2013.06
Chicago Regional Community Collection

Repository
Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:
319 linear feet, including
   Documents
   Photographs
   Audio-Visual Material
   Objects
   Publications

Dates:
1846—2011

Restrictions:
Some files may be subject to restrictions. Consult Mercy Heritage Center archivists for more information.

Provenance:
The Chicago Regional Community Collection was transferred to Mercy Heritage Center in 2013 from Chicago, Illinois.

History:
The Chicago community of the Sisters of Mercy was founded in 1846 by sisters from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, led by Mother Frances Warde. After Warde returned to Pittsburgh, Mary Agatha O’Brien was named superior. The community immediately began to open ministries, including St. Xavier Academy (St. Xavier University). In 1852, the Chicago Sisters of Mercy opened Mercy Hospital.

In 1929, the Sisters of Mercy joined together to form the Sisters of Mercy of Union. The new Chicago Province comprised the formerly independent foundations of Chicago, South Side; Chicago, West Side; Ottawa, Illinois; Aurora, Illinois; Davenport, Iowa; Iowa City, Iowa; Janesville, Wisconsin and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1991, the Chicago Province joined the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas as the Chicago Regional Community. In 2008,
Chicago joined together with other regional communities to form the West Midwest Community within the Institute.

The Sisters of the Chicago Province continued to expand their ministries over time, ultimately serving in over 100 schools, including St. Xavier University, 11 hospitals and 16 residences including Misericordia Home, a residence for over 600 individuals with developmental disabilities.

**Scope and Content:**

The Chicago Regional Community Collection is comprised of 5 series organized by subject, format and function. Series 1, History contains information about individual foundations, ministries and sisters prior to the 1929 Amalgamation. Series 2, History Books includes books about the history of the Sisters of Mercy in general and Chicago in particular and also historical prayer books. Series 3, Administration/Government/Leadership includes files of presidents and council members as well as information on the development of larger government structures. Series 4, Ministry contains subseries on elementary, secondary and higher education, as well as healthcare and “other” ministries including missions to Peru. Series 5, Community Life, contains information related to individual members, community celebrations, spirituality and extended membership (Association and Mercy Corps).

**Schema:**

Series 1: History (H1 through H106)
   - Mercy History, Chicago, Iowa and Wisconsin History, Ministry History
Series 2: History Books (HB1 through HB19)
Series 3: Administration/Government/Leadership (RG1.1 through 16.6)
   - RG1: Provincials and Church Leadership
   - RG2: Provincial Chapters
   - RG3: Administrative Teams
   - RG4: Administrators
   - RG5-9: Regional Presidents/Teams
   - RG10: Regional Leadership Team Minutes
   - RG11: Reports and Communications, Generalate
   - RG12: Membership/Incorporation
   - RG13: Generalate/Women of Note
   - RG14: General Chapter
   - RG15: New Institute
RG16: Non-Mercy Religious Organizations

Series 4: Ministry

ES1 through 1.24: Elementary Schools
SE2.1 through 2.2: Secondary Education
HC2.3 through 2.6: Healthcare
SE2.7 through 2.62: Secondary Education
HE3.1 through 3.39: Higher Education
HC1.1 through HC5.1: Healthcare

| HC1: Mercy Hospital, Chicago |
| HC2.1-2.7: Mercy Hospital, Davenport, Iowa |
| HC2.9-2.13: Mercy Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa |
| HC2.14-2.16: St. Thomas Mercy Hospital, Marshalltown, Iowa |
| HC3.1-3.18: Healthcare and Community in Aurora, Illinois |
| HC4.1-4.6: Mercy Hospital, Janesville, Wisconsin |
| HC5.1: Mercy Healthcare System |

MO1-10: Ministry/Housing
MO11-MO26: Ministry/Other
MP1-MP12: Ministry Preparation (Education and Publications)
OE1.1-4.1: Ongoing Education

Series 5: Community Life

CL1.1-1.4: Residences
CL1.5: Deceased Sisters
CL1.6: Former Sisters
CL1.7: Appointments
CL1.8: Clothing
CL2.1-2.2: Spirituality
CL2.3-2.5: Extended Membership (Associates, Mercy Corps)
CL3: Community Photographs

CL4: Community Life Celebrations