

MERCI JANUARY 2018 (22 Days)

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<u>1</u> <i>New Year's Day</i> <i>2018</i> MERCIClosed	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	<u>15</u> Martin Luther King, Jr., Day MERCIOpen	<u>16</u> MERCI Board of Directors meets @ 7:00 p.m. @Chandler Site	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	<u>31</u> Minimum Day Program ends @ NOON STAFF-IN-SERVICE 1:00 P.M.			

MERCI • 525 N. Chandler Ave., Monterey Park, CA 91754 • (626) 289-8817



www.merci.org



@merci1955

January 1, 2018



To: Consumers, Families, & Care Providers
From: MERCI

MERC's HOLIDAY CLOSURE: Monday, January 1, 2018

Please note: Transportation Services also closed Monday, January 1, 2018



Our 28th Annual **Trees of Enchantment** fundraiser was a great success! We celebrated Marta Escañuelas' upcoming retirement and she revealed the naming of the new Multipurpose Classroom that is being named in her honor! While we are still receiving donations, this event looks to be our most financially successful in our 28th years! Please take a look at our Facebook page as we have posted photos that celebrate our 62nd anniversary!

While we bid farewell to Marta, we also welcome our new Executive Director, Jillian Van Leuven. Jillian has worked in the field for over 17 years, has her B.A. in Psychology from San Francisco State University and her Master's in Public Administration (MPA) with a Major in Nonprofit Management and Administration. Jillian will begin her new position at the end of January and will spend a week or two with Marta. MERCI will continue to grow, provide quality services and develop programs that benefit this community.

Attendance - *Please make illness the only excuse for not attending MERCI. We have seen a drop in our revenue due to absenteeism over the last several months. We are funded by the state of California but rates for our services barely cover our costs and we do not receive any funds when our consumers do not come to program. For the first time in 13 years (on July 1, 2016) we received a rate increase for the services provided to the consumers we serve, but if your family member is absent we cannot bill for services, so please make illness the only excuse for not attending. Additionally, remember that continuity of attending our day program helps to maintain and strengthen the skills each individual is learning. For all of us, we learn by repetition and routine - coming to day program ensures learning!*

Pick-ups and drop-offs continue to be conducted at 527 N. Chandler Ave. (our new classroom in the back of our property) adjacent to our parking lot. Staff will be available for assistance from 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m., and in the afternoon from 3:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. for our regular bus duty hours. **As a reminder, when you are dropping off someone in the designated drop off area it is important to pull forward and put your hazard lights on. It is extremely important that you do not block the "no parking" areas. They are there for emergency services and you can be cited by the city.**

Please note the front of our Administration Building is no longer our designated pick-up or drop-off area. However, for emergency purposes, all visitors must continue to report to the front of our Administration Building to sign in and out.

FUNDRAISERS AND RENT OUR ROOMS!!

Whether you're celebrating a milestone or planning a business event, we welcome you to rent our newly constructed 5,000 square ft. Multipurpose Room complete with a commercial kitchen for special events, social gatherings or private parties. Our indoor event space can accommodate up to 400 guests or it can be sectioned off for smaller groups as well. Call Marta Escañuelas, Executive Director for more information at 626-289-8817 ext.131 or via email; martae@merci.org.

Keep an eye out for announcements on our monthly fundraisers!

Additional ways to support MERCI:

- Any used ink/laser cartridge can be turned into our office and we will recycle them!
- Ralphs *rewards* Community Contribution Program. Please sign up *or* re-register. For directions and scanbar code, please contact the office for a copy.
- Download the GoodSearch Toolbar at www.goodsearch.com and add MERCI as your designated non-profit. Every search raises funds for us.
- Register with www.igive.com and shop their extensive collection of businesses. A portion of your purchase goes to MERCI. The website will also inform you what percentage of your purchase will be donated.
- We continue to collect UPCs and beverage caps from participating products to earn points that can be redeemed for FREE educational merchandise! You can turn in your UPCs and beverage caps into MERCI's office. For a complete list of participating products, please visit LabelsForEducation.com.
- Support MERCI while you shop at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **MERCI** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. Simply designate MERCI as your charitable organization after signing in.
- We will be collecting donations for our Savers fundraiser at our site. You can drop off clothing/small appliances/houseware items donations at the front office.

***Please make illness the only excuse for not attending MERCI.
Our programs depend on attendance for the participation of the clients and our funding.
Please make illness the only excuse for absenteeism.***

Using email allows us to save on paper and postage!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at (626) 289-8817 or at merci@merci.org.

Connect with us at merci.org or on Twitter [@merci1955](https://twitter.com/merci1955) or on Facebook at facebook.com/merci.org