individual and group projects with materials and sewing machines donated through the Outreach. Sharing of ideas and skills knits this group together!

## Wellness Services

Most of the Outreach’s wellness services are offered by volunteer practitioners. Wellness services are offered in three areas:

• **Dental Services** include comprehensive care and education offered for residents who lack insurance or the means to pay.

• **Women’s Health and Pre-Natal Care** are generally offered by appointment. These services are also provided to residents who lack insurance or the means to pay.



• **Health Education Classes** occur on an on-going basis. Topics include nutrition, exercise, weight management, diabetes care, cancer awareness, and a wide array of health related issues.

