

*Message from
Lisa Ventriss, Chair, Board of Trustees*



As we complete this 2010/2011 annual report, I am now approaching my second year as Chair of the Board of Trustees. Working in this volunteer leadership position with former Executive Director, Betsy Ferries, has truly been a rewarding experience and partnership. I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Board of Trustees with special thanks to retiring members: Donna Dalton, Steve Habif, Sr. Janice Ryan and Steve Gold; and a warm welcome to new members: John Crabbe, Tom Carlson and Mary Hurlie.

Anne Saunier has stated that: “the chair’s leadership job is to hold the lamp as high as possible so that the board can see as far as possible; and then bring it down so members can light their candle.” This lamp needs to extend far beyond the boardroom. I encourage others to hold the lamp high for our collective vision and then up close for the necessary details and labors of love. Together we can continue to bring hope, possibilities and concrete tools and resources to our neighbors.

Now in our 10th year and under the strong leadership of Executive Director, Dolly Fleming, in partnership with a talented and committed Board, Mercy Connections is prepared to face the continuing challenges caused by economic displacement and social insecurity. We are grateful to our engaged partners ~ both individual and corporate ~ who have joined us throughout the year to help women develop economic self-sufficiency.

Mercy Connections is an effective and credible organization that demonstrates a return on investment one person at a time. It is hard, human-scale work that reduces government spending and increases tax revenues; reduces recidivism and increases educational aspirations; reduces isolation and increases community. Mercy Connections is an organization worthy of your philanthropic investment. I invite you, on behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, to join us in supporting this cause.