



Summer 2012

# Mercy Works

**Committed to the Mercy Mission**

*Draw persons to God  
by your words,  
by your example, and  
by the works of Mercy.*

**Catherine McAuley  
Founder, Sisters of Mercy**

[www.mercyne.org](http://www.mercyne.org)

## Mercy brings life-changing water to Sudanese

*This story is a wonderful example of how you responded to an urgent need. In working with the Sisters of Mercy, you have helped to change the lives of people who struggle with one of life's basic necessities – water. Thanks to you – your kindness, compassion and generosity as expressions of Mercy – generations of Sudanese villagers will now have brighter futures.*

Take a moment and think about water: we drink it, cook with it, clean with it, keep our lawns green with it, and yes – we even bathe our dogs in it. It's readily available wherever and whenever we want – and at just about any temperature we could desire. Of the things we need to worry about on a daily basis, water isn't one of them. In fact, most of us take it for granted.

The reality for others around the world, though, is very different. In many countries, water is in very short supply and, often, when it is available, it's not suitable for drinking.

The Sudanese are among those who struggle with access to water. The extent of the struggle of one particular village was recently made known to our sisters in the New Hampshire region by Kenyang Nhomot. A citizen of the United States since 2009, Kenyang is one of the many students who participated in a program run by the Sisters of Mercy that helps immigrants learn English and take the necessary steps toward U.S. citizenship.

When Kenyang returned to the United States last fall from a trip to his family's village in Sudan, he shared with Sister Anastasia Smith and Sister Madonna Moran the desperate situation his family, friends and other villagers were in. They had no water, very little food, people were sick, and they were living in unstable, temporary dwellings. Villagers – typically women and girls – spent most of their time walking many miles each and every day in search of water – often never finding any.



**Sudanese refugee Kenyang Nhomot talks about well projects in villages in the Republic of South Sudan at St. Anne-St. Augustin Church in Manchester.  
(DAVID LANE/UNION LEADER)**

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Dear Friends in Mercy,

For over 180 years, the words and example of Catherine McAuley, our founder, have guided our efforts to bring the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy to people in need. We recognize, though, that we can't do it alone – the fulfillment of the Mercy mission can only come about through partnering with others.

We are truly overjoyed and grateful to have so many partners in Mercy – especially you! We've long tried to inspire others to put into practice the works of Mercy, but are you aware of how much you inspire us? Your kindness inspires us – together we are reaching out to many people in need. Thank you for your inspiration!

In this issue, we share two stories of Mercy inspiration. One is that of Sisters Anastasia Smith and Madonna Moran who have brought together many Mercy supporters to provide life-altering water to villages in Sudan. Another inspiring story is that of Mary Jane Moran, Mercy Associate, who, through her lifelong Mercy connections, continues to be inspired by the sisters and to inspire many others with her compassionate spirit.

Thank you, again, for sharing in our mission and vision of Mercy – your commitment is an inspiration to us and many others as well. Please know that you are remembered in the prayers of the community – daily we give thanks to God for the blessing of our benefactors.

May God bless you, and may you continue to be inspired to live a mercy-filled life.

Sincerely,

*Lindora Cabral, RSM*

Lindora Cabral, RSM  
President, Sisters of Mercy–  
Northeast Community

## Water to Sudanese Continued from page 1

When Sisters Anastasia and Madonna heard this, they knew they needed to do something ...and right away. They rallied the troops – other sisters, associates, lay volunteers, and even former students from the immigration program – and began researching what it would take to get Kenyang's village the water it so urgently needed. Soon, they found a reputable agency and began a fundraising campaign to build a well in Kenyang's village.



Drilling in Progress at Abyei Kiir

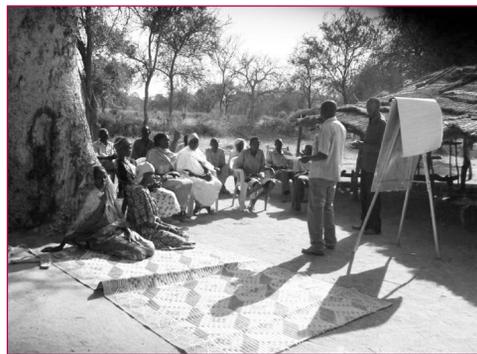
As one of the better-known Sisters of Mercy in New Hampshire, Sister Anastasia started writing letters, asking people to support their effort. And with some promotional help from the local newspapers, it wasn't long before the fundraising effort blossomed. Within a few months, and through the generosity of over 230 donors, they surpassed their fundraising goal – so much so that they were not only able to build the well in Kenyang's village, but had raised enough to build a second well in the home village of another Sudanese student in the Immigration Project, James Abiem.

And, just as important as the building of the wells, the villagers received training for maintaining the wells, and lessons on proper

hygiene and disease prevention. Talk about life-changing!

### **More than a drink: A dream for the future**

The impact of this effort encompasses much more than the villagers simply being able to go to the well for a drink. The girls who live in the village no longer need to spend their days searching for water, and can



Community training in progress for hygiene & sanitation, and operation & maintenance

now have time for school – an impossibility before the wells were dug. Families are being reunited. People who had fled the area because of drought and war are now returning because water is available and conditions are improving.

These Sudanese villagers now know that there are people in this world who care what happens to them. And, perhaps most importantly, they've started to expect greater things for themselves. They've seen what's possible when people come together, and are actively working on further improvements to their village and their lives, and hope to be able to build a school in the near future.

“More people die from unsafe water than from all forms of violence, including war. These deaths are an affront to our common humanity, and undermine the efforts of many countries to achieve their development potential.”  
*Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General, United Nations, March 22, 2010*

## Our Stand on Water ...

The efforts that Sisters Anastasia and Madonna led to bring water to these Sudanese villages were fueled by the need they saw, the compassion that is Mercy, and faithfulness to the Sisters of Mercy – Northeast Community’s corporate stand on water. An excerpt from this stand is below. For more information about the Mercy corporate stand on water, please visit [www.mercyne.org/earth](http://www.mercyne.org/earth).

Together with Mercy Associates and Companions, Sisters of Mercy believe:

- **Water is a human right and a public trust.**
- **All people and Earth (biospheres) have the right to high quality potable water.**
- **Water is a sacred gift not to be treated as a private commodity to be bought, sold or traded for profit.**
- **Bottled water for profit decreases affordable water for impoverished persons and countries.**
- **Plastic water bottles are a hazard to human health and the health of Earth.**
- **Fresh water is a shared legacy and a collective responsibility.**

## A Life Patterned on Mercy

**Associate and donor Mary Jane Moran gives back to Mercy for all Mercy has given her and everyone we serve.**



Mary Jane Moran (back row, on right) with some of the “New Hampshire Angels” who raised money for St. Mary’s School in Joplin, MO.  
(SISTER ANNE VACCAREST)

Mary Jane Moran loves what the Sisters of Mercy do. They were a constant presence in her childhood, and as such, Mary Jane was witness early on to their caring, gentleness, kindness and ability to get things done.

Mary Jane first came to know the sisters when she began kindergarten at St. John’s grammar school in Concord, New Hampshire, but she was truly witness to their wonderful works when, as a young girl, her mother became very ill and had an extended convalescence at home. During this time, the sisters visited regularly, caring for Mary Jane, her mother and the family, and offering daily prayers for her mother’s recovery – something both Mary Jane and her mother credit for her return to good health.

### The Call to Mercy: Many Paths

Mary Jane says, “The sisters showed me how I wanted to pattern my own life.” She has seen the Mercys build hospitals for the sick, shelters for battered women, soup kitchens for the poor and hungry.

Mary Jane became a Mercy Associate 27 years ago, and believes that her continued connection with the sisters is very important as she lives a life of Mercy. “They give their lives,” she said. “I couldn’t do half as much as any one of them has done in their lifetimes. They are so strong – the minute anyone needs anything, the sisters are right there.” This is one reason why Mary Jane also supports the Sisters of Mercy – Northeast Community with financial contributions. Mary Jane gives because she wants the work to continue. “I give because I know where it is going and that it will be put to good use, and it is a good thing to give.”

### Mercy at Work

When Mary Jane reflects on her life in Mercy, she said that she is most grateful to the sisters for showing her the way to live her life. Mary Jane has lived and worked so closely with the sisters for many years, and, in doing so, she lives the same charism of Mercy that her beloved sisters live.

Mary Jane, as a staff member at the Warde Health Center, has helped the sisters create many works of Mercy. Ten years ago, she started the “New Hampshire Angels” group – sisters, other Warde residents, as well as their families, and staff – who look for ways to help people in need. Most recently, they collected 250 pounds of food for Catholic Charities Food Bank, and in the fall the Angels’ annual craft fair raised \$1,000 for St. Mary’s School in Joplin, Missouri, which was destroyed by tornadoes.

## Will You Ensure a Legacy of Mercy?

Include the Sisters of Mercy – Northeast Community in your will or estate plans to help provide care and compassion for people in need for years to come.

Don't know where to start? Then request our **Personal Estate Planning Course**. This helpful course walks you through the estate planning process step-by-step, removing the question marks and giving you the insight to put together a plan that can benefit you and the Sisters of Mercy.

To request your course, call Joanne Coluccio at 888-636-3729 or e-mail [giving@mercyne.org](mailto:giving@mercyne.org).



## Let's Stay in Touch!

Please take a moment to sign up for our free e-newsletter by visiting us online at [www.mercyne.org](http://www.mercyne.org) and clicking on "join our mailing list" at the top of the page.

Our monthly e-newsletter will be filled with inspiring stories and photos of how Sisters of Mercy – and YOU – are helping to make a difference in the lives of people in need.

## Mercy Associates are ...

women and men who hear and respond to a call from God, an invitation to Gospel holiness lived through sharing in the mission of Mercy. While maintaining an independent lifestyle, Associates make a commitment to Mercy through a formal and mutual covenant. Associates and sisters partner in the mission of Mercy, as they walk with and care for those who are poor, sick and uneducated. They support one another through prayer and participation in community life.

For information on how to become a Mercy Associate, please visit [www.mercyne.org](http://www.mercyne.org) or call 888-636-3729.

Please help us serve even more people in need by making a gift before June 30 – the close of our fiscal year!

- Log onto [www.mercyne.org/giving](http://www.mercyne.org/giving)
- Call us at 888-636-3729
- Mail a gift using the included envelope

*Mercy Works* is a publication of the Sisters of Mercy – Northeast Community and is sent to donors, Mercy Associates, Mercy Companions, and Catherine McAuley Legacy Society members. To ensure that you continue to receive *Mercy Works*, please renew your gift by using the enclosed envelope or visiting [www.mercyne.org/giving](http://www.mercyne.org/giving). Thank you.

**NORTHEAST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TEAM**  
LINDORA CABRAL, RSM, PRESIDENT  
JACQUELINE MARIE KIESLICH, RSM, VICE PRESIDENT  
DONNA E. CONROY, RSM  
PATRICIA A. SULLIVAN, RSM  
KATHLEEN TURLEY, RSM

15 HIGHLAND VIEW ROAD • CUMBERLAND, RI 02864-1124  
PHONE: (888) 636-3729 • FAX: (401) 333-6450  
E-MAIL: [GIVING@MERCYNE.ORG](mailto:giving@mercyne.org)  
WEB: [WWW.MERCYNE.ORG](http://WWW.MERCYNE.ORG)

**COMMITTED TO THE MERCY MISSION**

