

# MERCY WELLSPRINGS NEWSLETTER



Vol 1, Issue 2 - December 2024

## LIVING THE VALUES OF MERCY WELLSPRINGS

**Compassion** – respect dignity of each person, extend tenderness and care to whole of creation

**Respect** – recognize each one uniquely made in God’s image, celebrate beauty & integrity of creation

**Justice** – uphold and support the rights of all persons and Earth

**Collaboration** - engage others as partners, welcome diversity and inclusion

**Deep Listening** - hear the voices of people, of Earth beings, and of Earth herself



Mercy Wellsprings Board of Directors



The Gathering Place

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MERCY WELLSPRINGS!!

As we end the first calendar year of operations for Mercy Wellsprings, the Board and Executive Director would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and blessings for 2025.

Looking back at 2024, Mercy Wellsprings took steps forward to establish the Board of Directors (The Honourable George Furey, Ann Manning, Brent Meade, Jim Meaney, Meghan Gardner, Sister Elizabeth Davis, Sister Diane Smyth), hire an Executive Director (Susan Elliott) and start the formation and planning journey of Mercy Wellsprings.

In our formation journey so far, we are humbled by and in awe of the stories of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland. The leadership and support over the years that the Sisters have provided in the areas of education, healthcare, elder care, care of orphans, homeless persons, and poor persons in this province and in Peru is immense and today’s sponsored ministries represent that rich history.

We want to thank all the Boards and staff from all the sponsored ministries for their work and dedication in bringing the Mercy values and culture alive. Specifically, congratulations to The Gathering Place on the opening of Mercy House & O’Callaghan’s Haven. This was a labour of love and compassion for the many people involved in making it a reality. This will have a huge positive impact on our community.

In 2025, there is much more work to be done to finalize a Formation Program, create governance policies and procedures, and ensure we are ready to take on the mandate of Mercy Wellsprings in the sustainment of Mercy sponsored ministries. We are hopeful for the future as we continue the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy of Newfoundland.

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*“There are things the poor prize more highly than gold, tho’ they cost the donor nothing; among these are the kind word, the gentle compassionate look, and the patient hearing of their sorrows.” Catherine McAuley*

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## THE DECEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

On December 3, 2024, Mercy Wellsprings held a Board Of Directors meeting. Below are the key areas of discussion:



## Welcome, Gathering Prayer & Formation Moment

**Charitable status** – Mercy Wellsprings was officially registered as a Charity with the Canada Revenue Agency effective January 1, 2025.

**Report from Executive Director** – Susan took some time to provide an overview of the last couple of months – her continued orientation to the Sisters of Mercy and Mercy Wellsprings as well as her research in defining working Committees and developing key policies for operations.



**Formation Program** – Sister Charlotte Fitzpatrick, Sister Elizabeth Marrie, Dr. Anne Walsh and Susan held a few sessions to discuss next steps with the Mercy Wellsprings Formation Program for the Mercy Wellsprings Board as well as the Boards and Councils of the sponsored ministries. A proposal for next steps was discussed and we will be looking to move that forward early in 2025.



**Confirmation of Standing Committees** – In order to move forward on the Mercy Wellsprings mandate much work needs to be done to set up proper governance, financial controls, formation and working relationships with the sponsored ministries who will maintain their existing Boards and Councils. There was agreement that the following Board Committees would be established to define and develop policies – Governance, Finance & Compensation, and Audit. These committees will begin their mandates in early 2025.



*Christmas Gathering of the Boards  
2024*

**Strategic Planning for the Future** – It was agreed that the Board would move forward with strategic planning session(s) in January/February to define the 2025 plan for Mercy Wellsprings.

## Contact Us

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## NEXT STEPS

Below are the key next steps that we will be taking to move forward with Mercy Wellsprings:

- Continue the development of the Formation Program.
- Continued Formation work with Susan and the Mercy Wellsprings Members, Board and Executive Director.
- Charitable status with CRA effective on January 1, 2025.
- Review of Mercy Wellsprings Logo ideas and finalize the Logo.
- Setup of Board Committees - work on policy development.
- Board session focused on strategic planning for 2025 and beyond.
- Determine & hire additional staff resources needed.
- Explore ways of connection with Mercy International Association.

## MERCY WELLSPRINGS LOGO

As part of the continued evolution of Mercy Wellsprings, we will be developing a logo. We asked in the last Newsletter for you to pass along your ideas and many of you have responded. We will be taking those ideas and will discuss next steps to finalize the Logo. If you haven't responded, there is still time to pass along your ideas to

[mercywellsprings@sistersofmercyfnf.org](mailto:mercywellsprings@sistersofmercyfnf.org)

