

# Homelessness



**TERESA KENNEDY**

**Mercy Center Ministries**

**2009 Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame**

# Homelessness

**TERESA KENNEDY** (deceased)

Mercy Center Ministries

Founded in 1983

Teresa Kennedy extended her caring and affection for her own five children and their friends into the larger community of homeless and troubled teens. After raising her own children, she began volunteering for Parish Community Services of Our Lady of the Snow.

Joining forces with friend and mentor, Sister Mary Waters, Mrs. Kennedy applied her business and organizational skills to develop a plan to provide a better life for homeless teens. Mercy Center Ministries was established to address abuse, pregnancy and homelessness among teens.

The first of three Mercy Center homes opened in 1983 as an 8-bed residential program for homeless teen girls. Two additional homes for pregnant and parenting teens opened in 1987 and 1989. All three programs are designed to teach young women the skills they need to become responsible adults and parents and productive community members.

Mrs. Kennedy remained an active board member until her death in 2001.

2009 Long Island Volunteer Hall of Fame