



Sister Judy Carle with a young resident of 111 Jones Street, one of Mercy Charities Housing California locations in San Francisco.

housing for the economically poor, to strengthen families, and to promote healthy communities.

- ✦ 1991—The Institute of the Sisters of Mercy was formed, uniting the 25 regions of Mercys in North, Central and South America, the Caribbean, Guam, and the Philippines.
- ✦ 1993—Mercy Charities Housing California was formed, assuming ownership and management of housing properties established within Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.
- ✦ 1997—Mercy Volunteer Corps, an organization of volunteers who give a year of service to the Mercy mission, came west with locations

in San Francisco and San Diego.

- ✦ 1997—Elder Care Alliance was formed when Mercy Retirement and Care Center affiliated with Salem Lutheran Home in Oakland to develop a network of faith-centered elder care programs in California.
- ✦ 2002—Joined with Pittsburgh and Merion communities to support formation of one independent region in Peru.



Communications Department • Sisters of Mercy Burlingame
 2300 Adeline Drive • Burlingame, California 94010
 Phone (650) 340-7480 • Fax (650) 347-2550
www.mercyburl.org



SISTERS OF MERCY BURLINGAME

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
 Hermanas de la Misericordia de las Americas

HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

From the lovely Irish seaport town of Kinsale in 1854 came eight young women to a far western seaport, to the City of San Francisco. Mary Baptist Russell, at age 25, led the group to a wildly colorful environment populated with gold prospectors, fortune hunters, and many, many victims of opportunists.

Like Mercy sisters everywhere, our sisters looked for need and found it immediately. They began nursing and teaching within days of their arrival. Thus, five professed sisters and three novices began a journey of compassion that still leaves us in awe at its scope.

—Suzanne Toolan, RSM



Sisters of Mercy at Mercy Hospital in Prescott, Arizona in 1896.



After the earthquake of 1906 the Sisters of Mercy set up a tent hospital in Golden Gate Park.



The Sisters of Mercy Burlingame in 1929 with the Kohl Mansion—the Motherhouse and Novitiate—in the background.

THE HIGHLIGHTS:

- ✦ 1855—In the face of the cholera epidemic the sisters provided round-the-clock care in the county hospital.
- ✦ 1857—Established St. Mary’s Hospital San Francisco, the first Catholic hospital west of the Mississippi. The same year five sisters began a ministry in Sacramento; they became an independent congregation 30 years later.
- ✦ 1868-69—In the epidemic of black small pox, the sisters nursed and calmed patients in the “pest houses.” In return, San Francisco gave free public transportation for all religious.
- ✦ 1870—The Mercys began to shelter unemployed girls in a Magdalen Asylum. The same year they founded St Catherine’s Home for Girls, their first school.
- ✦ 1871—Opened Our Lady of LaSalette Home for Aged and Infirm Females (which became Mercy Retirement and Care Center).
- ✦ 1906—After the earthquake, the Sisters of Mercy set up a tent hospital in Golden Gate Park.



First group of sisters missioned to Peru in 1964.

- ✦ 1922—The Sisters of Mercy from Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles joined the San Francisco community, doubling the number of sisters and increasing the number of institutions.



Today, this building houses the Mercy Center, established in 1981, and the Motherhouse.

- ✦ 1924—Bought the Kohl Mansion in Burlingame, which became the Motherhouse for the congregation.
- ✦ 1931—Opened Mercy High School in Burlingame. Mercy High School San Francisco began in 1952.
- ✦ 1964—The Burlingame Region founded the Peru mission, established at Acora in the Altiplano on January 26, 1964.
- ✦ 1981—Mercy Center Burlingame was founded as a retreat and conference center, transforming the old novitiate.
- ✦ 1981—The Mercy Associates, a group of lay people who support the Mercy mission, was formed.
- ✦ 1984—The sisters declared the Motherhouse grounds a nuclear free zone and declared sanctuary for refugees in 1985. Many families were housed on the campus.
- ✦ 1986—With the Auburn Mercys established Catholic Healthcare West.
- ✦ 1989 —Burlingame Mercys became a cosponsor of Mercy Housing, Inc. to provide quality, affordable, service-enriched



The Chapel in the Motherhouse.