

ST. GABRIEL MERCY CENTER

MOUND BAYOU

MISSISSIPPI

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MISSION STATEMENT

Rooted in the mission of Jesus, and being faithful to the service tradition of the Sisters of Mercy in assisting people who are poor, sick and uneducated, especially women and children, St. Gabriel Mercy Center seeks to promote and participate in establishing a system of services aimed at increasing quality of life and human dignity for residents of Bolivar County and other established areas. This involves collaboration and coordination with a wide variety of public and private organizations to address issues relating to the unmet education, social and health service needs of children, youth and adults.



MOUND BAYOU'S HISTORY

- Founded on July 12, 1887 by ex-slaves.
- Isaiah T. Montgomery and Benjamin Green were the founders.
- They were owned by Joe Davis (brother of Jefferson Davis) an attorney and plantation owner.
- After the civil war, Benjamin Green purchased 4000 acres from Joe Davis and Mound Bayou was founded.
- In 1898 the town was incorporated and continued to grow and prosper with 50 businesses and 9000 residents.
- In 1907 President Roosevelt visited MS and said that "Mound Bayou was the Jewel of the Delta".
- The town had it's own Bank and Hospital but never built a jail.



ST. GABRIEL'S HISTORY

- November 9, 1948 Father John W. Bowman, SVD was appointed head of the project mission in Mound Bayou
- In 1949 St. Gabriel Parish began. 5 acres were given to the Catholic Church and 5 acres were purchased by Father John.
- September 7, 1954, St. Gabriel Mission School for K to 8th grade was founded by the Oblate Sisters of Providence of Baltimore, MD.
- The high school was added in 1958 and closed in 1961.
- The present church was built in 1960 and the convent was built in 1962.
- After 30 years the Oblate Sisters left and the Sisters of St. Agnes of Fond du Lac came. (1985-90)
- 1990-2001 The Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart from Reading, PA arrived.



ST. GABRIEL'S HISTORY CONT.

- In 1994 the upper grades closed and the Early Childhood School opened for 2 – 4 year olds.
- In 1995 Sister Helen Papan, MSC arrived (a Certified Parents As Teachers educator) and started the Parenting Program.
- In 1997 St. Gabriel Center opened. Brother Tom Geraghty, FSC was the first Director.
- In 1999 three Sisters of Mercy arrived to work at St. Gabriel Center.
- In 2001 The Early Childhood School closed due to the financial burden and the School became a Community Center for the people of Mound Bayou.



PARENTS AS TEACHERS



 *International parent education and family support program serving families throughout pregnancy until child reaches age three.*

 *Parent Educators visit the new family in the home each month.*



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

- *Provides tutoring for children ages 6 to 18.*
- *Open Monday – Thursday from 3:00pm to 5:00pm.*
- *Computers available for research papers and school projects*



SENIOR OUTREACH PROGRAM

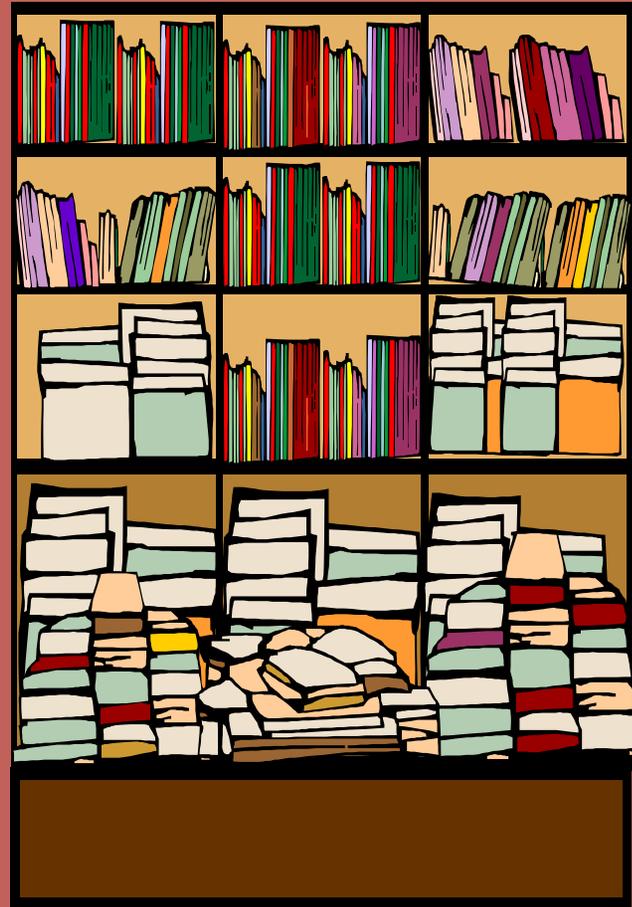


- *Transportation available for participants.*
- *Monthly Field Trips.*
- *Weekly Community Speakers.*
- *Exercises done twice a week.*
- *Participants blood pressure is checked twice a month.*



MOUND BAYOU COUNTY LIBRARY

-  *Opened in April of 2002.*
-  *Over 1000 books, newspapers, magazines and videos are available.*
-  *Open Tuesday and Thursday from 1:00pm until 5:00pm.*



ST. GABRIEL'S CLOSET



- *Opened May 4, 2002.*
- *All items have been donated by generous people.*
- *Toys, Clothes, Furniture, and Household items are available at affordable prices.*



GED PROGRAM

- Program began in the fall of 2002.*
- Classes are taught by a Volunteer Sister of Mercy.*
- Sixteen people have graduated from the program in the first two years.*
- Classes are held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am until 11:30am.*



MERCY COMPUTER AND LEARNING LAB



- *Located in Bethune Community and Recreational Center in Indianola.*
- *Computers are available for adults and children.*
- *Persons receiving services from the lab have become employed and learned to use the Internet.*



BASIC EMERGENCY NEEDS & JOBS OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMS

-  *The BEN Program was initiated by grants and donations to assist persons who need help paying their utility bills, rent, medication, etc.*
-  *The Jobs Program was begun to assist young men and women who are looking for work in Mound Bayou. These young people are hired to complete various jobs at the Center.*

