

GRACE FAMILY FOUNDATION

Supports Mercy in Fulfilling its Student Success Mission

“It was meeting President Tim Hall for the first time and hearing him talk about Mercy’s mission that generated our interest and commitment to the College,” said Bonnie Grace, president of the Grace Family Foundation. That mission is dedicated to providing students the necessary skills and

degree programs to overcome any barriers and thrive in the real world – with emphasis on the *real world*. “Tim’s authenticity, compassion and student mindedness acted as the impetus for a long-term partnership with the foundation,” she added.

The Grace Family Foundation understood this mission well through its long ongoing relationship with the San Miguel Academy in Newburgh, New York. San Miguel Academy is a faith-based independent school established in 2006 by Father Mark Connell that serves low-income, at-risk boys and girls.

Mercy and San Miguel Academy share the commitment of creating economic opportunity through comprehensive academic education starting at the earliest possible stage with both institutions offering significant programs for assistance at every level.

“We are delighted to support many Mercy College initiatives, including the Mercy Scholars Program, President Hall’s Strategic Priority Fund and the Mercy College Trustees’ Scholarship Fund and to see how these funds, and other College programs developed and implemented under the leadership of Hall, have led to higher graduation and retention rates,” said Tom Grace,

Bonnie’s husband and a foundation director.

One of the special programs the Grace Family Foundation supports, the Mercy Scholars Program, offers high-achieving high school students from low-income backgrounds a fully supported Mercy College education so that they graduate on time, without the crushing burden of debt. In donating to the Mercy Scholars Program, the foundation is changing the trajectory of a young person’s life and, consequently, driving the upward mobility and prosperity of their families and communities.



Tom and Bonnie Grace

Photo provided by Tom Grace

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Another service important to the foundation is Mercy’s Personalized Achievement Contract (PACT),

a program that pairs students with a pro-active, professionally trained mentor for every aspect of their college experience.

The Grace Family Foundation has also established an endowed scholarship that supports San Miguel Academy of Newburgh students’ journeys to Mercy College.

The foundation’s commitment to Mercy College has enabled many students to transform their lives through education. Mercy values their continued support and partnership which help to sustain both the College’s financial health and its institutional mission.