



HEART OF MERCY

Misericordia

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

It's time to shake off that long winter and look ahead to Family Fest 2014!

Save the date—**Sunday, September 7th**, for a day of live entertainment, food, drinks, auctions, raffles, games and just plain fun! Family Fest is our largest fund-raising event, when our Misericordia family joins the larger community to celebrate and support our mission. **Don't miss it!**

Free Parking Generously provided by S&C Electric—accessed off Devon Avenue, just east of Ridge. Buses to the fest will be available.

Corporate Sponsorship accounts for the majority of funds raised at the Fest. Excellent visibility, ad space in the program book and complimentary tickets are just a few of the

benefits of corporate sponsorship. Contact **Father Jack Clair** at frjack@misericordia.com or (773) 273-4165 to learn how your family or company can become involved.



Volunteer! Check online under the volunteer tab (after July 4) or contact **Theresa Rooney** at (773) 273-4134 or theresar@misericordia.com to learn how you can contribute!

Tickets! Order early! Discounted tickets are

available through August 20. Purchase online at www.misericordia.org or use the enclosed ticket ordering form.

Cash & Car Raffles! Organized by Pauline Greco and her fabulous committee, the cash raffle offers a top prize of **\$50,000** with additional prizes between \$15,000 and \$500. **Tickets:** \$100 (3,000 tickets available). Purchase before July 24 for an extra chance in the Early Bird Drawing! **Take a chance on winning a car compliments of Andy Francis of Evergreen KIA and new this year additional cash prizes as well.** **Tickets:** \$50, or 3/\$100. To enter, please call (773) 273-4147 or mail your check to Misericordia, Attn: Cash/ Car Raffle, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.



Dear friends,

On March 13, 400 of our staff gathered in our Jean Marie Ryan Center to celebrate anniversaries. Every other year, all who have been with us 10 years or longer join with our Executive Team and Administrators to thank God for each other and for their generous commitment and loving dedication. It is also a time to enjoy friendships on a social level and to be encouraged by one another's loyalty and love of Misericordia, especially the love shared for our residents.

Next to our children and adults there is no more important group than our staff. Every position held by our employees is considered essential to the end goal, which is to provide quality lives for our residents. The direct care staff responsible for the residents' care do hold a special place, but without our housekeeping/laundry, reception, shops, purchasing, pool/fitness, bakery, behavior therapy, our physical planners, our security, maintenance, kitchen services, ministry, nursing, medical, programming, therapy, social services, IT, business office, human resources, day training, recreation/leisure, and our outreach program and development office staff, Misericordia would not be what it is today. We would also like to extend a special "thank you" to our administrators and all in management. Without their competent and compassionate leadership our residents and staff would not have the wonderful and respectful environment which is theirs. Every person involved at every level is regarded with much loving gratitude.

Our families are most grateful, for they know their most vulnerable member is living a loving, challenged, and respectful life—each according to their varied abilities. The families are often amazed at what hidden abilities the staff discovers about their most vulnerable person. This does not mean the family neglected their loved one. (I am in awe of what demands are on families and, for me, they are living proof of what unconditional love truly means: the same love God showers upon each of us.) Our staff have opportunities to look upon each person with "new eyes" in an environment and with training especially for the person with disabilities. And all the staff do this so generously and lovingly.

I would like to share that in honor of Lois Gates' forty-third anniversary at Misericordia, we are naming our Courtyard Inn "The Lois Gates Courtyard." Everyone who knows Lois (pictured with me at the St. Patrick's Day Parade) and her love for Misericordia will appreciate this recognition. Lois is and always has been "a person for others." Words are inadequate to express our gratitude for her unselfish dedication and generous commitment. Along with our executive team—Mary Pat O'Brien, Kevin Connelly, Fr. Jack Clair and yours truly—we thank God to be able to claim this beautiful, generous, and loving Lois as our own. We also want to thank her husband, Dr. Dennis Gates, her son David, her Catinella and Gates Families, and her many friends for sharing Lois so generously with all of us here at Misericordia.

I believe my 45 years here at Misericordia have been one of the greatest blessings of my life. I have walked this journey with so many loving and loved persons who have enriched my life a hundred fold. My Sisters of Mercy made this gift possible by appointing me in 1969 to be the administrator of Misericordia Home South, which we closed in 2005 when McAuley Skilled Nursing was built on our campus to replace it. From day one of my administration the right persons have always been in the right place at the right time. They all have and continue to make me look so good. How blessed and grateful I am! Thank you for believing in us!

God's blessings on you and yours.
Lovingly,

Sister Rosemary

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM
Executive Director



Power Lunch with Amy Rule and ComEd!

Chicago's First Lady Amy Rule was the guest speaker at a luncheon last February, sponsored by ComEd and chair-person Anne Pramaggiore, president and CEO. Dignitaries and guests from both sides of the political aisle enjoyed a rare chance to get to know our first lady better! Thank you to Amy Rule, Anne Pramaggiore, Paula Conrad and ComEd for their friendship in providing everyone with a wonderful afternoon!



Staley and Mr. McCaskey make a surprise visit

Having fun comes naturally to Staley Da Bear, and he shared his antics with Misericordia's residents last February! The Chicago Bears' Chairman George McCaskey and Bears' mascot Staley made their way around our campus to visit the many Bears fans. We are grateful to the McCaskey family and the Chicago Bears Organization for the support that they have shown to Misericordia through the years—GO BEARS!

Above, right: Terry presents thank you gifts created in Misericordia's art program.

Right: Fr Jack Clair, Kevin Connelly, Terry, Lois Gates, Sr. Rosemary Connelly, Amy Rule, Anne Pramaggiore, Jessica, and Mary Pat O'Brien.



Remembering dear friends



KATHLEEN "KAPPY" KUSTUSCH

April 13, 1949
April 17, 2014



PATRICIA ANNE CONNELLY

March 23, 1939
April 19, 2014



Above: Mary Pat O'Brien, Holly Beaty, Congressman Dan Lipinski, Sr. Rosemary Connelly and Father Jack Clair.

THANK YOU to the legislators and officials who toured Misericordia to learn more about our programs and the important issues that people with developmental disabilities face each day. You are always welcome here!

Bequests and Annuities

To those friends who wish to help assure the continuation and growth of Misericordia by mentioning Misericordia in your will, the following general form is suggested: "I give, devise, bequeath to Misericordia Home, an Illinois not-for-profit organization located at 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago Illinois, the sum of \$ _____ (or percentage, or specifically described property)." Contact Kevin Connelly at 773-273-4167 / kevin@misericordia.com or visit the planned giving page at misericordia.org. Additionally, gift annuities will give you an opportunity to receive an annual fixed income for the rest of your life, as well as possible tax deduction in the year the gift is made. Gift annuities require a gift of \$5,000 or more and the donor must be at least 60 years of age.



Above: Representative Sam Yingling enjoys a campus visit with (left to right) Shelby, Jill, Sister Rosemary Connelly, and Sue and Bob Flesch.

Left: Thanks to State Representative Emanuel "Chris" Welch who took time out from his busy schedule to visit Misericordia.

Friends of Misericordia celebrate 10 years of achievement

Founders Mardi and Pat Hackett were honored last February when the Friends of Misericordia celebrated their 10th anniversary. In an extraordinary night of generosity and fellowship the Friends raised over \$130,000 for Quinlan Terrace—four new homes for aging residents currently under construction here on our campus.

In the city's most unique auction—where bids are offered as direct donations to one specific need—more than 200 guests placed bids to fund Quinlan Terrace ranging from \$250 to \$15,000. Thank you to chairs Nancy McKeever, Susan Doyle, and Dorothy Wehmer for their leadership, and to auctioneers Janet Davies and Bruce McKeever.



Above: Nancy McKeever, Susan Doyle, Mardi Hackett, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Dorothy Wehmer, Janet Davies, and Lois Gates.



Right: Christopher M. and Friends of Misericordia honorees Mardi and Pat Hackett.

Women's Auxiliary rules the road and runway

Co-chairs Victoria Collado and Mary Schramm and The Misericordia Women's Auxiliary didn't let winter slow them down as they hosted the pre-party for **First Look for Charity** on Feb. 7 at McCormick Place.

Misericordia was among the local charities benefitting from the sneak-peek at the Chicago Auto Show.

Special thanks to our auctioneers WXRT's Lin Brehmer and Lou "Mr. Fix-It" Manfredini who presided over the evening as the ladies of the auxiliary grossed over \$275,000. A heartfelt thanks goes to Ed Burke of Naperville

Chrysler Dodge Ram for donating the 2014 Toyota Corolla he won back to Misericordia!

Nearly 600 women and a few good men attended the **30th annual Misericordia Women's Auxiliary Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon** sponsored by Saks Fifth Avenue at the Palmer House Hilton in Chicago. \$240,000 was raised for Misericordia at this fabulous event!



Above right: Fashion Show co-chairs Claudia Miquelon and Donna DeFrank with Auxiliary president Camille De Frank.



Right: Father Jack Clair with Saks Fifth Avenue Vice President and General Manager Doug Moss.



Enjoying the evening at First Look for Charity are Victoria Collado, Lois Gates, Fr. Jack Clair, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Lauren Catinella, Camille De Frank and Mary Schram.



The Misericordia Heartbreakers and David Nerychel, Misericordia Bakery Job Coach on the Saks Fifth Avenue runway.

Misericordia's Lucky Night

Over 300 friends and supporters attended the Misericordia Women's League 18th annual fundraising event, **Queen of Hearts Casino Night** at the Drury Lane Theatre & Conference Center on March 8.

Guests enjoyed an evening of exceptional cuisine, "Vegas Style Gambling", including a casino, silent and live auction and great music with Derrick Stout at the piano followed by live music by The Turnstyles. The event grossed \$355,000

to benefit the PEP program at Misericordia. PEP uses interactive technology and visually supported tools to enhance the behavioral health of residents.

Thank you to co-chairs Michelle Parsons and Mary Kay Dungan for a great evening!

Right: Mary Kay Dungan, Women's League President Therese Rooney, Michelle Parsons, Lois Gates, Sister Rosemary Connelly, and Jenny Frain.

Photo Courtesy of Hinsdale Living Magazine.



Misericordia welcomed Fernando Chomali, the Archbishop of Concepcion, Chile in January. The Archbishop was happy to learn about the work opportunities available for residents at Misericordia, and would like to create the same in his home country of Chile. Thank you for visiting us — we enjoyed meeting you!

Residents employed in the Laundry program share the ins and outs of their workday with Archbishop Fernando Chomali.

Join the MFA for a family dinner like no other!

Please join us at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on Saturday, June 21, 2014 for the annual Misericordia Family Association Dinner Dance! Enjoy a wonderful evening that features cocktails, a sit-down dinner, live and silent auctions and—of course—dancing!

Take part in "The Giving Tree" where donors can choose from a wish list of items requested by the residents to help furnish their homes.

Don't miss your chance to win a 2014 Jeep Cherokee generously donated by John Kaye's DuPage Dodge, Chrysler & Jeep dealership in Glendale Heights! Only 2,000 tickets will be sold at \$50 per chance.

Right: John and Mia Kaye, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Andy Davis, Marilyn Babjak, Susan Hackett and Pat Durkin.



Tickets are available at Misericordia Home at Thome Reception. Drawing will be held the evening of the Dinner Dance. Winner need not be present.

Dinner Dance tickets are \$150 per person and are available by contacting co-chairs Susan Hackett and Marilyn Babjak at: s_hackett@sbcglobal.net or mvbabjak@comcast.net

MISERICORDIA

BUMS GOLF OUTING

Celebrating 40 years!

Join your fellow golfers & Coach Mike Ditka for the 40th annual

BUMS GOLF OUTING
June 9, 2014

Olympia Fields North & South
Idlewild and Flossmoor Country Clubs

◆

\$750 or \$3000 per foursome
(or \$3,200 including a hole sponsorship)

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner,
Live Auction—18 holes of golf and more!

◆

Live Auction Highlights
Golf at Bandon Dunes | One week at Esperanza Resort in Cabo | Concerts Bears/Blackhawks and ND tickets

\$100 RAFFLE (only 400 tickets sold)
with Three Fabulous Prizes:
2014 Toyota Corolla S | One week in Tuscany
Golf for four at Carnoustie in Scotland

Please contact Dorie Finnegan at dorief@misericordia.com or 773-273-4178 to purchase raffle tickets/reservations, or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities.



July 15, 2014

SAVE THE DATE!

13th Annual Heart Links Open

Tuesday, July 15, 2014
Shoreacres, Lake Bluff, IL

18 Holes of Golf | Fore-caddie
with each foursome
Carts | Luncheon Buffet

◆
Tee Prize | Beverages/Snacks on course
Awards Reception Cocktail Party
Event Awards & more!

◆
\$3,400 per foursome; \$850 per golfer
Lunch: 11 am | Shotgun Start: 1 pm
Awards Reception/Cocktail Party: 6 pm

For more information,
contact Lisa Jones at:
lisa@wildcatgolfacademy.com.



200 residents join in the 1st Annual Spring Shuffle

Thanks to the Spring Shuffle Committee, the Misericordia Junior Board, Misericordia Heartsquad and the Recreation and Leisure Department for this healthy and fun event! For information about the Misericordia Junior Board and the Misericordia Heartsquad please contact jennyf@misericordia.com.

St. Patrick's Day Misericordia style!



Pictured, clockwise from Top Left: The 2014 St. Patrick's Day Parade Queen Lauren Catinella visits with Misericordia residents.

Top Right: The Misericordia group lives it up at the downtown parade.

Above: Bill McTighe, Jr., Erin Mulcahey, Lauren Catinella and Bill McTighe, Sr. (The Shannon Rovers Band Manager) visit Misericordia.

Left: Marge Murphy, Paul P., Patrick P., Sister Rosemary, Bill W., and Sister Paulette enjoy the festivities at the Montgomery Club, compliments of Steve and Peggy Lombardo. Thank You!

The practice of asking for donations to a favorite charity to commemorate the death of a loved one is very thoughtful. In the past few months, such requests have resulted in donations that benefit Misericordia. We thank those benefactors and their families, and respectfully ask that you remember them in your thoughts and prayers.

Lorraine M. Anderson; Brian Barnett; Rosemary Bartz; Edward P. Bourke; Joseph J. Bredemann; Mary Ann Burke; Robert J. Burke; Jeanne A. Callahan; John P. "Jack" Callahan; Dorothy Chartier; Natalie Colletti; Angelo Coluzzi; Patricia A. Connelly; Jerry Corcoran; Margaret M. Dillon; Sabrina Jessica Duarte; Jerome A. Even; Jean R. Finato; William R. Galliani; James Green; John Clinton Hadley; Patrick G. Harkin; M. Patricia Harrington; Rita F. Hemphill; Mary Ellen Henders; Margaret Herguth; Anthony Smith "Tony" Jacobs; James J. Kealey; Dorothy E. Kelley; Mary P. Kenny; Renee B. Krauss; Kathleen "Kappy" Kustusch; Marie C. LaPorte; Genevieve E. Long; Jerome Charles "Jerry" Lunkes; Josephine C. LuPone; Gwendolyn Mackey; Dolores "Lorrie" Maher; Edward J. Malinowski; Susan Mancil; Michael J. McDonnell;

Elizabeth J. McGovern; Dennis J. McLaughlin; Louella Meinken; Margaret Miller; Edward E. Mulhall; Lorraine F. Mullen; John M. Nawrocki; Rita M. Nelson; Francis X. "Frank" O'Boyle; Thomas E. O'Brien; John V. O'Hara; Timothy J. O'Leary; Michael R. Parrott; Brian J. Pietrowicz; Stanislaw A. "Stanley" Piwowarski; Flora R. Podlesak; Mildred Raddatz; Deborah Reese; Patrick Reilly; Robert J. Riordan; William J. Rooney, Jr.; Thomas F. Ryan, Jr.; Marie E. Schmidt; Martin Scully; Florence M. Skweres; Laurreta L. Smith; Thomas P. Smith; Nancy Snyder; Valerie L. Story; Samantha Ann Suerth; John M. Sullivan; Catherine "Kaye" Summers; Margaret "Maggie" Tarara; Bernard J. Todd; Thomas J. Ward; Helen B. Weil; Stanley Dennison Whitford; Patricia Wrenn

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Staff dinner

March 13, 2014

Celebrating our shared values,

and honoring our workplace



20+ years

400 staff members gathered in our Jean Marie Ryan Center last March for our bi-annual dinner celebration for all who have been with us 10 years or longer. It was a wonderful evening—recognizing our dedication, friendship and love for Misericordia over a delicious meal and warm company.



30 - 45 years

The spirit of our evening of celebration was filled with loving gratitude from Misericordia and for Misericordia. How blessed we are!

—Sister Rosemary Connelly

Join the Heartracers in the Chicago Marathon! Sunday October 12, 2014

Misericordia's Heartracers are undertaking the Chicago Marathon in October. Racers pledge to raise \$1,000 for



Misericordia AND run 26 miles and 385 feet to do it!



If you would rather watch than run but would like to help the Heartracer's reach their goal, go to

www.firstgiving.com/misericordia.

For more information, please contact **Therese Loftus** in our Development Office at 773-273-4163 or tloftus@misericordia.com

Then and Now

Often you have heard it said: one of the greatest gifts God has given to Misericordia is providing "the right people in the right place at the right time." This has been true since 1975 when the Archdiocese of Chicago generously permitted Misericordia to assume possession of a portion of the Angel Guardian Orphanage property. This depressing, dilapidated, ghost town of a campus had been neglected and abandoned. The buildings were truly a sad sight to behold and the thought of making a home within them was overwhelming. But we dove into the challenge and achieved more than we ever could have dreamed possible back in 1975.



Today, our lovely campus with its beautiful residential homes and attractive program and recreational buildings, in addition to our nine (soon to be ten) residences within the community, are a tribute to the thousands of people who now and in the past, believed in us



enough to be involved and help us make a difference.

In 1975 Misericordia parent, Bob Connolly, accepted the enormous responsibility for reconstruction of the existing buildings and planning for the future development of what would become Misericordia Heart of Mercy Center Campus. Twenty years later he was joined by his son, Hugh Connolly. For 39 years, these two talented and generous men have been totally responsible for the entire physical development of the Campus and the ten houses in the neighborhoods. We will always be grateful to them as the "right people in the right place at the right time." Thank you, Bob and Hugh, for all you do and have done for Misericordia!



Thank You!
to Bill Kelley and the Jelly Belly Candy Company for their generous donation of 1.2 million packets of Jelly Beans and to the thousands of volunteers and donors across Chicagoland who made Candy Days 2014 the Best Ever!



SAVE THE DATE

Tuesdays May - October | **Federal Plaza Farmers Market** | 773-273-4759
 Thursdays May - October | **Daley Plaza Farmers Market** | 773-273-4759
 June 1 | **The North Shore 1/2 Marathon** | theresar@misericordia.com
 June 9 | **BUMS Golf Outing** | dorief@misericordia.com
 June 21 | **MFA Dinner Dance** | s_hackett@sbcglobal.net or mvbabjak@comcast.net
 July 15 | **Heartlinks Open** | lisa@wildcatgolfacademy.com
 September 7 | **Family Fest** | www.misericordia.com
 October 12 | **Bank of Chicago Marathon** | tloftus@misericordia.com
 November 14 | **Heart of Mercy Ball** | loisg@misericordia.com



Get in the Race! 

The North Shore 1/2 Marathon and 5K Run on June 1, has chosen Misericordia as one of the beneficiaries of this year's race. Contact Theresa if interested in volunteering: 773-273-4161 or theresar@misericordia.com.

Misericordia is a residential facility serving children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities from diverse ethnic, religious, racial, and socioeconomic backgrounds. A not-for-profit 501(C)3 organization, Misericordia is operated by the Sisters of Mercy under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Misericordia is located at 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-973-6300. You can find Misericordia on the internet at misericordia.org or misericordia.com. The Misericordia Newsletter is published quarterly. Please send any comments about the newsletter to kathyw@misericordia.com or to 6300 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago, IL 60660. If you would like to add, remove or change your contact information on the newsletter mailing list, please contact Tessa Garcia at 773-273-2768 or tessag@misericordia.com.