

Dorothy Bennett Mercy Center  
273 Willoughby Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11205

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# Dorothy Bennett Mercy Center

**FALL 2018**

## SUMMER FUN IN OUR SUMMER PROGRAM!!!



### A Note of Gratitude...

To the following foundations, agencies, and persons who have generously provided support this past year:

Al & Peggy DeMatteis Family Foundation  
Apple Bank for Savings  
AT&T Corp. Emp. Giving Program  
Bonamassa Family  
Clem Snacks, Inc.  
Maureen Decker  
Hoyt Transportation Corp.  
Kiwanus Club Parkway East  
Mercy Home for Children  
Ridgewood Savings Bank

Sacred Heart Parish of Bayside  
Sisters of Mercy, Mid-Atlantic Community  
TD Bank  
The Hyde & Watson Foundation  
The Joseph & Laura Wortman Foundation (Cititrust)  
The Pinkerton Foundation  
The RTS Family Foundation  
The Tablet Bright Christmas Appeal  
Honey & Michael Theogene

Also, a special word of thanks to the students of New Visions H.S., St. Joseph's College, Catholic Charities WLG Program, and other volunteers for their dedicated service to the children in the After School Program.

Deep gratitude to all others who have donated their time and services to the Center.

Our Summer Program was a blast! We had 30 children enjoy two trips a week to places like the Hall of Science, The NY Aquarium, Puppetworks and Bowlerama. They also visited the local library once a week for literacy workshops. This year, we were able to have school bus transportation to a few trips thanks to a generous donation from Chris Termini of Hoyt Transportation. Thank you Mr. Termini! The children cheered with joy when they were told they didn't have to take public transportation. Thanks also to Jim Bonamassa, a board member, for connecting us to them.

# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of Dorothy Bennett Mercy Center:

2018 has been a year of change! We were quite busy this past summer making some upgrades to the Center, in the building and with staffing as well. As most of you may know, I am now the Director and am quite happy to be continuing the mission of Sr. Kathleen of being present and active in the community. To think I started part-time 15 years ago is incredible!

In August, we upgraded to energy-efficient HVAC units on both floors. This cools or heats the Center quicker helping us to save on our utility bills. This was possible through the Hyde & Watson Grant. We are very thankful to them.

We also added security cameras around the Center for the first time! There are now cameras in the front, back, and sides, adding safety and security to all who come to DBMC. When we told the parents the news, they cheered and clapped.

Another major upgrade was our technology. We now have new computers and a new networking system thanks to the generosity of the Sisters of Mercy Ministry Grant. It will help our adult students in their Bilingual Computer and GED classes. We are also working on improving our website for easier navigation.

In September, we added new staff as well. They bring experience and a friendly smile to the children, families, and all who come through our doors. Welcome Radaysia, Vanessa, and Jessica!

Marino Frias, our After School Coordinator, continues to be part of the DBMC family for over 6 years now. He always adds so much energy, ideas, care, and dedication to the Center and to the After School Program. I recall a visit him and I made to the school where the children who recognized him all shouted with joy, "Mr. Marino!!!!" Ania Smith, one of our great After School Counselors, has been with the Center for over 2 years and continues to show outstanding leadership skills. She shares her fun and dynamic spirit with the children every day. I am thankful to still have them both as part of our "Small Center with a Big Heart".

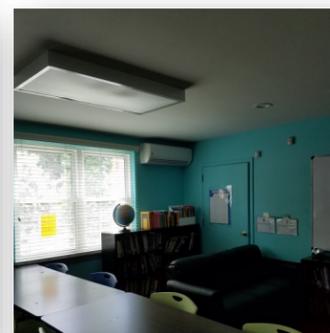
In October, we had our Annual Benefit which once again was a success! We honored two wonderful individuals and are thankful for all the support we received for that event (see last pages for more detail). This Fall, I have also worked on reconnecting DBMC to the community and non-profits like ourselves. We once again have interns from Berkeley College and are networking with the principal and parent coordinator from the local public school to better serve the children and families.

We are currently preparing for our Multicultural Event and have also started practicing songs for our upcoming Annual Christmas Show. The children are very excited!

Lastly, I wanted to thank the Board and Staff for all the kindness and positivity they have shown me as I begin this new role in the Center! I am truly excited and honored to be Program Director. We have many great things planned for the Center such as new programs and new events.

Best Regards,

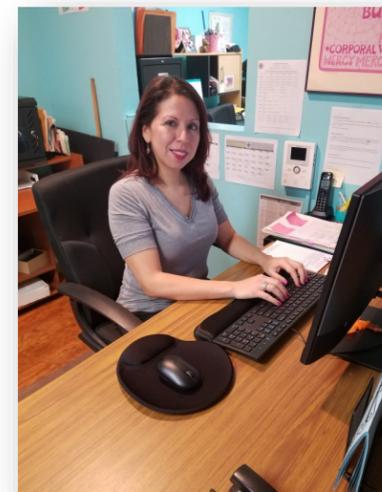
*Marcela Cuevas*  
Program Director



# NEW STAFF AT DBMC!!



We welcome two new staff members to our small center's family: Radaysia McCormick (pictured on the left) and Vanessa Pacheco-Ramos (pictured on the right). We hope to see them continue to flourish as welcomed members of our growing DBMC Family!!



We welcome our new office assistant, Jessica Cortes, who comes to us with years of administrative and clerical experience. She also comes equipped with her own electric drill which she put to great use when the banisters came loose. She's also quite artistic and has come up with activities for our seniors. Suffice it to say, she is much like her sister.

## GIVING TUESDAY



We are once again taking part in the Giving Tuesday Campaign. Please help support the Center by donating at the following link:

<https://www.givegab.com/nonprofits/dorothy-bennett-mercy-center-inc>

## AMAZON SMILE



If you shop on Amazon.com, please support us by shopping through AmazonSmile. They will donate 0.5% of your purchase to us! Please use the link below for future purchases:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/11-3448950>

# AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



We are proud to have added a new addition to our first floor library this Fall!!! The 2 touch screen computers bring accessibility to our younger students who require online access to complete projects and homework assignments via the web. It also gives our seniors in the Golden Age Club access to computers and the internet. They can now communicate with loved ones who live far away or learn how to send an email.

## HALLOWEEN PARTY



It was a haunted Halloween with parents like Violet Robinson joining in and spooking the children and staff. There were outside games, music, dancing, and of course lots of candy. Thank you to all who donated to our party and those who volunteered their time like Gisely Duran, our previous AS Coordinator who came by to visit and help with face-painting. The children were delighted with her surprise visit! They also liked Ania's Pikachu costume (center picture). Ania's fun loving spirit and the way she relates to the children is admirable!

### Fun in the Fall !!!



During the Fall, we teach our students about foliage and the changes in the seasons. We do this through guided activity sessions and fun ! The children collect leaves, identify and decorate them, and put them up around the Center. And of course, we also let them play with the leaves in the beautiful garden on the grounds of the Sister of Mercy, which you can see they enjoy a lot!

# FAMILY FUN NIGHT



We invited a few new families to our After School Program this school year by carving pumpkins for Halloween and having them share with other families and the Staff. Even our new staff joined in on the fun with Marino Frias, our awesome After School Coordinator, and Ania Smith, our loyal AS Counselor! Our parents work so hard that they seldom have time during the week to share with their kids and other families. The Center continues to be a place for them to do so! It is a home away from home for many of them.

## SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION



In September, Ms. Susan Lyke and some young volunteers dropped off an abundant donation of school supplies and bookbags for our After School children. We are very grateful to them and all of Michael's Angels from Holy Family Parish in Hicksville, NY!!

## BOARD CHILD SPONSORSHIP

This year, our Board members began a sponsorship program for the children of the After School Program. They will make an annual donation towards the program fee of a child who's parents may be facing hardship. The first recipients were Ms. Dayana Sierra, parent of Joshua and Jeremai Delancey. She was very thankful for the fee waiver till she's able to get back on her feet. Thank you DBMC Board Members!!

# 12TH ANNUAL BENEFIT

This year, we honored James Bonamassa, DBMC Board Member, with the Mercy Spirit Award, for all his support since joining the Board and Adina Johnson, DBMC Vice Chairperson, with the Mercy Service Award, for all her many years of service to the Center. Thank you to the Fundraising Committee for all their hard work, to Sr. Lee Guirrerri for taking such beautiful pictures, to Steve Zucker and Rosemary Mazzara for providing the lovely entertainment, and to all who supported us in making this Annual Benefit a Success!!



# 12TH ANNUAL BENEFIT



**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR RAFFLE WINNERS!!**

1st Prize - \$500 cash:	Lou Tipaldo
2nd Prize - iPad mini 4:	Nancy Braithwaite
3rd Prize - FitBit Wristband:	Lou Comunelli
4th Prize - Premium Cookies:	Connie Raymond
5th Prize - Disney Collectible:	Nancy McKeever

50/50 Raffle Winner: Marian Tipaldo

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.DBMCENTER.ORG](http://WWW.DBMCENTER.ORG)  
 FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK and TWITTER  
 AND SUBSCRIBE TO OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Thanksgiving Donation Giveaway - November 21st
- Christmas Show - December 14th