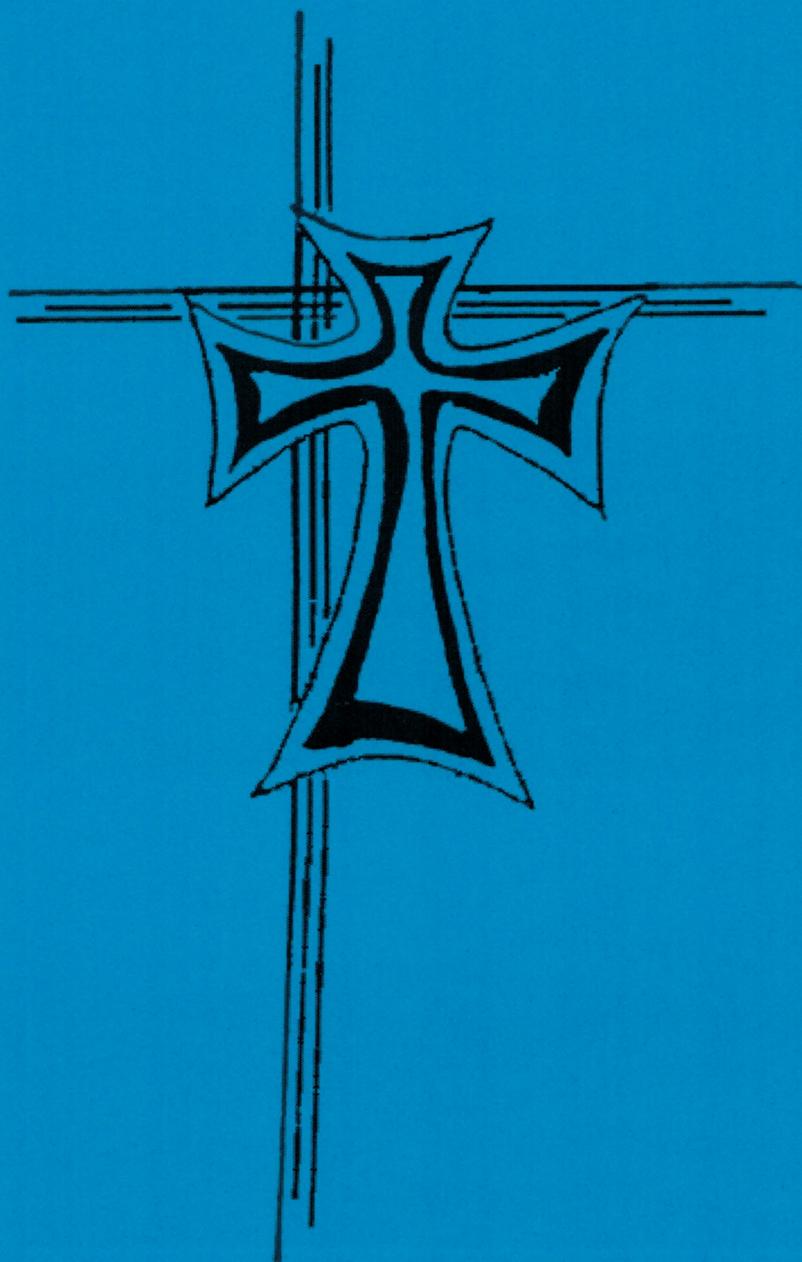


# Sisters of Mercy Wiri



**2022/2023 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 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 merciful 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.

### **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

Te Tiriti o 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 especially the poor and afflicted.

### **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



From left to right: Graham Goldsmith, Sr Anne Hurley, Catherine Dodson (Chair), Sr Margaret Martin and Tony Horan

### Chairperson's Report

It is my pleasure to present the Annual Report for the year to June 2023 on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy Wiri Trust Board.

As we head rapidly to the end of 2023 we can look back at a year where COVID took a back seat to climate issues with the Auckland floods, and cyclone Gabrielle dominating the headlines - and for many people their lives. Both these events and the ongoing issues with flooding and the "cost of living crisis" have continued to increase the level of need in already struggling communities.

Throughout the year the Board has encouraged and assisted the work of Anne and Margaret as they have continued supporting and advocating for the local community and beyond as documented in the bi-monthly ministry reports.

A major area of focus over the last couple of years has been working towards the founding of Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Tāmaki Makaurau Community Alliance. The Sisters of Mercy Wiri have been involved since the inception of forming a broad-based alliance for the relief of poverty in Aotearoa so families and communities can flourish. The establishment of Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Trust, of which Margaret is Trustee, is to oversee the formation of the Auckland

Alliance. The Board not only encourages this membership through sponsorship and word but also by attendance at some of the gatherings. We look forward to the founding of Te Ohu Tāmaki in September 2023.

One of the highlights of the year was an evening with Bishop Steve Lowe and members of the St Anne's Social Justice Group hosted by Margaret and Anne. It was an opportunity to meet the new bishop of Auckland and for us all to become better acquainted with one another.

We are blessed with some regular donors whose financial assistance is very much appreciated. I want to especially acknowledge Denise Gregory. Denise has provided accounting services and financial reports for the Trust for the past 17 years. Her continued availability, flexibility and capability is highly valued by us all.

The Sisters of Mercy Wiri Board continues to support Margaret and Anne in their ministry and I thank them and fellow Board members Graham and Tony for their ongoing commitment and contribution to the Board.



Catherine Dodson  
**Chairperson**

## **Ministry Report**

The annual report is an opportunity to celebrate and highlight aspects of our ministry, the relationships and networks, and the people we work and collaborate with.

As in previous years we continue to be an active presence in the local community of Wiri responding to immediate need, providing practical support, visiting whānau in their homes and addressing local issues and concerns. The weekly learning support programme that we provide for children at Wiri Central School, now in its second year, is well received by the children and staff. The students benefit from these one-to-one learning sessions to improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Always a highlight is the end of term session where we share kai and acknowledge each student's improvement.

Housing and access to affordable, safe, healthy and secure dwellings continues to be a major challenge for many whānau and the elderly. Our contribution to a number of organisations and networks is ongoing. Regular contact and meetings with the Tenants Protection Association (TPA) Housing Issues Subcommittee, Managers and Team Leaders of Kainga Ora and the Ministry of Social Development, the Auckland Catholic Housing Network, de Paul House, Monte Cecilia, Catholic Social Services, the Justice and Peace Housing Affordability committee and Te Ohu Whakawhanaunga Housing group offers opportunities to strengthen relationships and to share information, knowledge and expertise for

the benefit of those we serve. A particular focus for the people we assist is advocating for the repair and maintenance work of their Kainga Ora houses and properties to ensure that whānau and tamariki have a safe, warm and healthy home to live in.

In May of this year Margaret attended the Community Housing Aotearoa Conference – a peak body for Aotearoa's housing sector. It was a good opportunity to connect with other housing related entities and sponsors. The passion and the presentations of a range of paradigms to address the shortage of affordable housing supply within the sector is very encouraging.

As members of the Auckland Catholic Housing Network (ACHN), we helped shape and participate in the Catholic Housing Forum 2023 also held in May. This was a combined gathering for those in the Catholic Diocese of Auckland involved in the mahi of housing and social services and the members the Network. Both Bishop Steve Lowe and James van Schie attended. It was a positive gathering with agreement that the Diocese actively seek to contribute to housing solutions. The forum demonstrated the importance of key people coming together to generate ideas and creative solutions. The outcome was to revise the Protocol between the ACHN and the Catholic Diocese of Auckland and to include an Action Plan. Margaret is leading the process to review the Protocol document.

This year SOMW established the St Anne's Social Justice Group and introduced a theological reflection process and the key principles of Catholic Social Teaching as the guiding tools for the group's existence and purpose. Activities we co-ordinated through St Anne's parish, Manurewa, included the Christmas Giving to the women in prison at the Auckland Regional Women's Correction Facility Wiri, attending the Mayoral Forum at St Mathew's in the city, participating in the Te Ohu Whakwhanaunga commitment to founding event for the new Tāmaki Makaurau alliance and attending a 2 hour workshop with Miriam Brittenden, a training director and community organiser from the Centre of Theology and Community in London. We especially acknowledge Langi Nunan, Jo Iosefa and Bridget Watson for their enthusiasm and contribution.

This year we reviewed our ministry at the women's prison in Wiri which began in 2010. The Covid pandemic severely impacted access to the prison for more than a 2 year period. This had a flow on effect which affected our planning to involve more volunteers to assist with this ministry. With uncertainty within the prison system and the chaplaincy service we decided it was timely to withdraw from this work. In consultation with the Prison Chaplain, Lyn Davis, we negotiated that the provision of personal care items which SOMW introduced in 2020 to the prison's annual Christmas Giving will continue. At a volunteers function held at the prison in November 2022 Anne and Margaret were acknowledged for their 12 years of faithful service and presented with a Whanongo Pono award which read '*for displaying an exceptional commitment to the Ara Poutama Aotearoa value of Kaitiaki acknowledging you for your mahi aroha*'.

We thank all those who have contributed, supported and encouraged the mahi of Sisters of Mercy Wiri in 2022-2023. We especially acknowledge Steven Fan who at the end of 2022 relocated to Australia. Steven has been our go to person for IT

expertise and support services for 15 years. We wish Steven and family every blessing. As always we deeply appreciate the time, energy and contribution of our volunteers, particularly the members of the Board.

**Margaret Martin**

**Anne Hurley**

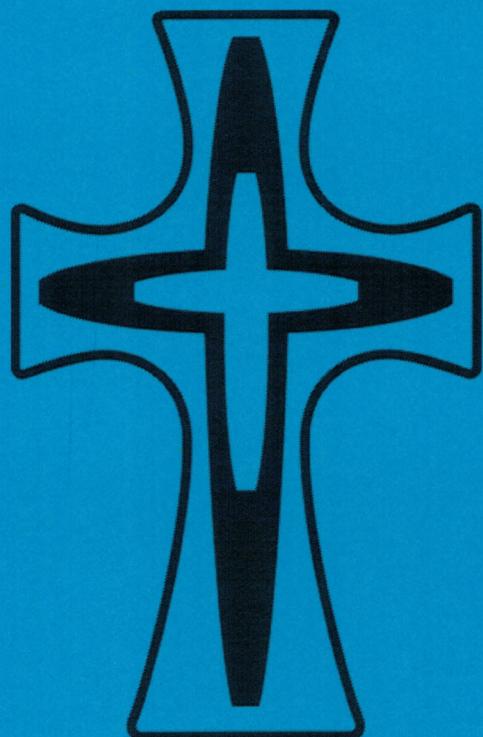
## **Thank you**

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  
Catholic Social Services  
Countdown Manukau  
Denise Gregory  
Eileen van Dam  
Eric Allan  
Elizabeth Wright  
Flowerise  
Neil Roper

Rudolph Family  
Sarah Hart  
Shraddha and Aradhana Sharma  
Steven Fan  
Steve Dodson  
St Anne's Parish, Manurewa  
St Anne's School, Manurewa  
Tanya and Kosta James  
Wiri Central School





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