



What is *Dining for a Difference*?

Dining for a Difference, Mercy Learning Center's spring fundraiser is a way to reach out to people in the surrounding communities to introduce them to and engage them in our mission.

Friends of Mercy Learning Center host dinner parties in their homes, inviting friends, neighbors, colleagues, etc. Gatherings can be as simple or elaborate as the host desires. Co-hosting is encouraged. Hosts set the menu, theme, tone, etc. There is no minimum number of guests. Past events have ranged from 8-100 people and ran the gamut from a simple chicken and rice dinner to a catered affair complete with bartenders and entertainment. A MLC staff member and student visit each home; the staff member briefly speaks about the mission of MLC, and the student offers her testimonial on the difference the Center has made in her life. This usually evokes conversation among the guests and the student.

Dining for a Difference has been a very beneficial outreach tool for Mercy Learning Center. In the past five years, the event netted over \$150,000 in donations that directly affected the women served at the Center. Thank you for considering participation in this event!

Mercy Learning Center's 2009 *Dining for a Difference*
Events will be held between April and June 2009.

How does the invitation process work?

Hosts are asked to compile a guest list (complete with addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses, if available) and a personal note and send it in to Mercy Learning Center. We can either send out invitations on a host's behalf or provide invitations if hosts prefer to send themselves. MLC sends out invitations. Response cards are mailed back to the Center, and we will keep hosts informed of guests' replies. For those guests who would like to attend the dinner party, four different sponsorship levels are offered (\$75, \$150, \$250, \$500), with a "write-in" line above and below these suggested levels.

Matching gifts and donations from those who cannot attend are also gratefully accepted.

All contributions are tax deductible to the extent the law will allow.

Educate a Woman... Educate a Family

Mercy Learning Center's mission is to provide holistic literacy training to low-income women within a compassionate, supportive community without regard for race, religion, color or creed. The Center's programs focus on empowering, providing dignity, economic self-sufficiency and hope. Its goal is to prepare each woman to pass the GED, further her education, or enter the job market or a job training program, to help ensure financial independence and a more hopeful future for herself and their children.

Friends of Mercy Learning Center who have hosted dinners in the past include ...

Steve & Tammy Barry
Eilene Bertsch
Ken & Wendy Brachfeld
Sam & Susan Burstein
Larry Saladin &
Kathy Caulfield
John & Ann Calcutt
Ed & Madge Canning
Dan Levy & Jaci Coleman
John & Fran Cullinane
Al & Cindy da Silva
Andy Gleeman & Beth Davis
Julia DeMeo
Donna Disch
Tom & Connie Dittrich
Brett & Ellen Dixon
Peter & Ellen Donnelly
Steve & Polly Edwards
Brad & Barbara Evans

David & Edie Faile
Chuck & Marlène Firlotte
John & Pam Fortuna
Gloria Garvey
Tim & Marianne Goodell
Denise Griffin
Herb & Marcy Hardt
Hank & Jill Heck
Anthony & Karen Izzo
Peter & Carleen Kunkel
Marlene Lawler
Bruce & Beth MacDonald
Pat & Gerri MacMonagle
Fred & Nealy Madsen
Eugene & Melanie Marks
Michael & Lynn McAlevey
Bill & Cathy Meddaugh
Sean & Sheila O'Brien
Fred & JoAnn O'Neill

Bill & Candy Raveis
Jim & Joan Roach
Bob & Maggie Rotanz
George & Christine Stonbely
Waldo & Alice Sweet
Paul & Carol Timpanelli
Jim & Maureen Tomchik
Joan Van de Berghe
Tim & Mary Walsh
Pat Wellman
George & Arla Wiles
Mark Loughridge &
Michele Williams
Lorraine Wilson
Cyprian & Fay Wright
Frank & Dale Zaino
Bob & Cathy Zappi