



MISERICORDIA JUNIOR BOARD

the power to change lives

6300 N. RIDGE AVE., CHICAGO, IL 60660

WWW.MISERICORDIA.ORG

773-273-4160

Spring 2014

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SPRINGTIME SHUFFLE

Mandy Duncan, 8th Grade,
Frances Xavier Warde School



This past April, I had the privilege being a Chairperson for the Misericordia Junior Board's Springtime Shuffle. This was a new event sponsored by the Junior Board. As a Chairperson, I attended meetings at Misericordia to plan the event. One of my goals was to create some enthusiasm for the event and for the Junior Board at my school, FXW.

To do that, I had meetings with administration at FXW, put up posters for the event, and, most importantly, encouraged my friends to come help as volunteers or to walk in the shuffle.

I also sent out emails to my neighbors and asked them to contribute. I was able to get four event sponsors that way. I enjoyed my leadership role for many reasons.

I met nice people from other schools. But most importantly, I was able to see how our hard work paid off for the Misericordia residents. I got to help many residents play games and saw how much fun they had. That made the work worthwhile.



The Springtime Shuffle for Misericordia brought together more than 250 residents, staff and volunteers at Mis and raised more than \$2,000 for Misericordia. Thank you to all of the members that helped to spread the word. Look for a special write up in Misericordia's main newsletter this month!

WE LOVE MIS!

Mickey Smith and Paddy McCabe,
Juniors, St. Ignatius



Through our years volunteering at Misericordia we have found that it is a profoundly unique institution that serves society in an imperatively helpful way. Having interacted with many Misericordia residents, we have often been moved by the amount of happiness and comfort that can be brought about by the caring works of volunteers. Misericordia helps us to better understand the world, as it has helped us learn that all people, disabled or not, have extraordinary amounts of value and worth. Not only that, but coming to Misericordia is an invariably enjoyable experience because of the camaraderie offered by the volunteers and residents alike. The community is one of warmth and friendliness, and we cannot be happier to have joined the Junior Board!

WE LOVE MIS!

Katie Miller, Senior, Regina Dominican High School

I began working with the Misericordia Junior Board in the fall of my junior year after attending Misericordia Family Fest. I have always taken a particular interest in community service, but I had never seen an organization with volunteers so dedicated to and passionate about supporting their cause until I witnessed it for myself at Family Fest. After seeing the magnitude of people willing to give their time and energies to this organization, I decided to get involved. Over my year and a half at Misericordia, I have volunteered at the Christmas Party, Candy Days, Family Fest, and an event with the Trinity Irish Dancers in honor of Saint Patrick's Day. In addition to my work with Misericordia, I am an active member of the Saint Tarcissus Youth Group. Last year, I organized a Candy Days fundraiser through the Saint Tarcissus church. I simply approached my pastor and asked for permission to host Candy Days outside the four weekend masses at Saint Tarcissus. Our Pastor approved, and by the end of the weekend, we had raised \$700 for Misericordia.

Although it felt good to monetarily contribute to Misericordia, my favorite part of the Junior Board is spending time with the residents. Witnessing the happiness that Misericordia brings to the residents, and knowing that I have contributed to that happiness, is continuously satisfying. Spending time with people that are as optimistic, appreciative, and friendly as the Misericordia residents helps me realize how much in *my* life there is to be happy about. At Misericordia, I have met so many new people, including residents and other Junior Board Members, both of which have influenced me tremendously.

SPORTS DAY

Max MacRitchie, Sophomore, New Trier High School

I helped organize and run Misericordia's sports day event this year. This was a great outreach event for Misericordia because it gave non-residents with disabilities a chance to come to Misericordia, see the campus, meet new friends and socialize while having fun playing sports. For this event, I helped brainstorm activities to set up and play with the attendants and how to incorporate appropriate activities for everyone, determined how to advertise for the event, and brought volunteers to help run the event. During Misericordia Sports Day over 25 volunteers came to help make the afternoon great for everyone. We stretched, played basketball games, arts and crafts, and parachute. All of the attendants enjoyed working with the volunteers to either improve their layup in basketball, or make a beautiful drawing at the arts and crafts table.

The event was very successful, everyone enjoyed themselves and there were over 50 attendants. I enjoyed being a leader to organize an event that would make the day special. Everyone who came to the event was so enthusiastic and fun to work with, and I had a great time meeting new people and helping others. This event allowed possible future residents to experience the type of fun, and friendly atmosphere that Misericordia provides for everyone.

LOOKING AHEAD



Please mark your calendar for the JB closing mass and dessert reception on **June 21 from 3:30-6:00**. JB members friends, parents and siblings are invited to attend. We hope to see you there!



The Mission of Misericordia/ Heart of Mercy is to support individuals with developmental disabilities in maximizing their level of independence and self-determination within an environment that fosters spirituality, dignity, respect and enhancement of quality of life. We promote development of natural family and community support, community awareness, education and advocacy.