

Founder's Partner: Lisa Fontenelli



Lisa Fontenelli receiving Sisters Academy's Walk with Mercy recognition, 2014

The women and children who have been seen, heard and cared for at Mercy Center in the last four decades are the best evidence of the positive impact Sister Carol Henry has had in the community across generations. I have known Sister Carol since I was a child. She was my teacher at St. Mary's Academy in Lakewood. I did not expect then that we would have a lifelong connection through her life's work.

When Sister Carol and Sister Mary Lou launched Sisters Academy I was reminded of the quote attributed to Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, "No work is more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of women." I was drawn to the opportunity to support the growth and development of girls into young women of purpose and achievement who would be confident in themselves. They gain the knowledge, skills and support to forge a path to break the cycle of poverty that so many of them experienced in their young lives.

In the early days, it was a dream that Sisters Academy graduates would attend great high schools and colleges, make happy and productive lives and return as role models to mentor the girls at Sisters Academy. Their dreams have been realized. Sisters Academy students can believe that they too can too build a better life because they see girls like them who have done it. Their success is a multiplier as families and communities are positively impacted. The success is proven, but it isn't easy. It takes much labor, love, prayer and money from so many to continue to have this special impact. As Sister Carol moves to a well-earned retirement, join me in answering the call to secure the success of Mercy Center and Sisters Academy for future generations with a gift to the Founder's Campaign.