



*Nurturing self sufficiency through
education, mentoring and community*

MERCY CONNECTIONS 3rd Annual Signature Event Luncheon to honor the Vermont Sisters of Mercy

Burlington, VT February 11, 2010 – Mercy Connections, Inc. will honor the Vermont Sisters of Mercy and Rita McCaffrey, Executive Director of Dismas House of Vermont

When the Sisters of Mercy sold Trinity College in 2001, they wanted to continue their legacy of educating women and founded Mercy Connections. “Their values are embedded in our programs,” said Betsy Ferries, Executive Director of Mercy Connections. “The importance of building strong relationships with those we serve and continually asking what each individual needs to achieve self sufficiency is fundamental.”

This year, the coveted McAuley Award, which recognizes an individual who promotes system change and the empowerment of women through education, mentoring, and transition support as they seek to experience the fullness of life, will be given to Rita McCaffrey. Rita herself was educated by the Sisters of Mercy and is devoting her life to help provide safe and decent housing for individuals coming out of prison.

Sister Elizabeth Candon said, “Rita is the quintessence of the untiring advocate who spares no personal effort in helping others enjoy the dignity that each deserves.”

The 135 year legacy of the Sisters of Mercy has been focused in 5 areas throughout Vermont including, education, housing, parish ministries, outreach ministries and social justice. The most visible in the last 50 years has been their leading educational institutions, Mater Christi and Trinity College of Vermont with a highly visible presence at Rice High School. They have shaped multiple generations in the values of compassion and acceptance.

The luncheon will feature the premier showing of a video highlighting the Sisters of Mercy and this lasting legacy. The faces and comments from those who have been touched by the Sisters of Mercy will be shared.

The Signature Event luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 18 from 11 – 1:30 at the Sheraton Conference Center on Williston Road, South Burlington. For more information visit our website at www.mercyconnections.org. To register call Donna Maloska at 846.7063 or e-mail her at dmaloska@mercyconnections.org.

This 3rd annual event will be emceed by Betsy Ferries, Executive Director of Mercy Connections.

Mercy Connections luncheon is made possible through the generous support of the following sponsors: Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, Inc.; Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Northeast; ARD, Inc.; Bergeron, Paradis & Fitzpatrick LLP; Saint Michael’s College; FastTracks Capital; Hickok & Boardman Insurance; McNeil, Leddy & Sheahan; Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cramer; Sovernet; JMM and Associates; and PawPrint & Mail.