

All BREAKTHROUGH sessions will take place in Bay Shore.

What is Mercy Unto Thousands?

During the summer of 2007, The Mercy Unto Thousands program was rolled out and with the first group consisting of 11 men and women. The intent of this program, which was originally conceived and implemented by The Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing located in Manhattan, is to help people who are currently or have experienced living without a home to realize the skills they have within themselves which can assist them in breaking the cycle of homelessness.

The Breakthrough Program is a profound journey of learning and self-discovery that 12 individuals commit themselves to becoming participants in. The program consists of 24 sessions over a period of 12 weeks. Each session begins with a healthy hot meal prepared and coordinated by volunteers within the community. During these weeks, a different guest presenter has given the group input and offered insights in the areas of: self-image and gifts; values clarification; setting goals and managing time; communication skills; the importance of establishing healthy relationships; conflict resolution; group dynamics and decision making; and the importance of justice and advocacy. These sessions provide a good deal of basic skill building for the participants.

The participants develop, write and share with one another their own stories. From our experience in the BREAKTHROUGH Program, in Sayville, these evenings are truly an experience of being on sacred ground. After each participant shares his or her story, the others ask questions for further clarification and also give some feedback around what they had heard. In addition, the listeners also reflect back to each storyteller the strengths they perceived to have been present in that person throughout his or her life. It is the group's hope that each participant will be able to continue to build on those strengths and skills.

Where do I as a Mentor fit into the BREAKTHROUGH Program?

Each mentor will provide a unique opportunity to build a one on one relationship with a participant in the Breakthrough Program. The trained volunteer mentor will assist the participants in identifying realistic and achievable goals and to begin working on the steps necessary to achieve those goals. The program is an enriching experience for all involved! As new relationships are formed the mentor and participant enter into quality conversation together.

What do the BREAKTHROUGH Participants gain from the program?

A sense of self worth

Build a positive self image

Create obtainable goals (both short term and long term)

The ability to identify their own skills that will unlock their own personal success

Build a new support network

SOUNDS GREAT but I CAN NOT COMMIT TO MENTORING 24 SESSIONS!!!!

Interested individuals will be trained as mentors. The program participants are interviewed before they enter the program and expected to participate fully in the course. THESE FOLKS ARE EAGER TO MAKE A POSITIVE CHANGE!

The mentors are not doctors they are people who listen, and help to encourage, and guide the person in a positive direction.

Mercy Haven, Inc. BREAKTHROUGH Program Volunteer Interest Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Best time to be reached: Day** _____

Evening _____

Email address: _____

I am interested in: (check any areas of interest)

being a mentor _____ **preparing/serving a meal** _____ **coordinating meals** _____

Joanna Corbin
Director of Marketing
Mercy Haven, Inc.
859 Connetquot Ave