

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEADLINE: SISTERS OF MERCY THRIFT STORE GRAND OPENING FEBRUARY 19

On Wednesday, February 19, Sisters of Mercy Thrift Store will hold its grand opening. Sisters from the Sisters of Mercy of The Americas, Regional Community of North Carolina as well as Asheville city officials are scheduled to join local Sisters of Mercy Services staff and management for a ribbon cutting ceremony at 2:00 p.m.

The Thrift Store was designed as an upscale store offering quality, reasonably priced merchandise for the entire family. The store, located at 1818 Hendersonville Road in the K-Mart Plaza, has been open since early December, and business has been brisk according to Darrel Frazee, store manager.

"In the short time we've been open, it is quite evident that we're meeting a community need," said Frazee. "Sales and donations have been steady, and we hope that our grand opening will introduce even more folks to our presence in South Asheville."

The Sisters of Mercy Thrift Store was started to provide quality, reasonably priced merchandise to the people of Buncombe County and as a place for people to donate usable belongings that they no longer needed. The primary purpose of the Thrift Store, however, is to generate sales and use the proceeds to support the Sisters' other activities in Western North Carolina.

According to Dr. John Coli, president and CEO of Asheville-based Sisters of Mercy Services Corp., the Thrift Store will help provide funding for the medical services offered to the needy and underprivileged at the four Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care Centers in Buncombe County.

"We opened the Thrift Store in order to support the mission of the Sisters of Mercy in Western North Carolina," said Coli. "The proceeds from sales at the store will be funneled into our local foundation, the McAuley Foundation. A portion of that money will find its way to the Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care Centers so that we can continue to serve the healthcare needs of the underserved in our community."

Sisters of Mercy Services Corporation directs the activities of several area organizations:

- **The McAuley Foundation**, a local foundation that supports the activities of its Sister organizations
- **Sisters of Mercy Urgent Care**, a healthcare organization that specializes in the evaluation and treatment of non-life-threatening injuries and illnesses at their four freestanding medical offices in Buncombe County
- **Health Designs**, an occupational medicine group that brings health care to the workplace
- **ARP/Phoenix**, the Sisters' statewide outpatient substance abuse program
- **Rehabilitation Services**, a centrally located physical therapy clinic
- **Mountain Health Contracting Services, Inc.**, a general contracting services firm specializing in medical facilities