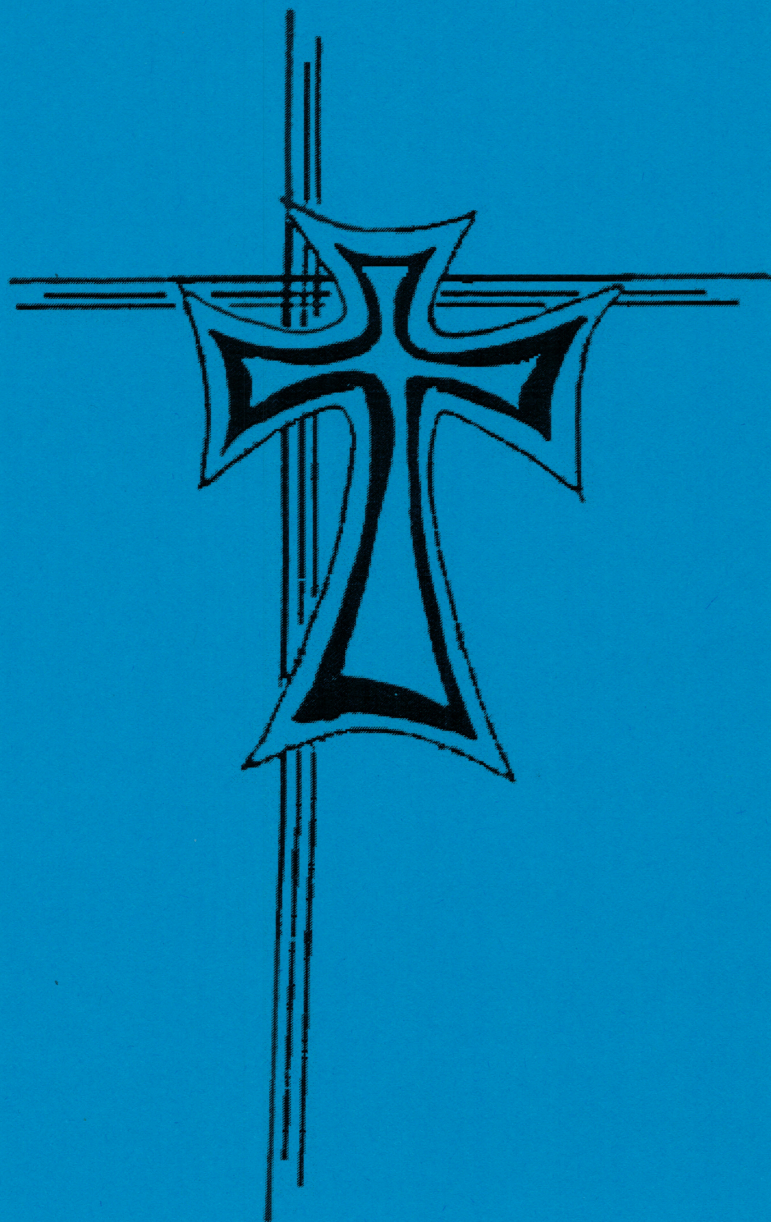


Sisters of Mercy Wiri



2014/2015 Annual Report

Contents

Brief History	1
Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, Works of Mercy	2
Chairperson's Report	3
Ministry Report	4
Acknowledgements	6
Financial Performance	7

Brief History

In 1988 Sisters of Mercy responded to an invitation by local Maori women and came to live in Wiri. Sister Anne Hurley and Sister Margaret Martin established the community based agency Sisters of Mercy Wiri in 1990 in response to growing community needs. For ten years Anne and Margaret worked from the house which the Sisters had built themselves. The establishment of the Wiri Centre in 2000 was a joint initiative between Sisters of Mercy Wiri and Wiri Central School and in November 2000 the service relocated to the Wiri Centre.

As an active community based not for profit organisation Sisters of Mercy Wiri delivered a range of services and programmes. The agency also contributed to a number of regional forums that focussed on improving social outcomes, health and wellbeing in the region.

In December 2009 Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust relinquished all formal contracts, both funding and employment and vacated the Wiri Centre. Margaret and Anne continue to live and work in Wiri. They are now freer to be open to the unexpected and awake to new possibilities.

The ministry of Sisters of Mercy Wiri embodies the mission of the Catholic Religious Congregation of women, Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters 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 Catholic Social Teaching we 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
- 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 to influence those who exercise power and make decisions affecting the lives of others

Works of Mercy

To feed the hungry
To clothe the naked
To shelter the homeless
To bury the dead

To give drink to the thirsty
To visit the imprisoned
To visit the sick

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

Board of Trustees



From left to right: Sr Anne Hurley, Sr Margaret Martin, Ruth Spelman (Chair) and Carol Thomas

Chairperson's Report

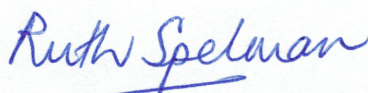
It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year to June 2015 on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust Board. During the year the Board has continued to work within its strategic plan.

This year has seen the launch of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri website which has been well received and is proving a useful way of letting others know about the ministry. The suburb of Wiri continues to evolve with new commercial and industrial developments and the former Manukau City has significant new buildings and many more students. In spite of these changes the people of Wiri continue to struggle with basic living needs and they appreciate the advocacy and practical support offered by Margaret and Anne.

In April I attended part of the Annual Mercy conference with sessions on the Tiaki Manatu Ministries board strategic imperatives and Mission in decision-making. It was good to meet Board members from other Mercy organisations and to be able to talk together about our roles and challenges.

The Board continues to affirm the work done by Anne and Margaret. They are frequently invited to speak on ways in which catholic social teaching is applied in community settings. This witness is very much respected not only in Auckland but also in the wider community.

My thanks to all Board members and to all those who support the work of Sisters of Mercy Wiri.



Ruth Spelman
Chairperson

Ministry Report

This year the ministry of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri has been influenced by an increasing awareness and commitment to Catholic social teaching. The words 'interpreting the signs of the times' which occur in Matthew's Gospel (16:3) are a starting point for this teaching. These words have encouraged and challenged us, both as Sisters of Mercy and community social workers. From this perspective, as we share our lives with the people of Wiri, and the wider communities of South Auckland and Auckland, we have become increasingly aware of

- an economy which excludes the poorest of society with the outcome that the poor are getting poorer while the rich are getting richer
- a deified market which is credited with being all powerful and the only way to solve society's problems
- public private partnerships being increasingly established to lessen the involvement of the state in public institutions such as state housing and prisons
- a community sector which is progressively underfunded and which is increasingly pressured to act competitively and to refrain from public advocacy
- the ongoing destruction of the environment

We see the effects of these indicators daily in the lives of those who live around us -- lack of money and increasing indebtedness, difficulties with housing in a market which suitable housing is scarce and expensive, child poverty and the effects on children's health, education and recreational opportunities, limited employment options especially for young people, anti-social behavior and domestic violence often associated with drug and alcohol abuse, women who are released from prison and who reoffend and return to prison, and neighbourhoods neglected by local and central government and surrounding industries.

One of the most notable trends of this year is that we have received an increased number of invitations to speak to groups, within the church mainly, about the church's teaching on social justice, and, more often than not, with respect to

housing. One of our strengths is that we are well versed in this teaching as well as in social policy with a particular reference to housing, and have been able to back up what we say with a wealth of practical, hands on experience.

The practical experience is ongoing. This year again has seen the Sisters of Mercy Wiri, in addition to the distribution of bread three mornings a week, engaged in such diverse activities as money management, assisting with immediate need in the form of gift cards for food and petrol, advocacy with

housing and WINZ issues at various levels, providing transport on occasions, assisting with the filling out of forms, providing proof of identity declarations or support letters, learner license education and supporting mums and dads to establish and maintain household routines that benefit the children and the family.

The opportunity to be involved in the annual impact activity organized by AAAP (Auckland Advocates Against Poverty) was a humbling experience and we are grateful to AAAP that we were able to participate. It involved spending three intensive days working with very needy and stressed people who came to the Mangere office of Work and Income and with the assistance from advocates were helped, to varying degrees, to access what they needed.

Our work at the women's prison in Wiri has continued this year. We have visited the women in the High Security units each Tuesday, conducted two Seasons for Growth programmes and led a Service of the Word in each of the high security units monthly. We also organised several training sessions for the St Anne's Network of Support, a small group of volunteers, established to provide community reintegration support for a woman on her release from prison. The training involved how best to accompany, guide and keep safe when walking alongside a woman who wants to embrace a pathway to change, independence and self belief. We have also provided regular updates to the St Anne's parish about this initiative.

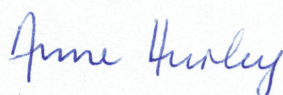
This year we have continued to liaise with politicians and Government agencies. One of the issues named in our submission to the Auckland City Council on the Auckland Draft Local Alcohol Policy was the continuation of the 24/7 liquor bans that have already been established in the parks and reserves around Wiri. The reduction in anti-social behavior and alcohol related incidents in the area is considerable. The submission was endorsed by Wiri Central School, Ra Wiri Residents Association, Friendship House and Manukau Maori Wardens, some of our local networks.



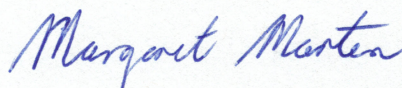
We remember with gratitude Gwen Naughton who died earlier this year. Gwen was a faithful friend and volunteer with the Sisters of Mercy Wiri over many years. May she rest in peace.

Our heartfelt thanks to Board trustees Ruth and Carol whose wisdom, knowledge and encouragement for the ministry of Sisters of Mercy Wiri is highly regarded.

Our task is ongoing. Pope Francis in Evangelii Gaudium – The joy of the Gospel #51 says we are called to an ever watchful scrutiny of the signs of the times, distinguishing clearly what might be a fruit of the kingdom, from what runs counter to God's plan. Hopefully, we will continue to respond as fully as we can.



Sister Anne Hurley
Community Social Worker



Sister Margaret Martin
Community Social Worker

Thank you

We acknowledge with gratitude the generous support and assistance of those who have contributed in a variety of ways over the past year.

Bishop Peter Cullinane
Carmel College
Countdown Manukau
Denise Gregory
Flowerise
Helmut Rudolph
Mercia Turner
Mercury Printz

Oem Computers
Pak'n Save Manukau
Peter Brebner
Salvation Army, Manukau
Sr Alice Sinnott
Sr Mary Neven
St John the Evangelist Parish, Orewa