



NEW
MERCIES
MINISTRIES

CALLED TO CARE

2025 Impact Report



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Bonnie S. Doolittle
Founder & Executive Director

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

EPHESIANS 2:10

Message from the Executive Director

As I reflect on all that God has accomplished through New Mercies Ministries in 2025, I am filled with awe and gratitude. This year’s theme, Called to Care, beautifully captures the heart of our mission: answering God’s invitation to step into the lives of vulnerable families with compassion, courage, and faith.

Every prayer spoken, every gift given, and every hour volunteered reflects obedience to Christ’s call. Because of your faithfulness, children were protected from long-term separation, parents were supported through times of crisis, and local churches continued to shine the light of Christ into their communities.

This year, we also celebrated exciting growth within our team. We welcomed Katharine Wurst as our Director of Operations, a role that strengthens our ministry behind the scenes and ensures our teams work with excellence and care. Mindy Theard stepped into an expanded role as Director of Child Hosting, continuing to faithfully lead and equip our volunteers as they open their hearts and homes. Darriell Giumento’s role also grew as she became our Support Line Supervisor, leading with empathy to ensure that every parent who reaches out is met with compassion and hope.

These leadership changes reflect God’s faithful provision, giving us the right people at the right time. Together, we are answering His call to care, standing in the gap for families who need both practical help and the hope of Christ.

As you read this 2025 Impact Report, I pray you see not just statistics, but stories of redemption, evidence of what happens when God’s people respond to His call. Thank you for walking alongside us, for trusting this ministry with your support, and for embodying the love of Christ to those who need it most.

All for Him,
Bonnie

Our Mission

New Mercies Ministries is a gospel-centered organization providing supportive connections, safe housing, and restorative services for women and families, empowering them to gain stability and thrive in community.

Our Core Values

Grace-Based Relationships

We prioritize non-judgmental understanding, aligning with Christ's call for grace and mercy over condemnation (John 8:7).

Christ-Like Service

We serve others with humility and sacrificial love, following Christ's example of placing the well-being of others above ourselves (Mark 10:45).

Trustworthy Stewardship

We faithfully manage the resources and gifts God has given us to serve others and glorify Him (1 Peter 4:10).

Dignity In Care

We honor the worth of every individual, recognizing them as created in God's image, and empowering them to actively participate in their journey toward stability (Genesis 1:26).



2025 Highlights

2025 was a year of growth and connection as we saw God call His people to care for families in need. Here are some highlights from the year...

CHURCH LAUNCHES

This year, New Mercies welcomed four new partner churches: Grabill Missionary Church in Grabill, Hope Rising in Huntington, Merriam Christian Chapel in Albion, and Shore Church in Shipshewana. We are so thankful for these congregations joining our mission to care for vulnerable families.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Throughout 2025, our team and volunteers actively participated in community events, resource fairs, and symposiums across Northern Indiana. These opportunities helped us connect with new families, agencies, and organizations, building bridges so that we can respond quickly when needs arise.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

In July, we hosted Family Fun Night, a block-party-style event for families served and volunteers to reconnect! We were delighted to celebrate families who have journeyed toward stability, and to honor volunteers who came alongside those families.

CALLED TOGETHER VOLUNTEER GATHERING

Our fall volunteer gathering, Called Together, was an evening of worship, fellowship, and an inspiring message from Geoff King with Love Fort Wayne, who encouraged us to keep stepping into hard spaces. We also took time to honor the volunteers who make this ministry possible.

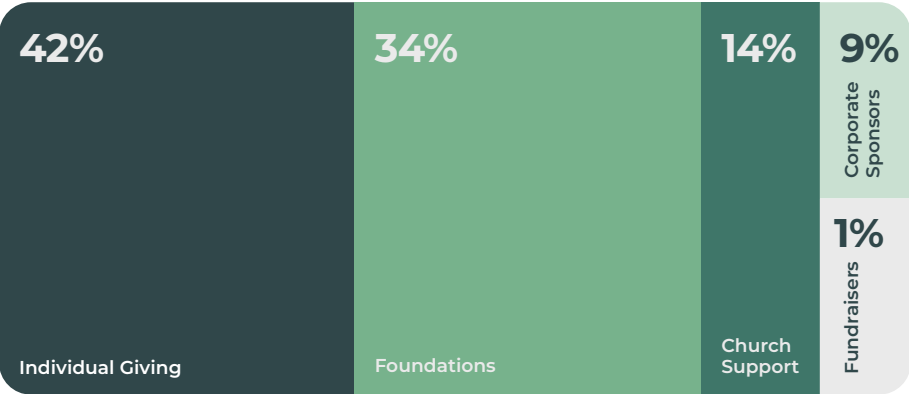
2025 Hosting by the Numbers



Financial Report

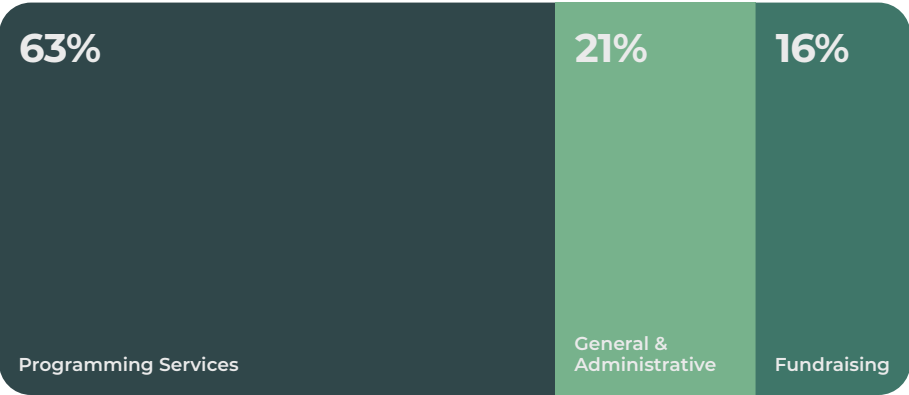
Funding Sources

Our funding continues to come primarily from individual financial partners within the body of Christ, whose generosity makes this ministry possible. Each gift directly advances our mission to provide gospel-centered care for vulnerable families, reflecting God’s heart in our community.



Expenses

We remain committed to stewarding the resources given to us with transparency. It is our joy and responsibility to ensure that each dollar entrusted to New Mercies is used wisely. Below is an overview of how funds were used in 2025 to support families and strengthen our ministry’s impact.





Empower Restoration in 2025

As we continue deepening our support for vulnerable families, we are excited to share the ongoing progress of the Empower Restoration Capital Campaign. This new ministry builds on the foundation of our Hosting Ministry by addressing one of the greatest barriers to family reunification: the need for safe, affordable housing.

Mothers and children will have the opportunity to live together in a supportive, Christ-centered environment designed to foster stability, growth, and long-term restoration. Located in the Wells Street Corridor of downtown Fort Wayne, the 12,238-square-foot facility will accommodate up to 17 families and provide access to coaching, community, and local resources.

In 2025, we hosted five Lunch & Learn events that gave ministry partners and community members an inside look at this vision. Attendees toured the future site, heard from Executive Director Bonnie Doolittle about the next steps in renovation and programming, and learned how they could play a role in bringing this project to life.

Thanks to your generosity, we are now 23% funded toward our \$2.8 million renovation goal. We continue to trust God's timing and provision as we move closer to opening the doors and empowering families toward lasting restoration.

To learn more about
Empower Restoration,
scan the QR code!



Star and Amara's Story

We could give so many examples of families our volunteers have supported this year. We will leave you with just one story...

When Carly and her family first welcomed a sweet baby we will call Amara into their home, she was just shy of her first birthday, not yet walking or talking. Eight months later, she runs through their living room giggling and singing, part of the family's rhythm.

What began as a one-week hosting has become a lasting relationship with Amara and her mom, who we will call Star. "We just love her so much," Carly shares. "We enjoy her company, and it seems like she enjoys ours." Amara's comfort in their home is clear. When the Bickels recently picked her up from daycare, she ran straight into Carly's arms.

As a single mom navigating a challenging season, Star reached out to New Mercies Ministries for support. Through the Hosting Program, the Bickels provided a safe, loving space for Amara while Star worked toward her goals. The hosting started out as temporary care, but it has grown into a meaningful, ongoing connection between two families. "It's been amazing to watch our boys care for her," Carly says. "The way this has taught them to love others is so neat." The boys affectionately call her "baby Amara," and she calls them "da boys."

Over time, Carly and Star have built a genuine friendship. They share updates, exchange photos, and support one another like extended family. Star calls the Bickels her "fam."

This story captures what happens when believers say yes to coming alongside another family. For the Bickels, hosting has not just been about helping someone else. It is about becoming a new community for someone who was on their own before.

"We have our parents and siblings," Carly says, "but we love that we can be her village." That's what New Mercies is all about: families walking alongside families, so no one has to face life alone.



Want to hear more stories like Star and Amara's? Subscribe to our newsletter by scanning the QR code!

Church Engagement

This year we once again witnessed the power of the Church coming together in unity. Across 13 counties, volunteers from 50 churches joined New Mercies in sharing the hope of Christ and walking alongside families in need. These churches are living out the gospel and strengthening families in our communities.

Aboite Baptist Church

Alliance Community Church

Athens Community Church

Berea Christian Fellowship

Blackhawk Ministries

Broadway Christian Church

Brookside Church

Calvary Chapel Fellowship Stroh

Central Ministries

City Church

Community of Hope

County Line Church of God

Crosspointe Family Church

Discipleship Network

Emmanuel Community Church

Fairview Fellowship

Fellowship Missionary Church

First Christian Church Warsaw

Grabill Missionary Church

Harvest Fellowship

Headwaters Church

Hope Rising

Keefer Creek Baptist Church

Lakewood Park Baptist Church

Life Bridge Church

Life Church Huntington

Living Hope Christian Fellowship

Living Water Mennonite Church

Markle Church of Christ

Merriam Christian Chapel

Mission Point Community Church

New Beginnings Faith Center

New Hope Christian Center

Northeast Christian Church

ONE Church

Pathway Community Church

Pine Hills Church

Redeemer Baptist

Redeemer Lutheran

Riverview Christian Fellowship

Roselawn Conservative Mennonite Church

Shore Church

Sonrise Church

St. Joe Community Church

Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sugar Grove Baptist Church

Syracuse Baptist Church

The Chapel

TOFY Home Fellowship

Zion Mennonite Church

If you are interested in bringing this ministry to your church, please contact us at info@new-mercies.org.

Celebrating Our Volunteers!

**“Not all my
volunteering has
eternal purposes,
but this one does.”**

Deb, New Mercies
Support Line
Volunteer

In 2025, New Mercies Ministries was blessed by the addition of 46 new volunteers who answered God's call to care for families in need. Each person brought unique gifts, energy, and compassion and joined a community of believers committed to reflecting Christ's love in practical ways. Together, our volunteers helped host children, mentor parents, and connect families to essential resources that strengthen stability and restore hope.

Our volunteers truly are the hands and feet of Christ. Whether preparing meals, providing transportation, serving as Host Families, or coordinating behind the scenes, each act of service has an eternal impact. They remind us that God works through ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. This year, through their dedication and faithfulness, countless families experienced the hope, care, and community that lie at the heart of New Mercies Ministries.



Volunteers Jen and Bailey Bergdall at Family Fun Night in July.



Flora Parsley with a few of the kids she and her family have hosted.



The October Called Together volunteer gathering.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors continues to play a crucial role in guiding the mission and vision of the ministry. Through wise governance, strategic leadership, and faithful stewardship, they ensure the ministry remains grounded in its values and focused on its calling to serve families with excellence. The board provides oversight and accountability for the executive

director, upholds strong financial and ethical practices, and supports long-term planning for sustainable growth. Beyond their formal responsibilities, each member serves as an advocate and ambassador for New Mercies in the community, helping expand partnerships, strengthen outreach, and ensure that every decision reflects the heart of Christ.

CHAIR

Troy Schrock

President and Founder, Advisor Catalyst, Inc.

SECRETARY

Kim Plattner

Former Chapter Director, Safe Families for Children

TREASURER

Andrew Suci

CPA, President/Founder, Arrow Financial

MEMBERS

Ken Dearing

Director of Operations, Perma-Column LLC;
Elder, ONE Church

Maci Doden

Attorney, Former Attorney U.S. District Court, Northern District of IN

John Nussbaum

President/CEO, Berne Apparel Co.

Joel Usina

Marketing Director, Ambassador Supply

Thank You to Our Generous Financial Partners!

CHURCH SUPPORTERS

- Aboite Baptist Church
- Blackhawk Ministries
- City Church
- County Line Church of God
- Crosspointe Family Church
- Emmanuel Community Church
- Fairview Fellowship Church
- Grabill Missionary Church
- Grace Point Nazarene
- Headwaters Church
- Living Hope Christian Fellowship
- New Hope Christian Center
- Northeast Christian Church
- Pathway Community Church
- Pine Hills Church
- Roselawn Conservative Mennonite Church
- St Joe Community Church
- The Chapel

CORPORATE SPONSORS

- Ambassador Enterprises
- Applied Technology Group
- Artek, Inc.
- Brandenberger Endeavors
- Brotherhood Mutual
- Elevatus Architecture
- Kroger Community Rewards
- NIPSCO
- Parkview Regional Medical Center
- Winnebago Industries, Inc.

INDIVIDUAL FINANCIAL PARTNERS

122 partners giving an average of \$1,752

FOUNDATIONS/GRANTS

- Anonymous Foundation
- Charles W. Kuhne Foundation
- Charlie Tippmann Foundation
- Community Partners for Child Safety
- Crossroads United Way
- Florence M. & Paul M. Staehle Foundation
- Fort Wayne Children's Foundation
- Mary C. & Perry F. Spencer Foundation
- Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation
- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
- PNC Foundation
- St Joseph Community Health Foundation
- The Christ Foundation
- The Lutheran Foundation

FUNDRAISERS

- Fallen Timbers Association Garage Sale
- New Mercies Merchandise Sales
- Pathfinders SS @ Faith Baptist Church
- The Community Learning Center Wreath Auction



GIVING & CONTACT INFORMATION

Want to join us in supporting vulnerable families? Give online at the QR code above or at new-mercies.org. You can also mail us a check at our address: *New Mercies Ministries, PO Box 25712, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46825.*





JOIN OUR FAMILY TREE

Build Relationships + Empower Families

Family Tree is our recurring giving program made up of financial partners who want to make a regular commitment to preserving families in Northern Indiana.

STAY CONNECTED

-  New Mercies Ministries
-  @nmm_northernindiana
-  260.627.9002
-  info@new-mercies.org