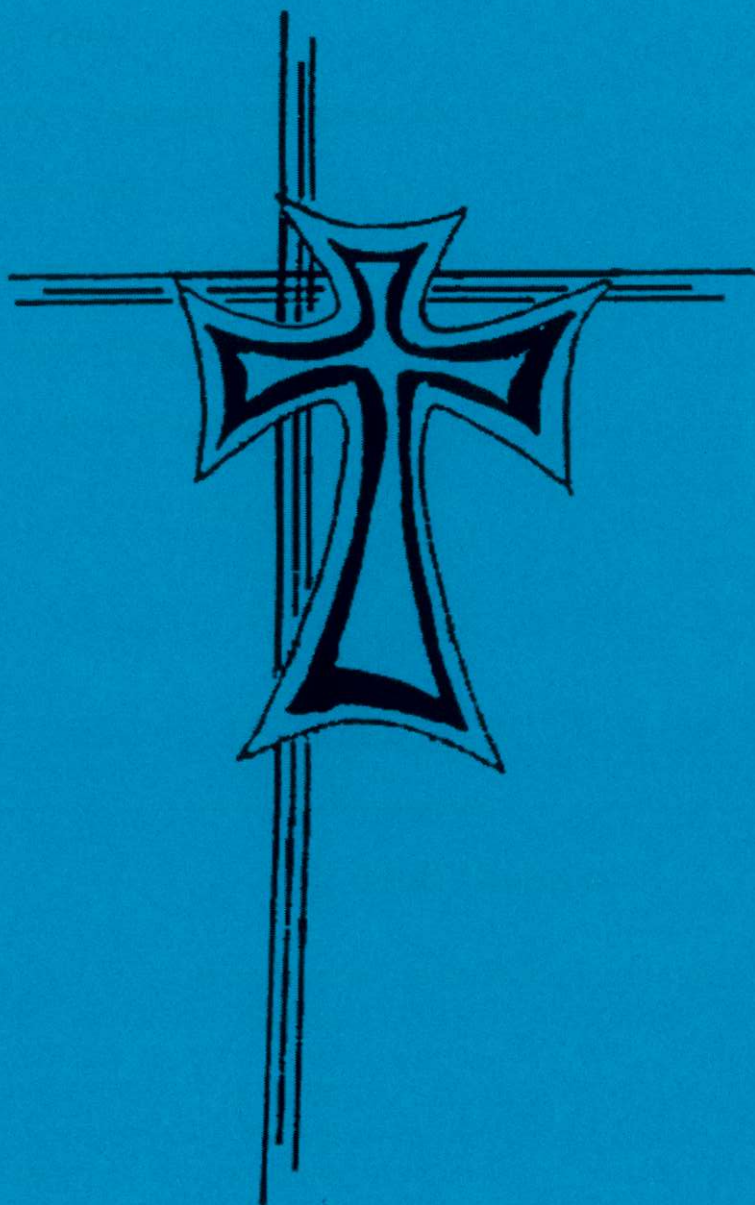


# **Sisters of Mercy Wiri**



**Annual Report and Statement of Accounts  
2005/2006**

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### **Brief History**

In response to a request and an invitation by Maori women, the Sisters of Mercy in 1988 opened a house in Wiri, Manukau City. Because of the growing need the agency, Sisters of Mercy Wiri, was formerly established in 1990 by Sisters Anne Hurley and Margaret Martin. For ten years the service operated as a charitable trust from the house in which the sisters live in Wiri. In November 2000, the service moved to the Wiri Centre.

In June 2001, Sisters of Mercy Wiri was registered as a company under the Companies Act 1993 and is approved as a charitable entity by the Department of Inland Revenue.



# Mission Statement

***To work with the poor, especially women and children,  
to build positive relationships that strengthen families and communities  
and to join with others to bring about a more just and compassionate society.***

Animated by Gospel values and the social teaching of the Church we will, co-workers and Sisters respond with Christ's love to the needs and concerns of the economically poor, especially women and children.

## Our Objectives

- Uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi)
- Work with all people of goodwill towards the transformation of society to bring about the reign of God
- Promote the value that all persons are called to family, community and participation
- Respond through direct service provision to strengthen families and build better communities
- Facilitate community development by involving neighbourhood and community participation
- Embrace the multi-cultural character of Wiri and recognise and value all cultures and ethnic groups that are represented in the local community
- Participate in processes that could influence those who exercise power and make decisions affecting the lives of many

## Key Values

Compassion  
Concern for the poor and vulnerable  
Service  
Justice

Te Aroha  
Aroha kit e Rawakore  
Awhinatanga  
Tika

Sisters of Mercy Wiri is a not for profit community based social service agency, with a strong social justice and community development focus

The work of the agency centres around three key focus areas:

- Social Services
- Social Justice
- Community Development

## Board of Directors

Top: Carol Mollard (Chairperson), 2<sup>nd</sup> Row: Waina Emery and Sister Anne Hurley  
3<sup>rd</sup> Row: Sister Kathy Lynch, Sister Margaret Martin and Ruth Spelman



## Who We Are




Back: Joan Soster (Childcare), Monika Mazua (Accounts) Kathy Murray (Receptionist)  
Front: Sharon Lang (SWIS Social Worker) Sister Margaret Martin (Manager) Nooroa Henry (Healthy Living Ambassador) Sister Anne Hurley (Community Social Worker)



## Chairperson's Report

It is a privilege for me to present the fifth annual report of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri. The financial performance, the Manager's report and the continuing service delivery of the agency show us that our affairs are in good heart.

As a Board we were delighted earlier in the year that Sister Margaret Martin and Sister Anne Hurley were able to experience first hand Catherine McAuley's unfolding vision when they visited Baggot Street, Dublin.



During October Margaret, Anne and myself participated in a consultation evening with regard to the draft strategic plan of Sisters of Mercy Auckland Limited. The discussion that took place was valuable and worthwhile. Unfortunately, this was not reflected in the final document.

In December the Board made a decision to grow our numbers and in February we welcomed Ruth Spelman as a director.

During the past year the Board has taken a proactive approach to the effects of the Charities Act legislation, and has maintained current knowledge of developments with regard to how the proposed changes will affect Sisters of Mercy Wiri. These changes present some very real challenges to the organisation. We are currently engaged in dialogue with Sisters of Mercy Auckland Ltd regarding these concerns.

Sisters of Mercy Wiri is unique. Two Sisters of Mercy are members of the Board and work and provide leadership within the agency. A third Board member, Sister Kathy Lynch is a member of the congregational leadership team. Together with Waina Emery, a foundation Board member, and Ruth Spelman sound governance is provided for the agency. I thank my co-directors for their commitment and dedication to Sisters of Mercy Wiri.

*Give us, creating God, a living sense of community.  
Make us redeeming God, a reflective people.  
Give us, Spirit of God, your inspiration.  
God, who never gives us up,  
may we be constant in our pursuit of our shared dream.*

  
Carol L Mollard MNZM  
Chairperson



## Manager's Report

Sisters of Mercy Wiri has had another busy and energetic year seeking to put in to practice the ideals espoused by our very challenging Mission Statement. That is, in working with the poor, especially women and children, we have built positive relationships that strengthen families and the community, and have joined with others to bring about a more just and compassionate society.

The numbers of families who have received one or more of the core services that we offer - **home visits and social work support, advocacy, assistance with immediate need and information and referral** - have remained constant over the year. However, engaging with families/whanau in long term, ongoing work to strengthen their ability to enjoy a greater degree of well being is by far the greatest need and presents the most challenges for staff.

The **Social Workers in Schools Programme** now in its sixth year is going from 'strength to strength'. The programme is most effective when the Social Worker works not only with the child and the school, but when the family/whanau is also involved. It is only then that the child is more likely to reach her/his full potential. This year the willingness of the family/whanau to engage in the process to effect long-term change has been most encouraging. Where a parent has participated in a parenting programme the benefits are even greater.

A particular strength of our **parenting programmes** has been the co-facilitation of the programme by the social worker/s and the invaluable follow up work of maintaining contact with the family/whanau in the home. This way of working is a reflection of all the home-based support services offered by Sisters of Mercy Wiri as an integral part of building and strengthening good, healthy relationships and with the family/whanau and the community. The provision of **childcare for pre-schoolers** of parents attending the programme is an important feature as well.

Over 757 recorded **home visits** have been made by our social work staff this year. We are an amazing team. While our number is small in comparison to much bigger social service providers we carry out an incredible amount of work on a number of levels.

For example, the **sharing of bread** three mornings a week throughout Wiri, while time-consuming, is a wonderful expression of mercy in action. Now in its fourteenth year it is indeed twice blessed, 'it blesses those who give and blesses those who take'. The following poem, author unknown, expresses well this aspect of our ministry.

*Be gentle when you touch bread.  
Let it not lie, uncared for, unwanted.  
So often bread is taken for granted.  
There is so much beauty in bread –*



*Beauty of sun and soil,  
beauty of patient toil.  
Wind and rains have caressed it,  
Christ often blessed it.  
Be gentle when you touch bread.*

An extension of the sharing of bread is the **provision of lunches for children**, who would otherwise have no food at school. Sisters of Mercy Wiri have been co-ordinating this programme since 1993.

During the year we have continued to provide a range of **courses and programmes**. These have included Self Confidence for Women, Family First Aid, Driver Education, Aerobics and Health related education sessions. One innovative highlight was the Healthy Breakfasts for Families. On three mornings in March families were given the opportunity to dine out for breakfast. Those who participated enjoyed the experience which was reflected in their evaluation comments.

**Programmes for children** this year have included the Wiri Juniors After School Activity Programme, holiday programmes and outings to the Magic Show, Circus Quirkus and the Annual Children's Christmas Party.

The **social justice** aspect of the agency's work is ongoing. We have made submissions to the Manukau City Council Draft 2006-2016 Long Term Annual Plan and to the Franklyn Kindergarten Association. Sisters of Mercy Wiri has also contributed under the theme of Healthy People, to the Manukau City Council's Tomorrow's Manukau – Manukau Apopo workbook. And as we have done for many years now, we once again hosted Gavin Rennie and a group of senior students from the School of Social Work and Community Development, Unitec.

In May the staff met with, Bob Clark and Brownie Rauwhero, kaumatua from Pukaki marae. It was an exchange of storeytelling and the formalising of a designated kaumatua for Sisters of Mercy Wiri. We warmly welcome and acknowledge Bob Clark as our kaumatua. We also acknowledge with gratitude the guidance and advice we have received from Maurice Wilson over the years.

The Wiri Centre, from which we operate, is truly a community-based facility. During the year we received over 540 requests for information and advice. The approximate number of people who visited or accessed services from the Centre during the year was in excess of 3600.

Sisters of Mercy Wiri is blessed with a committed and stable staff including volunteers, whose contribution to the ministry of the agency is outstanding. We gratefully acknowledge the services of Sister Jacqui Miles and Judith Crimmins whose availability and assistance during August and September was most helpful. We were sorry to farewell Monika Mazur after three years of excellent work in her role as accounts clerk. As a staff there have been some very enjoyable experiences and memorable moments shared together over the year.

These occasions continue to enrich us personally and provide opportunities to relax and relate in settings other than our place of work.

We also have a very generous and supportive governance team. The gift of their time, energy and expertise to the organisation is greatly valued and appreciated.

Inevitably the year ahead will present its challenges and opportunities. We look forward to embracing these together in an attitude of trust and belief in God's providence.

*"Every place has its own particular ideas and feelings  
which must be yielded to when possible."*

*Catherine McAuley*



*Margaret Martin*

Sister Margaret Martin

*Anne Hurley*

Sister Anne Hurley



**"I've really enjoyed being part of this course. I've learnt a lot about first aid"**

**"Childcare is awesome!"**

*"It was awesome to have someone serve me for breakfast and have time to talk to the kids about how their day will be"*

*"I learn so much and want to keep on learning"*

*"This course really helped me to know how to care for my family in the home"*

*"Thank you for your kindness and helping me to get my licence"*



## **Positive Feedback**

*"It helps me to be a healthy person and to help my family"*

*"A very important and helpful course"*

*"I really enjoy these courses – it gives me a lot of self-confidence"*

***"Thank you, clear, practical and fun"***

*"Thanks very much for your help and for doing this course"*

*"I would like to come back and do this course again"*

***"Good course – close to home"***

*"My family wants to come again – they liked the healthy breakfast"*

*"It was a good experience to sit together as a family"*

## Acknowledgements

The work of Sisters of Mercy Wiri is made possible through the generous support and assistance of a number of organizations and individuals.

Thanks to our funders for their continued support. We are glad to acknowledge:

Department of Child Youth and Family  
Manukau City Council  
Personal Donations

Special thanks are also due to those who have contributed in a variety of ways over the past year.

Claudio Soster  
Diana and William Atkinson  
Foodlink  
Foodtown Manukau  
Loma Lyes  
Manurewa Leisure Centre  
Microsoft NZ Ltd  
Muriel Bankier  
Otara Health Incorporated  
Reverend Terry Dibble  
Rotary Club of Newmarket Inc  
Special Children's Christmas Parties (NZ) Ltd  
Unitec  
Wiri Central School

And heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our small and very committed team of volunteers who give of their time to support our work. Gwen Naughten and Claire Elliott for the collection and delivery of goods, Diana Atkinson in her role as volunteer support, Tumua Sua for her help with the lunch programme and the parents who have assisted with the supervision of children's holiday programmes and outings.

*Ahakoā he iti, he pounamu*

Your contribution, however small, is as valuable as the greenstone