

## Founder's Partner: Jules L. Plangere, Jr. Family Foundation



*Jack Conover (pictured 4<sup>th</sup> from left) with (from left to right) Philip Villapiano, Sister Mary Lou, Sister Carol and Mary Beth Radke, Chair of Mercy Center Board of Trustees, at the Circle of Mercy fundraiser breakfast for Sisters Academy, 2017.*

Jules Plangere had a deep love for Asbury Park. Its culture and people made for great storytelling (Jules was the Publisher and Co-Owner of the Asbury Park Press with the Lass family until 1997). Driven by a passion for the local youth, he became a champion for education. Upon the sale of the paper, he established the Jules L. Plangere, Jr. Family Foundation to address opportunity inequities. Today, we work with several organizations that provide programs to help youth to reach their full potential. The Trustees support and believe in Mercy Center because of its "winning formula" in transforming the lives of youth in Asbury Park. We appreciate its full-family focus and comprehensive approach towards family stability. When we see that all the girls from Sisters Academy go onto to high school and most also attend college, we know that we are making a difference. For over 15 years, we have placed our trust in Mercy Center and we look forward to our continued partnership. We extend our best wishes to Sister Carol and thank her for many years of service to Asbury Park, this community that we all love.

*Jack Conover, on behalf of the Foundation Trustees*