



Mercy
McAuley

PACK PROGRESS

DECEMBER 2025

OUR PATH.
OUR PACK.

Merry Christmas from the students, faculty and staff of Mercy McAuley High School!

As 2025 comes to a close, we are thrilled to share the latest news and progress of Mercy McAuley's capital campaign, *Our Path. Our Pack.*

\$5,378,487

We're Almost There!

As of December 10, 2025, we have received **\$5,378,487** – just shy of our Pacesetter Phase Goal of \$5.5 million! This achievement is thanks to you – our amazing pack of donors who believe in the mission of Mercy McAuley. Let's finish the year strong!

Celebrating the Sisters of Mercy Foundation Day

On December 12, we honor the legacy of the Sisters of Mercy, founded in 1831 by Catherine McAuley, an Irish laywoman who recognized that she and women like her could make a difference in addressing the needs of the poor.

MR. DICK HORTON
CIRCA 1985!



Mr. Dick Horton—
U.S. History/A.P. U.S. History BS: Histor
Xavier University

As shared by Dick Horton, retired Mother of Mercy High School teacher and noted history buff, the impact of the Sisters of Mercy in Cincinnati all started with five Irish nuns....

"In 1858, Sarah Peter, a philanthropist who was traveling through Europe, was impressed with the good works of the Mercy Order. She asked Archbishop John Baptist Purcell if she could sponsor them in Cincinnati. They were led by Mother Teresa Maher, as initially five nuns came from Kinsale, Ireland, later to be joined by an additional six.

With a charism for educating young women and social work by visiting the poor and the sick, the nuns got to work immediately. In short order, they began laundries to employ young women, and staffed nearby Catholic schools as they established their first Convent of Divine Will on Sycamore Street.

During the Civil War, their convent became a hospital for wounded soldiers. By 1865, 20 American women joined the Order. They established their first hospital in Hamilton, Ohio, later establishing hospitals in Mariemont, Anderson Township and Western Hills.

As the Order prospered and grew, they established one of their laundries on Freeman Avenue as they built Our Lady of Mercy High School right next door. Today it houses Job Corps.

By the 1930s they were operating in numerous parochial schools, two high schools including Mother of Mercy High School in Westwood, and Our Lady of Cincinnati College. By 1960 they had built a third high school, McAuley, and a Mother House in College Hill.



McAuley Convent located right next door to MMHS.

Keeping in mind that they supported themselves through the laundries and donations, it is incredible how successful these women of Mercy have been.”

Introducing Our Honorary Chairs

We are honored to recognize 16 living members of the Sisters of Mercy as Honorary Chairs. These Sisters taught at Mother of Mercy, McAuley or both.

Sr. Mary Rose Bumpus

Sr. Ann Gorman

Sr. Helen Lucille Habig

Sr. Patricia Rice

Sr. Greta Schmidlin

Sr. Paulette Wagner

Sr. Judith Ann Eby

Sr. Doris Gottemoeller

Sr. Judith Klei

Sr. Mary Rischmann

Sr. Patricia Schnapp

Sr. Cheryl Erb

Sr. Judy Gradel

Sr. Nancy Merkle

Sr. Marjorie Rudemiller

Sr. Victoria Vondenberger

These remarkable women represent a legacy of countless Sisters who dedicated their lives to teaching and shaping generations, including many who are no longer with us but whose impact endures.



Honor the Past. Ignite the Future.

The Sisters of Mercy have shaped generations of leaders, dreamers, and changemakers. Now, it's your turn to carry that vision forward.



Make a gift to *Our Path. Our Pack.* and celebrate the Sister who inspired your journey—whether as a student or as a Woman of Mercy. You can include a tribute with an online gift. Together, we can build a future worthy of their dedication to the mission.

Collective Power of Women United by Shared Mission

As we shared in last month’s newsletter, the Alumnae Leadership Team hosted two luncheons for alumnae and friends from Mercy, McAuley and Mercy McAuley. We are pleased to announce that more than \$50,000 in gifts were received from those guests. Because of a \$50,000 match offered by an anonymous alumna, the total value of gifts attributed to these luncheons is **\$102,100!**



End of Year Giving – Take Advantage of Tax Treatment NOW!

There’s still time to make your 2025 gift and maximize tax benefits. Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your traditional IRA.

As was recently shared by an *Our Path. Our Pack.* donor, “Having two daughters receive a good education from McAuley, I thought it would be appropriate and tax-efficient to make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) to the school. This allows the gift to be excluded from taxable income and can satisfy their required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.”

Other meaningful ways to give include: cash, check, or a gift of appreciated stocks, bonds or mutual funds. Please consult your financial advisor to explore the best giving strategy for you.

Friendly reminder: Please alert the Advancement Office if you are sending a gift via stock transfer so that we can accurately record your donation.

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Don't delay! Get your end of year donation in before 12/31/2025!

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Capital Campaign Q&A with Brigitte Foley



How can I support the campaign?

Make a one-time gift or pledge over multiple years, become a class representative, give the gift of prayer or share our good news with others.

What is the appropriate *Our Path. Our Pack.* contribution?

Every gift, no matter the size, makes a difference. We ask you to consider a gift that is meaningful to you and your family. Monthly recurring gifts are often the most budget-friendly way to maximize the impact of your gift.

Why is participation important?

The capital campaign unites the entire Mercy McAuley community – alumnae, parents, friends and the business community – behind the shared goal of supporting current and future Mercy McAuley students and faculty while improving the campus.

What are the plans for Summer 2026 construction?

We are still waiting for final approval, but our plan for summer 2026 is to renovate the remaining nine classrooms on the top floor with new windows, HVAC, and furniture. This work includes replacing windows on the front façade of the building.

Interested in online giving? Make your contribution today [HERE](#)!

