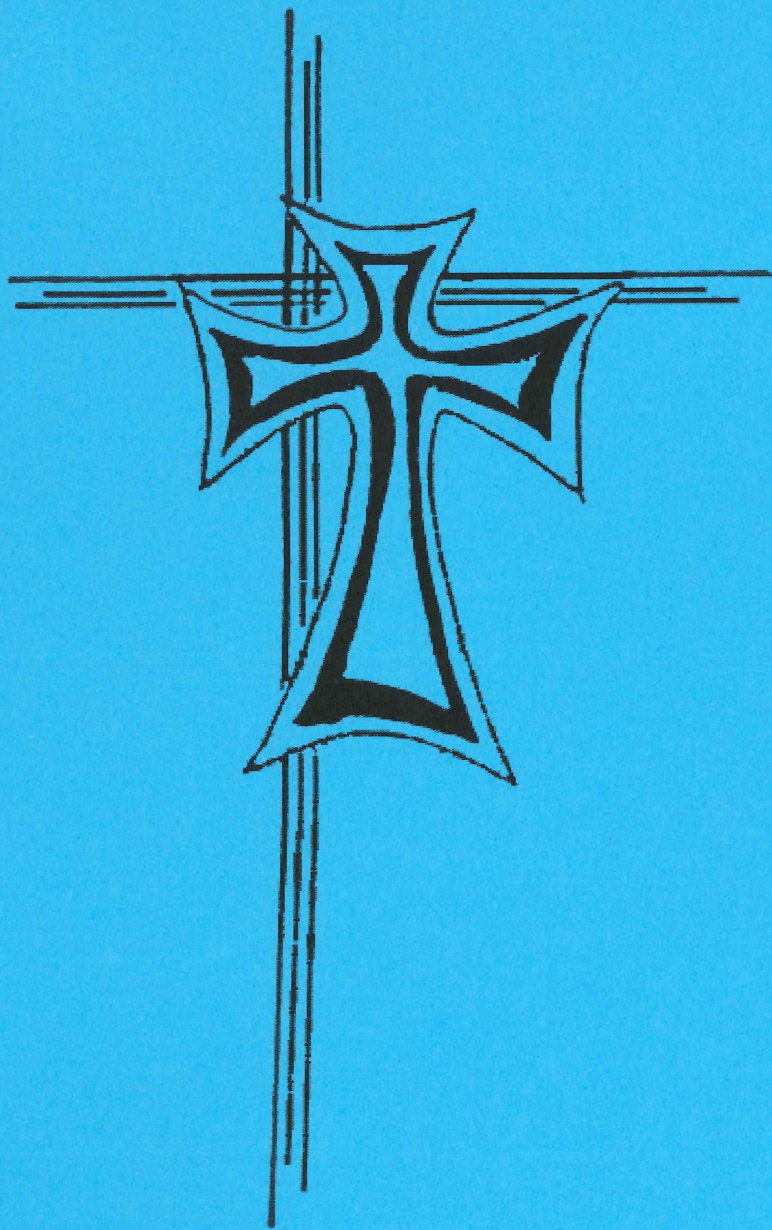


Sisters of Mercy Wiri



**Annual Report and Statement of Accounts
2009/2010**

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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

Carol Mollard (Chairperson),
Sister Margaret Martin, Sister Anne Hurley
and Ruth Spelman



Chairperson's Report

The year July 2009 to June 2010 has been unique. It has seen a major transition as the Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust relinquished all formal contracts, both funding and employment by December 2009. This was achieved successfully through a well planned, timely, open, transparent process with all employees, funders and stakeholders.

Many people who had an association with Sister Anne and/or Sister Margaret recognised this change was a time to acknowledge the past, thank the many partners on the journey and celebrate all that had been. 'Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'.

Perhaps the highlight of the year was the End of Year gathering in December where more than seventy supporters, community members, community stakeholders, current and former staff and Sisters of Mercy were invited to

celebrate the contribution of Sisters of Mercy Wiri to the community and to acknowledge the many links, partnerships and connections with a wide spectrum of individuals, agencies, supporters and local government entities.

Also during the year, too, many organisations have individually recognised the special place of the work of the agency. Two of these deserve specific mention.

Firstly, Len Brown, Mayor of Manukau City, hosted a morning tea to honour Margaret and Anne. Senior Council officers, councillors, Community Board members, representatives of the local community and Wiri Central Primary School were able to publicly acknowledge the integrity and commitment which they brought to their work.

Then both Margaret and Anne were awarded the Queen's Service Medal in the New Years Honours for services to the community.

A new opportunity presented itself with the request from McAuley High School that Sisters of Mercy Wiri act as the fund holder for their adult literacy work with Pasifika parents at the school. After learning about this work the Board was delighted to take on this role.

During the year the Board has continued to engage with Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand. The active support given through the transition process was much appreciated. Since February Anne and Margaret together with Matthew Murfitt from the McAuley Trust have discussed plans to extend a room in their house in Wiri to dovetail as an office space and a place to receive community members.

The Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust Board continues to support Margaret and Anne as they engage with a number of community activities in the Wiri / Manurewa area and continue to advocate for people at local and national government.

I thank Anne and Margaret in their role as Board members and Ruth Spelman, fellow board member for the continued commitment and contribution to the Board.

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, the journey continues.



Carol Mollard MNZM
Chairperson

Manager's Report

As signalled in last year's report this year has been one of change and transition.

Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow, the theme of our 2009 End of Year gathering, captures something of the spirit of an eventful year.

Between July and December 2009 the works of the agency continued. This included the distribution of bread, the provision of school lunches, social work services and Social Worker in Schools, advocacy, information and advisory services, programmes and community activities.

On 30 November Contracts between Sisters of Mercy Wiri and Child Youth and Family and the Ministry of Social Development for the delivery of locally based services and programmes and for the provision of Social Worker in Schools were terminated. Sisters of Mercy Wiri have valued the contractual relationship which began in 1991, and over the years have enjoyed working with the various contracting personnel.

At the end of November the Contract with Manukau City Council for the provision of programmes from the Wiri Centre was also terminated. Sisters of Mercy Wiri has greatly appreciated the strong relationship with Manukau City Council and in particular the Community Services Team. With the advent of the 'Super City' our continued involvement with local government from November 2010 will be with the new Auckland Council.

Significant partnerships with Wiri Central School have included the establishment of a School Lunch programme in 1993 for children coming to school with no lunch, the Social Workers in Schools Programme and the establishment of the Wiri Centre in 2000. These programmes have contributed to the wellbeing of the people of Wiri, particularly children and their families. We acknowledged with gratitude the contribution of past principal Carol Mollard for her vision and leadership and thank Jan Donaldson, present Principal, for considerable support during the transition phase.

We pay tribute to our small team of co-workers and volunteers during this period – Joan Soster, Lesley Hancock, Sr Leiola Pelesikoti, Gwen Naughten, Maria Lealaiauloto and Denise Kirtlan. In faith and love they continued to provide quality service and for this we thank them. As the year drew to a close and we prepared to celebrate together all that had been, and what will be, we rejoiced in the knowledge that the members of our team had all secured future employment.

The End of Year gathering was a most joyful occasion and the song 'Everyday God' with photos (see next page) captured and gave expression to the many people and activities that the work of Sisters of Mercy Wiri has been privileged to be part of.

In February 2010 we vacated the Wiri Centre, the building occupied by the agency in arrangement with Wiri Central School for almost 10 years. Surplus assets, for example, three fully operational computers and a printer were given to

the mission work of Sisters of Mercy New Zealand in Samoa.

Establishing a new work space, from where we live in Wiri, has been a considerable task. We acknowledge the support of Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa, Sisters of Mercy New Zealand, through the McAuley Trust, who approved the building of an extension to the house we live in for a place to receive community members. Work on this project is expected to begin in August.



During the March to June quarter we continued to be responsive to requests for assistance, these have included assistance with housing need, verification of documents, advocacy and support with government agencies and money management. The distribution of bread among families in the community still takes place three mornings a week. One positive aspect of this is the ongoing contact we have with the people, who very much appreciate this aspect of ministry. Visiting families in their homes, too, enhances social connectedness within the community.

Networking with local and regional groups in the areas of housing, child advocacy and welfare happens on a regular basis.

Significant issues we became involved in included a written submission on the Social Assistance (Future Focus) Bill, campaigning with the Salvation Army Manukau and Alcohol Healthwatch to encourage the Government to adopt fully all the recommendations of the Law Commission regarding Alcohol Law Reform and written submissions regarding the proposed men's prison at Wiri and double bunking at the Auckland Region Women's Correction Facility.

Our heartfelt thanks to Carol and Ruth for their contribution at governance level and for their understanding of the values, mission and principles from which the agency Sisters of Mercy Wiri developed. Decision making has been based on the call to service as a Sister of Mercy rather than on how to maintain the organisation. Their encouragement and practical assistance in this regard has been especially appreciated.

In the spirit of the 2009 Chapter Statement of Nga Whaea Atawhai Sisters of Mercy New Zealand we ask ourselves 'how are we to be in mission', what is our prophetic response in mercy and justice and how do we give expression today to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy as Sisters of Mercy living in Wiri.

Margaret Martin

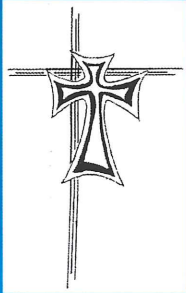
Sister Margaret Martin

Anne Hurley

Sister Anne Hurley

Sisters of Mercy Wiri

Family, Whanau and Community Service



Wiri Centre

10 December 2009

Thank You

Friendship House
 Salvation Army Manukau
 Monte Cecilia House
 Manukau Kindergarten
 Catholic Family Services
 Pak'n'Save Manukau
 Auckland District Council of Social Services
 Otara Health Inc
 Manukau Institute of Technology
 Unitec
 Manukau Leisure Services
 Manukau The Healthy City



Thank You

Manukau Foodtown
 TelstraClear Pacific
 Family Start
 Gattings Catering
 Manurewa Marae
 Pou Atawhai Centre
 Manurewa Community Board
 Manukau Truancy
 Public Health Nurses
 NZ Council of Christian Social Services
 Mangere East Family Service Centre
 Counties Manukau Active

Thank You

Board Members, Co-workers and Volunteers
 Sisters of Mercy
 Wiri Central School
 Pukaki Marae
 Manukau City Council
 Ministry of Social Development
 Child Youth and Family
 Housing New Zealand
 Ministry of Education
 Counties Manukau District Health Board
 New Zealand Police
 Dynamic Peer Partnerships

