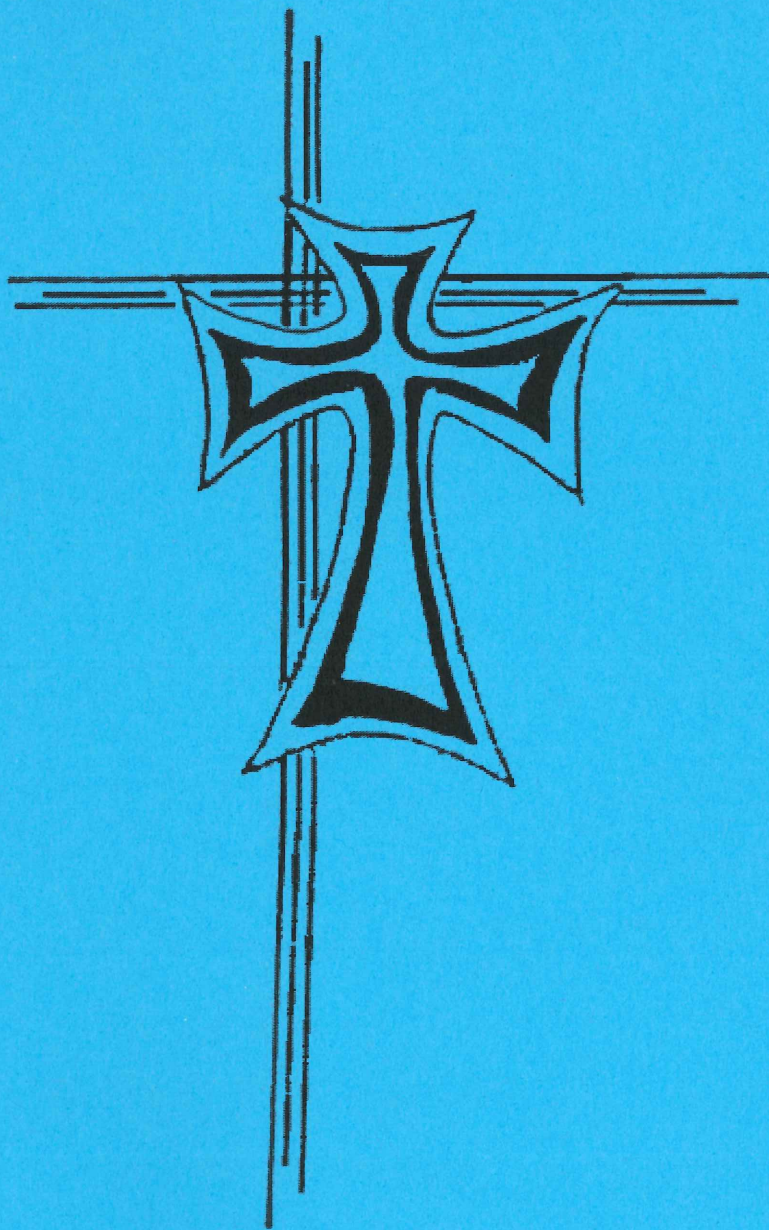


Sisters of Mercy Wiri



**Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
2007/2008**

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Brief History

In response to a request and an invitation by Maori women, the Sisters of Mercy Auckland opened a house in Wiri, Manukau City, in 1988. Because of the growing need the agency, Sisters of Mercy Wiri, was formally established in 1990 by Sisters Anne Hurley and Margaret Martin.

For ten years the service operated from the house in which the sisters live in Wiri. In November 2000, the service relocated to the Wiri Centre. The Wiri Centre is a joint initiative between Sisters of Mercy Wiri and Wiri Central School.

The agency is a not for profit community based provider of social services with a social justice and community development focus.

As an active non-governmental organisation it delivers a range of services and programmes. The agency also contributes to a number of regional forums that focus on improving social outcomes, health and wellbeing in the region. Through its ministry it embodies the mission of the Catholic Religious Congregation of women, Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sister of Mercy New Zealand, founded by Catherine McAuley in Dublin in 1831 to work with the poor, especially women and children.

Our Mission

*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 Catholic Church we will, coworkers and Sisters respond with Christ's love to the needs and concerns of the economically poor, especially women and children.

Treaty of Waitangi

Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi is New Zealand's founding document and Sisters of Mercy Wiri is committed to honouring Te Tiriti as a principle for the way in which we work.

Guiding Principles

- 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 others

Key Values

Compassion
Concern for the poor and vulnerable
Service
Justice

Te Aroha
Aroha ki te Rawakore
Awhinatanga
Tika

Board of Directors

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



Chairperson's Report

The year July 2007 - June 2008, from a Board perspective, has been dominated by the drafting of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust Deed. It was important to the Board that the Deed meet the legal requirements in a way that reflected the values of Sisters of Mercy Wiri. There has been much discussion and consultation to achieve a document that is consistent with what is legally required as well as what is appropriate and meaningful for a small not for profit community based social service agency.

Our thanks to Alexandra Low, and more recently Lyndsey Partridge, from Chapman Tripp who is now assisting us in this process.

The Board completed the Mercy Ministries Limited Board Self Review Document. This was a useful exercise resulting in worthwhile discussion.

Three Board members attended the Mercy Governance seminar. The discussion we had when filtering back to our Board, resulted in us acknowledging that for a large part of the year, we had been 'marking time' due to a protracted process around the new Trust Deed document. We decided that we needed to reignite a

positive proactive paradigm and regain our focus on the core governance issues of the agency. This we have done and are ready to move forward with confidence and optimism, continuing to give life to the mission of Sisters of Mercy Wiri.

I thank fellow Board members Sister Margaret Martin, Sister Anne Hurley, Waina Emery, Sister Kathy Lynch and Ruth Spelman for their dedication, commitment and support during the past year.

As we move forward in hope I am conscious of the environment in which the agency operates and which is constantly changing and the need for sound and wise governance. In the words of Joan Chittister:

'And the mosaic called life shifts again as we pilgrim it, awake to possibility and attuned to the God who beckons, who companions us, on the way'

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol Mollard".

Carol Mollard MNZM
Chairperson

Manager's Report

Over the past year Sisters of Mercy Wiri have endeavoured, as always, to respond to the call of God's, people both informally and formally, through our presence and availability as we go about our work, and through the direct provision of the services and programmes we offer. As Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy, once said

*'There are things the poor prize more highly than gold,
though they cost the donor nothing:
the kind word, the gentle, compassionate look, and the patient hearing of
sorrows'.*

During the year we also have been blessed by the many people who have come through the doors of the Wiri Centre, some 2,461. Some of these blessings include:

- the trusting faces of little children who come with their mums and who love a story or playing with the blocks
- the people who return to be nourished or assisted once more in time of need
- the tertiary students on placement who leave with admiration of what is offered and who are themselves challenged
- the women whose stories are heard and honoured and who leave uplifted
- those who use the Centre for a meeting and who appreciate the pleasant surroundings and available space
- the visitors who feel the warmth and aroha of hospitality
- the happy greetings and sharing of information from the women and men who come for bread
- the anxious children not collected from school who come to the Centre as a safe place

Our **core services**, home visits and home based support, social work and Social Worker in Schools, assistance with immediate need, advocacy, money management, information and referral and health promotion have been maintained and **new initiatives** for youth at risk and parenting seminars have been introduced.

Sisters of Mercy Wiri continue to seek ways to engage parents in the challenging task of raising their children. To this end we sponsored and organised, together with representatives from Wiri Central School, Manukau Central Kindergarten, Child Advocacy Group Manukau City Council and local residents two major community **parenting events** presented by Pio Terei and John Cowan from Parents Inc. These events were planned to raise awareness of the need and importance of good parenting and to provide parents with positive down to earth advice about how to manage difficult and unacceptable behaviour in non violent and constructive ways.

Approximately one hundred parents attended each of the events. The feedback from the evaluations completed by over 90% of those who attended indicated that the sessions had been well received and helpful. As a follow-up Sisters of

Mercy Wiri engaged a facilitator from Parents Inc to run a six week parenting training programme for the staff and community members of the planning committee.



Sadly, when this programme was offered to the wider community to build on the learnings gained from the community events there were insufficient prospective participants to provide a meaningful group programme.

The new initiative for **at risk youth** began with the employment of Tip Waikato as Youth Support Worker in September. Sisters of Mercy Wiri began more intentionally to support youth by working alongside them to engage them in education as well as offer life skills programmes.

Over the year young people, predominantly boys, aged 11 to 14 years participated in a range of planned and supervised activities as well as attended local youth events.

As part of the youth initiative Sisters of Mercy Wiri explored ways of introducing a mentoring programme for young people aged between 10 and 14 years who wanted to make a change in their lives. Working with Brothers in Arms, which is a one on one friendship based mentoring programme, we held training sessions for staff and prospective mentors in March 2008. The next stage in the process is to recruit and screen men and women from the age of 18 who are interested in making a positive difference in the life of a young person.

In addition to the above, other **programmes** provided this year have included The First Tee and Stay Cool. The First Tee Programme teaches children life lessons such as respect, honesty and confidence in a fun and positive way through the game of golf. In a more direct way the Stay Cool Programme gives children the tools to recognise why they get angry and how to turn the energy of anger into positive constructive behaviour. It also encourages the parents and teachers of the children on the programme to take an active role. The support from Wiri Central School enabled both of these programmes to proceed smoothly.

Driver Education Courses, the Wiri Juniors After School Programme and Holiday Programmes have also been provided.

The year under review has seen an emphasis on working in partnership with others. A project that I am pleased to report on is the two year Housing New Zealand Community Renewal Project for Rata Vine/Wiri which began in August 2007. Sisters of Mercy Wiri along with Manukau City Council, other agencies and people living in the community are part of the process. We are working together to identify and prioritise projects that will lead to a strong and healthy community. It is exciting to be part of a project that has the potential to make a real difference

by improving the physical environment and amenities, increasing neighbourhood safety and building community spirit.

An important component of our advocacy has always been presenting submissions. This year we made two submissions to Manukau City Council, one concerning the Review of Manukau City Gaming Venues Policy and the other concerning the Council ownership of airport shares. From our perspective both of these issues can significantly impact on those most vulnerable in society.

As in other years there have been team changes. We said goodbye to Serah Lee-Hung, Noela Tialavea and welcomed Tip Waikato, Freda King and Kathleen Pou. The comings and goings brought both joy and sadness.

I want to acknowledge the generous contribution and support from all staff, volunteers and members of the Board during what has been a busy year of challenges and achievements. The dedication and commitment of all concerned continues to make a positive difference to the quality of life of many Wiri children and their families.

'We can never say it is enough.'

Catherine McAuley



Sister Margaret Martin

Acknowledgements

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

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

Department of Child Youth and Family
Hugh Green Trust
Housing New Zealand
Manukau City Council
Ministry of Social Development
Personal Donations

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

Bob Clark (Kaumatua)	Pak'n'Save Manukau
Brendon Main	Rainbows End
Brothers in Arms	Reverend Terry Dibble
Foodlink	Rotary Club of Newmarket Inc
Foodtown Manukau	Special Children's Christmas Parties (NZ) Ltd
Gattings's	TelstraClear Pacific Events Centre
Homai Kindergarten	Tony Kake
Manukau Central Kindergarten	WINZ Manukau
Manurewa Aquatic Centre	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 and Andrew de Jong who assisted with Life Skills programmes for boys. Pauline Minoneti and Tokanga Tupou, 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