



**CONTACT:**  
Mark Schmeltzer  
312-933-9757  
marsch@mercyhome.org

## **MERCY HOME CELEBRATES “SHAMROCKS FOR KIDS,” PRESENTED BY JEWEL-OSCO**

CHICAGO, March 1—Mercy Home for Boys & Girls and Jewel-Osco invite the public to be part of a solution for kids in crisis while celebrating St. Patrick’s Day. Throughout the month of March, their annual “Shamrocks for Kids” program will feature fun, Irish-themed activities and events while raising funds and awareness to help abused, neglected and at-risk children.

“Shamrocks for Kids” is named for Mercy Home’s distinctive green shamrock lapel pin and ribbon. As they do every year in March, volunteers will hit the streets, distributing the shamrocks for donations to Mercy Home at Chicago-area St. Patrick’s Day parades and celebrations, including:

- Saturday, March 6 Forest Park St. Patrick’s Day Parade (Forest Park, IL, 1:00 p.m.)
- Saturday, March 13: Chicago Downtown St. Patrick’s Day Parade (Columbus Dr., 12:00 p.m.)
- Sunday, March 14 Northwest Side Irish Parade (Norwood Park, Chicago, 12:00 p.m.)

Mercy Home shamrocks will also be available at O’Brien’s Restaurant in Chicago’s Old Town during its “Month O’ Mercy” celebration, which runs now through St. Patrick’s Day, March 17. Tickets for O’Brien’s St. Patrick’s Day Raffle benefitting Mercy Home will also be available at the restaurant or online at [mercyhome.org](http://mercyhome.org). Grand prize is round-trip main cabin air transportation for two from Chicago to Dublin, Ireland courtesy of American Airlines. Cash prizes are also available. The winning tickets will be drawn on March 17<sup>th</sup> at the restaurant.

Throughout the entire month of March, shoppers at Jewel-Osco stores can support Mercy Home simply by purchasing Kellogg’s Keebler Chips Deluxe Cookies, Azteca Flour Tortillas and Salad Shells, and Diana’s Bananas Banana Babies. From March 1<sup>st</sup> through the 31<sup>st</sup>, ten percent from each sale of any of these items at participating Jewel-Osco stores will go directly to Mercy Home for Boys & Girls.

By using their Jewel-Osco Preferred Card when buying these products, shoppers will be automatically entered into the *Shamrocks for Kids Family Vacation Sweepstakes to Ireland*. Contest includes round-trip main cabin air transportation for four to Dublin, Ireland courtesy of American Airlines, and four nights’ hotel accommodations courtesy of VisitCorkCounty.com. Product information and complete sweepstakes rules and registration can be found at [mercyhome.org](http://mercyhome.org) or in Jewel-Osco’s in-store circular. Certain restrictions apply.

On Saturday, March 13, Mercy Home will gather with friends and family at the Hilton Chicago for its 15<sup>th</sup> annual Shamrocks for Kids Post Parade Celebration. The family-friendly party kicks off immediately following the Chicago Downtown St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

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Guests will enjoy a traditional Irish hot corned beef buffet, Leprechaun Lunches for the kids courtesy of Blue Plate Catering, Pepsi products, Goose Island Ales, and fine wines courtesy of Kinzie Chop House. Live music will be provided by Dyed in the Wool, Sean Cleland & Friends, and Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. Irish dance performances will feature The Trinity Irish Academy of Dance, The Mullane Irish Dance Academy, and The World Academy of Irish Dance. General admission is \$50, teenagers are \$25 and children under 12 are admitted free. Proceeds from the event support Mercy Home for Boys & Girls. For more information or to buy tickets, call 312-738-8331 or visit [mercyhome.org](http://mercyhome.org).

Look for ABC-7 Chicago's lead news anchor Kathy Brock to appear in public service announcements promoting "Shamrocks for Kids" in March. And, more information about "Shamrocks for Kids" will appear on the Lisa Dent and Ramblin' Ray Morning Show on America's Country Station US99.5.

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls has been a solution for kids in crisis since 1887. Our residential, aftercare, and mentoring programs provide a safe home and life-changing opportunities for more than 600 kids every year. Please visit [mercyhome.org](http://mercyhome.org) to learn more.

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