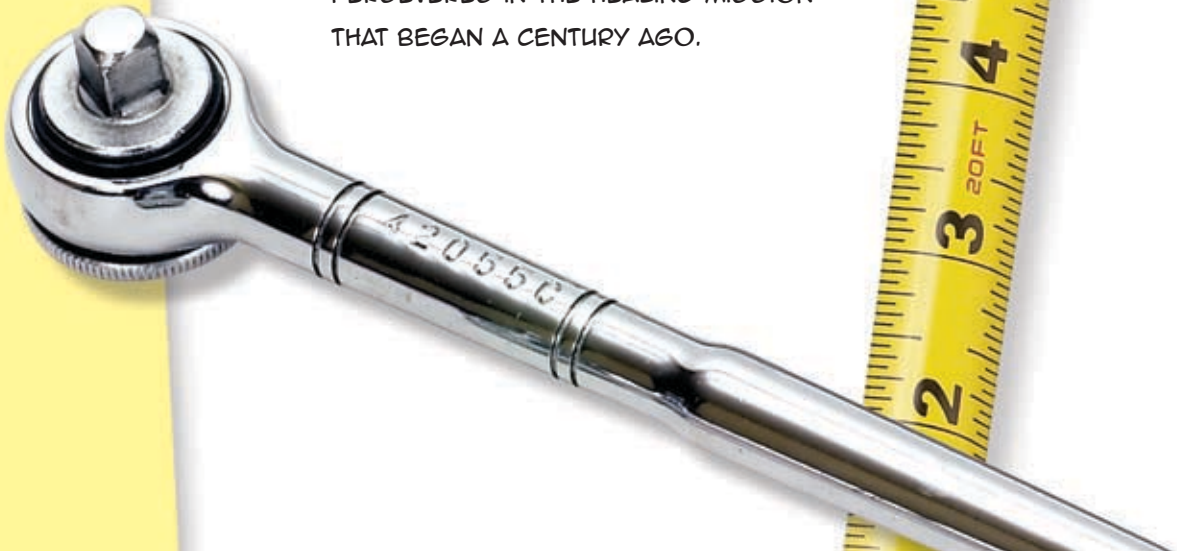


BUILDING ON A FOUNDATION OF



THE POOR HANDMAIDS OF JESUS CHRIST FOUNDED ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL IN CENTRALIA IN 1909. THIRTY YEARS LATER, THEY WERE JOINED BY THE FELICIAN SISTERS BECAUSE THE NEED FOR CARE HAD GROWN BEYOND THEIR CAPACITY TO PROVIDE IT. IN MT. VERNON, THE SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS REOPENED THE THOMPSON HOSPITAL IN 1944 AS GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL. IN BOTH LOCATIONS, THE SISTERS CAME IN RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITIES' NEED FOR HEALING, FOR HEALTH CARE THAT WENT BEYOND JUST MEDICAL CARE. THOSE SISTERS WERE THE BEGINNING POINT OF THE MINISTRY THAT CONTINUES TODAY. OUR WORK FORCE OF APPROXIMATELY 1800 PERSEVERES IN THE HEALING MISSION THAT BEGAN A CENTURY AGO.



HEALING



AS YOU PAGE THROUGH THIS REPORT, YOU'LL SEE THAT WE PUT OUR MISSION INTO ACTION EVERY DAY, IMPROVING THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE WE TOUCH BY ADDRESSING THEM AT THEIR LEVEL OF NEED, WHETHER THAT NEED IS PHYSICAL, MENTAL, OR EMOTIONAL. WE STILL BELIEVE, AS THE SISTERS DID, THAT NO PERSON SHOULD BE DENIED TREATMENT BECAUSE OF INABILITY TO PAY. WE ANSWER THE CALL TO HEAL, TO EDUCATE, TO ACT WITH COMPASSION, WITH A SPECIAL ATTENTION ON THE PARTICULAR NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE.

THE COMING YEARS ARE VERY IMPORTANT FOR BOTH OUR CAMPUSES. IN CENTRALIA, AS WE BEGIN PREPARATIONS TO CELEBRATE OUR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY, AND IN MT. VERNON, AS WE LOOK TO BREAK GROUND FOR A NEW FACILITY, WE ARE PROUD TO BE STANDING ON A FOUNDATION ROOTED IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST. WE LOOK FORWARD TO LONG YEARS OF CONTINUING THAT MISSION HERE IN SOUTHERN ILLINOIS.

