

Mercy Center Burlingame

A Ministry of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
West Midwest Community, Inc.

Fall Appeal 2009

Whatever God does, the first outburst is always COMPASSION.
—Meister Eckhart

Dear Friends,

As one who has participated in programs and retreats, I know you understand the desire for peace and connection with a loving, healing God that brings people to Mercy Center. What I have heard from participants like you over the years, is that whether you come for spiritual direction, an ongoing program, an outreach day, or a retreat the encounter here makes a difference in your life and in the world. I have seen how Mercy Center participants use the fruits of these experiences in their ministries and families.

Thanks to you, this year we have been able to offer special retreats for people who have been referred to us for help and respite from very challenging personal and financial circumstances. Because of your generosity and compassion, we created a series of free Retreats for those in Times of Stress, which have been filled to capacity. Our Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction series also “sold out”. Our regular program and retreats continue to fill quickly. Unfortunately many women and men who desire peace and long for a connection with God are unable to afford these programs unless we can assist them with a scholarship.

Please consider helping Mercy Center build its scholarship fund so we can respond to the increasing requests for financial assistance that will allow people to rebuild and strengthen their spiritual lives. Mercy Center scholarships, outreach, and programs for Spanish speakers in San Francisco and Oakland are possible because of careful stewardship of our resources and the generosity of staff, volunteers and donors. We want to continue to be able to offer this service and with your contribution we can! The commitment of friends like you has made the difference to our ministry over the years. Your support is especially needed now.

I ask you to join us in bringing this burst of compassion and Mercy to all who seek spiritual support at Mercy Center. This year, please consider providing funds for our program fees—it is our greatest need. There are several ways for you to share in our ministry:

- Join our **sponsorship circle** with a donation of \$1,000 or above. As recognition of this level of contribution, *our gift to you is a selected retreat for you or someone you care about.*
- Your \$500 donation pays a partial scholarship for our spiritual direction or spiritual exercises programs. *Gifts at this level will be matched by a generous supporter.*
- Your donation of \$250 pays for a retreat or costs of an outreach day and allows us to extend our hospitality to those who need it most.
- Give the “gift of Mercy Center” this Christmas by designating your donation as a meaningful way to remember or honor a significant friend or family member.

All donations over \$75 will be acknowledged with a beautiful art card sent to the person you indicate. They will also be included in all of our prayer intentions here at the Center.

Help us to keep our outreach possible with a gift of compassion and Mercy. Your donation of any amount will offer someone else the experience of peace and prayer. In these challenging times that is a very loving gift, indeed.

On behalf of the Sisters and staff, I thank you for your past support of Mercy Center. We look forward to welcoming you again soon.

In gratitude,



Suzanne M. Buckley
Director

