



2011.09

Nashville and Knoxville Community Collection

Repository

Mercy Heritage Center
720 Heritage Center Place
Belmont NC 28012

Physical Description:

30 linear feet, including:

Documents
Photographs
Objects
Audio Visual Material

Dates:

1866-2011

Restrictions:

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

Provenance:

Series 100 through 500, and 700 were transferred from Nashville community of the Sisters of Mercy and Series 600 was transferred from the Knoxville community of the Sisters of Mercy in October 2011. Though originally maintained at separate locations, the archivists processed the material with intention of combining the material into one collection upon its transfer to Mercy Heritage Center.

History:

Six Sisters of Mercy, led by Mother Mary Clare McMahon, arrived in Nashville, Tennessee from Providence, Rhode Island in the fall of 1866. At the request of the bishop, the sisters established a foundation in the post-Civil War city and immediately opened St. Mary's parochial school and soon after, St. Bernard Academy. In addition to teaching, the sisters provided nursing services in Nashville's cholera outbreak in 1873 and an 1879 yellow fever epidemic in Memphis.

The community eventually expanded its teaching apostolate to Memphis, Lawrenceburg, Knoxville and other areas of the state, including Alcoa, Columbia, Dayton, Johnson City and

Kingsport. In 1928, the community opened St. Mary's Hospital in Knoxville. The community also operated Mercy Montessori School and St. Bernard School for Exceptional Children in Nashville.

In 1929, the community joined the Sisters of Mercy of the Union as part of the Province of Cincinnati. In 1991, the province became part of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and in 2008, the Cincinnati Regional Community joined with other regional communities to form the South Central Community.

Scope and Content:

The collection contains records of local community life and ministry as well as community history prior to the Amalgamation in 1929. Administrative and membership records after this point were created and retained by the Province of Cincinnati, of which Nashville was part.

The collection is organized into seven series based on location and subject. Series 600, St. Mary's, Knoxville, was originally maintained by the Sisters of Mercy, Knoxville, while the remaining series were maintained by the Sisters of Mercy, Nashville.

Series/Subseries:

100 History

200 Corporation

300 St. Bernard Convent

400 St. Bernard Academy

500 Schools Staffed by the Sisters of Mercy

600 St. Mary's Hospital, Knoxville

600.1 St. Mary's Beginnings, 1919-1930

600.2 Highlights 1931-2011

600.3 Narratives and Books

601.1 Sisters 1930s-1940s

601.2 Sisters 1950s-1970s

601.3 Sisters 1980s-2000s

602 Physicians and Services

603 Nursing and School of Nursing

604 Associates, Patients and Volunteers

605 St. Mary's "Messengers" and "Magnifiers" Newsletters

606 Facility Growth and Expansion
607 Finance
608 Anniversary Celebrations
609 75th Anniversary and Property Records
610 Corporation
611 Administration/Governance System
612 Annual Reports and Misc. Booklets
613 St. Mary's Convent
700 Anniversaries