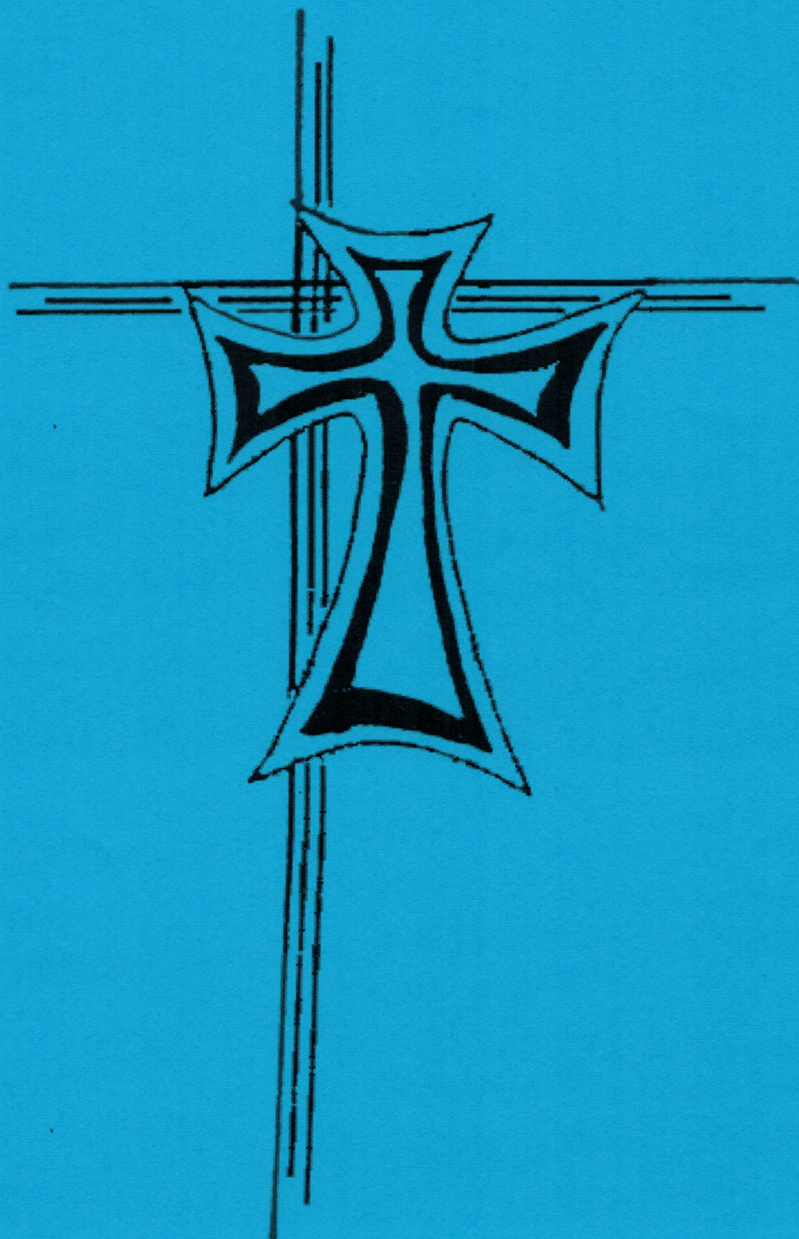


Sisters of Mercy Wiri



2017/2018 Annual Report

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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, materially, emotionally, politically and spiritually 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

Feed the hungry
Clothe the naked
Welcome the stranger
Bury the dead

Give drink to the thirsty
Visit the imprisoned
Heal the sick
Care for our common home

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

John 10:10

Board of Trustees



Back row from left to right: Graham Goldsmith, Sr Margaret Martin, Tony Horan
Ruth Spelman (Chair), Sr Anne Hurley and Catherine Dodson

Chairperson's Report

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year to June 2018 on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust Board. During the year the Board has continued to work within its strategic plan. The Board meets regularly and its accounts are well managed and up to date.

The Board continues to work well as a team and the quality of reflection and discussion at Board meetings is lively and encouraging. We give significant time to scripture based reflections at the beginning of our meetings and this practice is highly valued by all members.

We look forward to celebrating 30 years of Sisters of Mercy Wiri in September.

The Board continues to affirm the work done by Anne and Margaret. We see the wide variety of their ministry is well received and that advocacy and particular help to individuals and families continues. We consider part of our role as Board Members is to protect the balance between the everyday community work, the longer term advocacy work and the need to have enough time for reflective space to sustain the ministry.

My thanks to Catherine Dodson, Graham Goldsmith and Tony Horan and to all those who support the work of Sisters of Mercy Wiri. Finally my thanks to Margaret and Anne in their role as Board Members.



Ruth Spelman
Chairperson

Ministry Report

“A just and merciful world” is the vision of Sisters of Mercy Wiri. The key principles of Catholic Social Teaching flesh out this vision and provide the backdrop for our ministry report this year. Five principles are particularly relevant to our practice. These are the **common good** – te mana i te tangata, **solidarity** or working together - whakawhānaunatanga, the **preferential option for the poor** – he whakaaro nui mō te hunga rawakore, **human dignity** – te mana i te tangata - which recognises that we are all made in God’s image and **subsidiarity** – mana whakahaere – or making decisions at the appropriate level.

In all we do we endeavor to recognize the principle of **human dignity**. The housing work in particular is clearly related to this principle. Families who do not have adequate housing find it difficult to claim dignity.

As early as July 2017 we were working with the Living Wage Housing Group to plan for an action before the General Election. This was to extract from prospective Government members commitments to build state houses in South Auckland and resulted in the formation of the South Auckland Housing Accountability Committee to which Sisters of Mercy Wiri contribute. It takes a consistent effort from many groups participating and **working together** to keep politicians to their word, but hopefully 500 extra state houses in South Auckland each year will be one of the outcomes. Working together and collaborating with others for the **common good** is energizing and fruitful

At the request of the NZ Housing Foundation in April 2018 we began contacting families who could be eligible for the Shared Ownership and Rent-to-Ownership programmes in their new housing development in Wiri. This is an ongoing process. We are currently exploring how we can work together with the Foundation in the best interests of interested whānau.

The establishment of an Auckland Catholic Housing Network arose from an expressed need for Catholic housing agencies and groups to have a voice within the Diocesan administration system. This was and is being facilitated by Sisters of Mercy Wiri. Again **solidarity** has shown its worth and the value of **subsidiarity**, decision making at the appropriate level cannot be underestimated.

We have continued to network with other community housing workers at the meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee of the Auckland Council of Social Services (ADCSS). This leads to the meeting between the Auckland managers of both Housing New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development with housing advocates. These meetings are a valuable time. They provide a forum to be able to tell the stories of what is happening on the ground. We have been able to advocate for families experiencing housing and welfare difficulties and to raise awareness of the effects that housing policy and poorly maintained housing stock can have on a community, and the most vulnerable of our citizens, who are **the poor**.

Margaret continues to represent the Congregational Leaders Conference of Aotearoa as one of two Catholic representatives on the NZ Council of Christian Social Services and currently is the convenor of Council's Impact of **Poverty and Exclusion** Policy Group.

An exciting development and a very good example of **solidarity** that we have been involved in since its beginning is the formation of a new alliance in Aotearoa. The Alliance will be comprised of community, union, faith and other relevant groupings from across civil society in Auckland. Its vision is to build a broad-based alliance. This is to bring a new community organising model to the challenge of growing community voice and power to address the causes of poverty in families and communities so that all the people of Auckland flourish.

Sisters of Mercy Wiri were invited to be part of the process to establish the idea. This, to date, has involved contributing to the proposal to the Peter McKenzie Project for funding, the forming of a charitable trust, becoming a Trustee and agreeing to membership of the Sponsoring Committee. As well as this we have participated in ongoing training in the methodology which has been the basis of organising for a Living Wage in Aotearoa.

Our work in the women's prison is continuing although to a lesser extent this year due to circumstances beyond our control. The prison setting is a most challenging environment to work in particularly as volunteers. We could only provide one Seasons for Growth programme this year. Any contributions we can make to assisting any of the women to be conscious of her own dignity is so rewarding. Two statements from women written on their programme evaluation forms capture something of their claim to **human dignity**

*"My emotions are OK. Not to hide them, but to embrace myself
and those that love me."*

"Grieving is a process. I'm going forward not back."

The monthly Sunday service for the most part, was hassle free. Our small group of supporters from St Anne's Parish remain committed.

We continue to respond to immediate need in our neighbourhood. In the words of Catherine McAuley *"the poor need help today"*. The most consistent and obvious example of this is the distributing of bread. This service, three mornings a week, has been ongoing for 26 years. In February this year we took the decision to reduce the distribution to two mornings - Monday and Wednesday. 2060 families

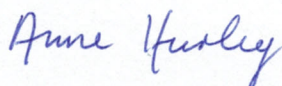
have benefited from this service during the year. Our Christmas Giving programme is always a highlight and thanks to the generosity of Spotless together with donations from others and our own resources we were able to distribute Christmas hams, very generous food parcels and quality gifts to 31 families.

During the year we had the opportunity to participate in a pilgrimage to Jordan and Israel. This was a very special and memorable time and we thank the Leadership of Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy NZ and our Trust Board for this time away which was for each of us an inspiring and spiritually enriching experience.

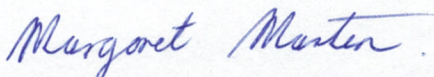
In April 2018 we attended the book launch of "Agents of Change – Kiwis Making a Real Difference" by George Bryant. A chapter in the book titled 'Anne and Margaret' recounts some of the story of Sisters of Mercy Wiri.

Our heartfelt thanks to all have supported Sisters of Mercy Wiri during the year. We have a very generous and supportive board of trustees whose contribution we deeply value and appreciate.

Next year we will celebrate 30 years of service in Wiri and beyond. Planning is underway for this event and we look forward to acknowledging all whom we have had the privilege of working with and alongside over the years.



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.

Camilla and Jon Maplesdon
Countdown Manukau
Denise Gregory
Flowerise
OEM Computers
Mary MacKillop Care Centre
The Good Shepherd Sisters
Veronica and Daniella Rudolph

Neil Roper
Alan Bates
Patricia Jordon
Sarah Hart
Spotless Facility Services (NZ) Ltd
St Anne's School
Salvation Army, Manukau