



**MERCY
UNIVERSITY**
Alumni Relations | THE COLLEGE
OF NEW ROCHELLE

Mary Crescenzo, CNR GS '76



Mary Crescenzo is recipient of a 2022 Maude's Award for Innovations in Alzheimer's Care from the Richard and Maude Ferry Foundation, which honors her pioneer work in arts engagement through her multidisciplinary approach and development of Care Through the ArtsSM for those living with dementia. She is the author of *The Planet Alzheimer's Guide: 8 Ways the Arts Can Transform the Life of Your Loved One and Your Own*, and playwright of *Planet A*, about the inner world of dementia.

Mary co-hosts the monthly radio podcast "Dementia and the Arts" on Alzheimer's Speaks with host Lori La Bey - leading influencer in the field of dementia care and comfort. Mary is a public speaker; artist strategist/practitioner; professional development seminar creator/facilitator for life enrichment directors, and personal and professional caregivers; and workshop creator/facilitator of *Self-Care for Caregivers Through Creative Writing: Respite, Relaxation, Rejuvenation & Revelation*.

She is a consultant for families of persons with dementia on how the arts can enrich both the lives of the caregivers and the family member with this disorder. Mary holds a BA in Arts Education, CUNY; Graduate studies in Art Therapy, College of New Rochelle; and a MA in Liberal Studies, University of Oklahoma.