



M E R C I January 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	NEW YEAR'S EVE MERC I Closed	1 2019 HAPPY NEW YEAR MERC I Closed New Year's Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 MERC I Board Meeting 6:30pm	16	17	18	19
20	21 Martin Luther King Day MERC I Open	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Minimum Day Program ends @ 12:00 p.m. STAFF IN-SERVICE @ 1:00 P.M.	31		

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www.merci.org



@merci1955



January 1, 2019

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

MERCI Closures: January 1, 2019 in Observance of New Year's Day.

Minimum Day Reminder: January 30, 2019 Program Ends at 12pm.



Message from the Executive Director

Ushering in the New Year is a big deal for everyone. While many of us are making resolutions to begin at the start of 2019, it is a great time to remember all that has happened this past year for it is these happenings that are driving our resolutions. MERCI has experienced many changes throughout 2018 all of which have brought about great excitement and taught many lessons which is the driving force behind the plans we have for 2019.

New Name, Website, Logo, Mission and Vision Statements

We have identified that our reach can be broader allowing us to provide support services to more people. With this we have expanded our Mission to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in maximizing their independence and in becoming productive, contributing member within the community. In addition to a new Mission Statement, we have introduced a new Logo (see above) the new logo was designed by a long time employee Christian Trasvina. We would like to thank Christian for his creative vision. We will be launching a new website within the first half of 2019. We will be officially changing our name to MERCI, dropping the antiquated acronym Mentally and Educationally Retarded Citizens Inc. Lastly, we will be introducing a new acronym for MERCI as our new Vision Statement: **M**eaningful **E**xperiences and **R**elationships through **C**ommunity **I**nclusion.

New Services

In this coming year we will strive to introduce two new adult services to our consumers which answer the call to support the individuals we serve in becoming active members within their communities. The first new service is called Integrated Community Based Services (ICBS), which will support individuals in obtaining meaningful volunteer,



internship and/or paid employment positions. The second new service will be Supported Living Services (SLS), which will support individuals who live in their own homes (with or without family or roommates) in learning daily living skills like money management, health and hygiene and food purchasing and preparation.

Fundraising

We will be initiating an Annual Fundraising Campaign with quarterly giving cycles. MERCI has a goal of raising \$500,000 annually to support the continued growth and expansion of our programs and services and we want to invite everyone to be a part of us reaching this goal. In the coming months, I will be holding information nights to discuss MERCI's new services and future endeavors and would like to invite all who are interested in learning how they can support us in achieving our goal to attend.

Final Thoughts

On behalf of the MERCI Board of Directors, myself and MERCI staff, we want to say thank you to each and everyone of you for your continued support. We hope everyone has enjoyed this holiday season and are as excited about the new year as we are. Here's to a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2019 for all!

MPR Space Rental

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 Jillian Van Leuven, Executive Director for more information at 626-289-8817 ext.131 or via email; jvanleuven@merci.org.

Additional Ways to Support MERCI:

1. **Ralphs Rewards Community Contribution Program:** Please sign up or re-register. Directions and scan bar code are attached. If you require assistance, please contact the office. Download the GoodSearch Toolbar at www.goodsearch.com and add MERCI as your designated non-profit. Every search raises funds for us.
2. **IGive:** 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.



3. **UPC's and Beverage Caps:** 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.
4. **Amazon Smile:** 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.
5. **Ink/Laser Cartridges:** Any used ink/laser cartridge can be turned into our office and we will recycle them!

Attendance

Please make illness the only excuse for not attending MERCI. Our programs depend on attendance the revenue that attendance provides allows us to provide services; it is our lifeline to keeping our doors open.

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

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