



HEART OF MERCY

# Misericordia

## NEWSLETTER



Winter 2014

### CANDY DAYS April 25-26, 2014

#### Misericordia Candy Days are just around the corner

The streets of Chicagoland will be paved with candy on April 25-26 thanks to Bill Kelley and the **Jelly Belly Candy Company!** For the 12th year running, Jelly Belly will donate over 1.2 million sample bags of their delicious jelly beans in their signature flavors!

From very early in the morning until dusk, thousands of volunteers from every walk of life will saturate the area on street corners and store fronts — distributing Jelly Belly jelly beans in exchange for donations that support the programs so important to the over 600 children and adults in Misericordia's care!

Our overall fundraising goals this year are challenging! We must raise

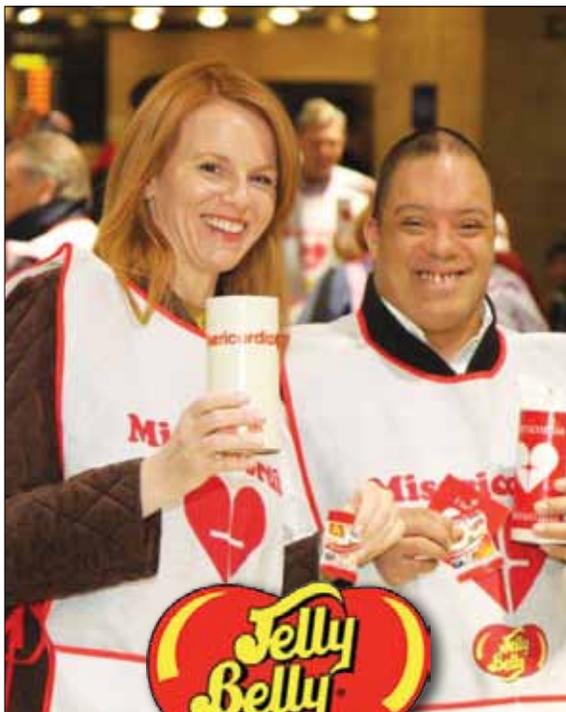
\$14 million in 2014 to cover the gap between the actual cost of operating Misericordia and funds that are provided by the State of Illinois.

During these trying economic times it is more important than ever to ensure the future of our mission. We know that we can count on you to help Misericordia meet these challenges, and what better way to do that than with candy and a smile?



#### Please Volunteer! Contact Tessa at 773-273-2768,

or email  
[Candydays@misericordia.com](mailto:Candydays@misericordia.com)  
or visit [misericordia.org](http://misericordia.org)  
to sign up!



#### There are so many ways to help!

Set up an account at [www.firstgiving.com/misericordia\\_candy\\_days](http://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia_candy_days) where your friends and family can donate to Misericordia. This is an easy way for everyone to help, no matter where they live!

Post it on your **Facebook** page and ask your friends to become a FAN of Misericordia!

Put on an apron, grab a can and some candy and a smile and hit the streets!

Organize your co-workers, family and friends and staff your own area, corner or storefront. Contact [loisg@misericordia.com](mailto:loisg@misericordia.com) and request a **Candy Days Promotion Box!**

Post Candy Days information at your workplace, church and school.

Many companies will offer a corporate match for your charitable contributions. Apply for it!

Send an email to your friends and ask them to donate **\$5 by texting MIS to 25383.**



**Text "MIS" to 25383 to donate \$5**



*Dear friends,*

As we begin this new year at Misericordia, it seems appropriate to reflect on what is and what we hope for the future.

If and when one takes a tour of our campus and sees all that is available to our children and adults, the general reaction is one of genuine surprise. So many visitors come to Misericordia expecting to find a sad, depressing and unattractive environment. Is it not a place needed in our society because suffering is a reality? Does anyone want their child/any child to be born or to become developmentally disabled?

The Misericordia, Heart of Mercy Center of today is truly a life-giving and joyful place. This is so because the 600 children and adults who call Misericordia "Home" are beautiful, loving and loved "children of God." All of us, so called normal people, know we are privileged and blessed people who are called by God to embrace this special ministry. This is

true for all of us who share life daily as staff and for those who hold membership in our Misericordia Family by reason of their volunteer efforts.

We know we are more loving and compassionate people because our children and adults have shown us how to accept life on God's terms. They have no expectations of life except what is theirs. They have the gift of being able to view the limitations of this life in the perspective of Eternity. In their weakness, they are strong. How many of us could/would accept the limitations which are theirs and still rejoice in the goodness of our world? They are truly happy, faith-filled, and courageous people. How blessed we are by their loving presence among us!

When we reflect on our future, it is always viewed in the perspective of loving gratitude for what is. We are one of the few agencies who can claim to have a full continuum of care. This is comprised of a skilled nursing home, an apartment building, one large residential area, eighteen individual homes, an aquatic and health club area, a gym, and a learning and employment center all located on campus. The above is enhanced by nine homes in various neighborhoods called CILAs (Community Integrated Living Arrangements).

The above is a reality because so many of you, our good and generous friends, believe our residents not only have a right to life but to one worth living and you believe enough to be involved. How blessed we are!

As many of you are aware, ground has been broken to build four additional homes on Campus for our aging population. Although we will not be able to offer all our residents lifetime care, this will enable us to reach out to more families with this gift. Is it not an indictment of our affluent society that the moment a child is born with developmental disabilities the parents begin worrying who will be there when they no longer can be the primary caregiver! Misericordia will be able to share this awesome responsibility with more of our families. This is true because of your generosity!

Misericordia, Heart of Mercy Center, witnesses to our society, the need for families to have choices. Misericordia is not the only way to serve people with special needs, but we definitely are a very legitimate and loving one way. To deny this is certainly denying families the right to choose.

Thank you for walking this wonderful journey of loving compassion with us. Our world here on Devon and Ridge is making a difference in a society whose value system needs us badly. How grateful we are to each of you, dear family! May 2014 be a blessed one filled with God's good gifts for you and yours.

Sincerely,

*Sister Rosemary*

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, Executive Director



## Culver's partnership— a sweet success!

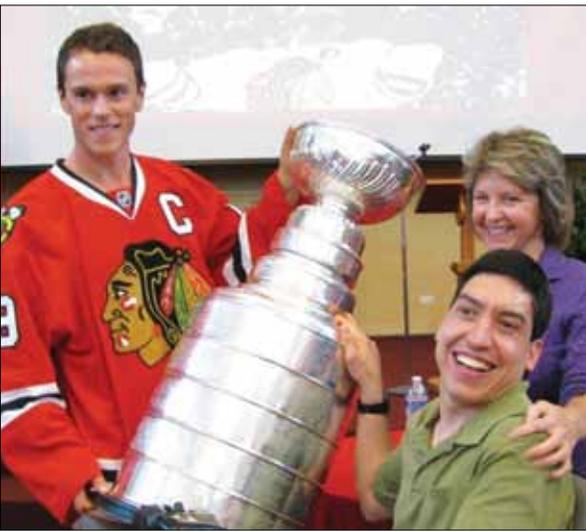
Our newly formed partnership with Culver's restaurants proved to be a successful and exciting one! To benefit Misericordia, 50 Culver's locations launched a promotion which served up special 'Misericordia Brownie Sundaes' and 'Misericordia Concrete Mixers,' both featuring brownies baked fresh in the Hearts and Flour Bakery. Culver's pledged to donate \$1 to Misericordia for every dessert sold and also took



monetary counter donations.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with Culver's, and would like to extend a big thank you especially to Jim DiVerde and all who offered their support.

## Thrill of the Stanley Cup with Jonathan Toews



Our friends Jonathan Toews, (with his family) and Lindsey Vecchione visited Misericordia and shared the thrill of the Stanley Cup victory with our residents! Excitement was in the air as our hockey fans received the surprise of a lifetime — a chance to celebrate with the captain of the Chicago Blackhawks! Thank you to Jonathan, the Chicago Blackhawks organization and Blackhawks' team nutritionist and Women's League member Julie Burns of SportFuel, Inc. for an unforgettable day! **visit [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com) to see the video.**

**Campus visits** are one of the best ways to learn about Misericordia and we are grateful when our elected officials take time from their busy schedules to tour the campus.



**Pictured above:** Will and Lisa Tienken, Sister Rosemary, Congressman Peter Roskam and Father Jack Clair on a campus tour.

**Right:** State Senator Heather Steans who toured Misericordia in December.



**Sincere thanks** to the members of the Illinois Wireless Association for their golf outing on July 26, which raised \$40,000 to benefit the children and adults at Misericordia.



**Thank you** to all of our friends in the business community who include Misericordia in their employee giving campaigns!

**Pictured above:** Our friends from S&C Electric Company enjoy a holiday lunch.

**Left:** Employees from IBM spend a day on Misericordia's campus.



## Harvest of Hope walkathon

The annual Harvest of Hope walkathon was held at Misericordia on October 19, 2013. Over 250 residents and family members participated in a 1-3 mile walk on our beautiful campus. Thanks to everyone who participated in the event and made it a big success!





**pictured from left:** Scott Mendel, William Choslovsky, Patsy Caruso, Gerald and Maureen Corcoran, Beth Merlo, and Holly Jennings.

## A Little Magic at the Heart of Mercy Ball

On November 15, the Women's Board of Misericordia delivered a magical night at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel Chicago for the 650 guests who raised over \$500,000 at the Heart of Mercy Ball. Special thanks to Women's Board president, Holly Jennings and Ball co-chairs Patsy Sheridan Caruso and Beth Merlo for their tireless work on this event! Congratulations to the 2013 honorees: Scott Mendel, William Choslovsky, and Gerald and Maureen Corcoran on their wonderful achievements!

## SAKS Shopping Night

Saks Fifth Avenue once again hosted our annual shopping night to kick-off the Women's Auxiliary Fashion Show to be held on March 27, 2014. Over 100 people enjoyed a fantastic evening of shopping, appetizers, champagne and beauty makeovers. A percentage of sales were donated back to Misericordia! Special thanks to event co-chairs Janice Kavanaugh, Tracey Zabriskie and Mary Doug Brown and to Women's Auxiliary President Camille DeFrank. We are so grateful to Saks Fifth Avenue for their generosity during this sharing season!



**Back Row:** Janice Kavanaugh, Saks Fifth Avenue's Julie Saunders, Doug Moss, Karen Rassieur and Andy Gloyeske; and Donna DeFrank, Fashion Show chair. **Front Row:** Fashion Show chair Claudia Miquelon, Tracey Zabriskie, Lois Gates, Jenny Frain, and Mary Doug Brown.

**Misericordia Women's Auxiliary  
Spring Fashion Show**  
**March 27, 2014 | Time: 10:30 AM**  
**The Palmer House | 17 E. Monroe St., Chicago**  
**Tickets: \$175 | Phone #: 773-273-4160**  
[www.misericordia.org](http://www.misericordia.org)



Volunteers from AT&T made a holiday visit to Misericordia in December and presented a gift to benefit our residents and programs. We are grateful for their friendship and generosity!

### *Remembering good friends*



**JACK KEANE**

July 4, 1933

November 24, 2013



**CONNIE BARSANTI**

December 25, 1942

December 7, 2013



*We sadly said goodbye to two dear friends this past fall. This was truly difficult but we are comforted in knowing that they are now resting in God's love.*



Susan Shannon



Dan Houlihan

*Sue, a member of our Advisory Board, died suddenly and unexpectedly leaving her loving children, grandchildren and her many friends shocked and saddened. She and her late husband, our dear friend Brian, wanted our children and adults to have the best lives possible and generously shared their time, talents and resources to make sure this happened. She is greatly missed.*

*Dan was a devoted member of our Board of Directors and Advisory Board. He was a distinguished and respected attorney who volunteered many hours through the years, sharing his time and expertise to help with licensing issues and other legislative matters. Dan's life was an example of love and concern for his loving wife, cherished children and grandchildren and all the members of the Misericordia family. We miss Dan.*

## Night at the museum with the Artist in All

The Modern wing of the Art Institute of Chicago will open its doors on May 21 for the 17th annual Misericordia Siblings Association Artist in All event.

More than 1,300 guests bid on over 150 pieces of resident artwork and enjoy a night of creativity, delicious food and community spirit.

This wonderful evening caps off many months of work by our resident artists with assistance by our staff, art therapists and volunteers. Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 21 from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$135/person and are available online beginning in April at [misericordia.org](http://misericordia.org). (Ticket price increases to \$150 after May 1.)



Purchase your tickets early for this annual sell out event!

Special thanks goes out to President Bill Meyer and chairpersons Rebecca Pasquesi and Jen Surma for their exceptional leadership.

## Running with Misericordia

The 2013 Misericordia Heartracers raised over \$90k for the children and adults at Misericordia.

Registration for the 2014 Chicago Marathon will begin in March. Put on those running shoes and join us!

Contact **Therese Loftus** at  
(773) 273-4163  
or [tloftus@misericordia.com](mailto:tloftus@misericordia.com).



## 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](mailto:kevin@misericordia.com) or visit the planned giving page at [misericordia.org](http://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.



**THANK YOU!**

**to John Simms who donated \$5000 to Family Fest! We are sorry for the omission in the Fall Newsletter!**

## SAVE THE DATE

The Friends of Misericordia Event

Feb. 21

NMckeever523@gmail.com

Womens League Casino Night

March 8

mparsons71@comcast.net

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

March 15

frjack@misericordia.com

Women's Auxiliary

Spring Fashion Show

March 27

claudiamiquelon@mac.com

Misericordia/Jelly Belly Candy Days

April 25-26

Call 773-273-2768 to volunteer

The Artist in All – May 21

Call 773-273-4160

BUMS Golf Outing – June 9, 2014

kevin@misericordia.com

MFA Dinner Dance – June 21

Family Fest – September 7

## HeartSquad is on the move again

### Help us meet this year's goal!

Misericordia's HeartSquad is planning another 48 hour Ragnar Relay from Madison WI to Chicago this year! With the help of parent volunteer Sharon Rickerson the racers are implementing Resident "RAGNAR Buddies" who work out regularly with the HeartSquad in training for the race. Buddies participate at their own level and pace—walk, run, bike or whatever they can do one mile at a time until they collectively reach 200 miles.

The HeartSquad raises awareness and funds for the 600 children and



adults of Misericordia, promotes fitness, and provides our residents with the opportunity to be a part of an exciting, fun team experience.

Help the Racers reach their goal of 15K for this year! There will be team and individual First Giving Pages, so contributing is easy! Interested in joining?

**Contact Joe Ferrara at:**  
[joeff@misericordia.com](mailto:joeff@misericordia.com)  
or call 773-273-3054.

## This and That. . .



**Halfway to St. Patrick's Day** Thank you to Jim Coyne and Local 130 UA Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Union! The Plumber's association chose Misericordia as a recipient of their **Halfway to St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser** in September. The event raised \$10,000 for Misericordia.



**Wellness Expo** The Human Resources Department presented the Employee Expo for staff last October. Meeting our annual training requirements (mandated by OSHA) also gives staff the opportunity to receive flu shots, blood pressure checks, and review important safety and medical requirements. Thanks to all who helped out on these two busy days!



## Congratulations Coach Fitzgerald!

Friends Pat Fitzgerald and Paul P. at the **29th annual American Ireland Fund** dinner where the Northwestern football coach was an honoree, and Misericordia was the recipient of a generous gift.



(from left) Lisa Ulman, Kirk Marcum, Linda Zak, Sammie Johnson, and Manisha Patel.

## 2013 Employee Service Awards

Each year five awards are given to recognize employee excellence in our workplace. Chosen by their co-workers, 98 staff members were nominated this year. These five people have been awarded a financial bonus, and have earned the respect and admiration of their peers. Congratulations to Lisa Ulman, CNA in McAuley; Kirk

Marcum, Assistant Supervisor from Rosemary Connelly; Linda Zak, Marian Center DSP; Sammie Johnson, Food Service Supervisor; and Manisha Patel, Staff Development Coordinator. Congratulations to this year's winners! Your passion and commitment to excellence is inspiring!

**"Tell us about someone we should all know who lives Misericordia's Values..."**

*"Sam serves here not for the glory but for the mission, and his compassion, attitude, and love of Misericordia are remarkable."*

*"Kirk connects so well to the residents that when he has a day off, they cannot wait for him to return to work."*

*"Lisa is always ready to make the lives of the residents better and share in their happiness."*

*"Linda defines the word teamwork: helpful, encouraging, patient with new staff, and always has a smile for everyone."*

*"Manisha does everything with patience, humor, and compassion, even when it might be difficult for her."*

## Special Olympics Year Ahead

Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities by giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

For the 2014 season at Misericordia we offer Track and Field (Spring Games), Basketball, Softball Team,

Soccer team & skills, Floor Hockey skills, Bowling, M.A.T.P. (Motor Activities Training) and attend Golf Lessons through the "Sunshine through Golf Foundation."

If you have never seen any of our athletes in action, here's your chance!



*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.*

Antoinette L. Alfievic; John C. Ambrose; Connie K. Barsanti; Annette Anne Bateman; Catherine Anne Bedalov; Thomas J. Boe; Isabelle Florida Brost; Helen J. Brouch; Emily V. Burkiewicz; Thomas S. Bush; Ruth M. Caboor; Victor J. Cacciatore, Sr.; Angelynne S. Carpenter; Darlene Colwell; Edward Condon; Rosemary Jane "Roey" Condon; James L. Crouse, M.D.; Neil F. Cunningham; Bernadette Mary Daily; Colette A. Durkin; Mary D. Durkin; Wayne T. "Duke" Eungard; Dolores "Dee" Farinella; Raymond F. Fiedler; Thomas P. Flanagan; Richard E. Foley; Hon. Nello P. Gamberdino; Anita Constance Garrity; Katherine M. Grace; Roslyn S. Greenberg; Jeanne Graham Harles; Geraldine A. Harrington; Jean Marie Hoefler; Daniel L. Houlihan; Marion V. Jencius; Maureen Kanara; Michael J. Kane; John "Jack" Keane; Catherine P. "Kay" Knightly; Gregory H. Kurt; Betty J. Lane; Julia Lane; Kathleen C. Leahy; Marie E. Lehan; James W. Lilek; Mary J. Logan; Marie T. McBride; Michael P. MacLavery, M.D.; John G. McLoraine; Ann M. McManigal; Terence V. Noone; Philip E. O'Connor; Rachel Lucille O'Malley; Mary H. "Mickey" Perry; James P. Power; John "Jack" Reynolds; Jean Rogodzinski; Sam D. Romas; Susan M. Shannon; Norma R. Soderlind; Martin P. Starshak; David Strouse; Donald E. Swanson; Florence Vydra; Jacquelyn T. Walsh; Thomas J. Ward; Robert J. White; Gladys Zide



**March 15, 1pm-5pm**

**Tickets: \$40  
(\$50 at door)**

**Kids under 12 -FREE!**

contact [frjack@misericordia.com](mailto:frjack@misericordia.com)  
for more information

### Join Sister Rosemary & Father Jack for a fun-filled St. Patrick's Day Celebration!

**Celebrate after the parade on Saturday, March 15 at Gibson's newest spot, The Montgomery Club at 500 W. Superior in Chicago.**

Tickets include: food (including corned beef and cabbage) | live entertainment | drink specials | face painting and more!  
Special thanks to our good friends Steve and Peggy Lombardo for making this event possible.

**Hope you will join us!**



## Christmas Memories

The parties and carols are over for another year but the memories of the best place to be for the holidays remain! Enjoy our photo album from Christmas 2013 at Misericordia.



The bakery kept hundreds of volunteers busy all season! Pictured are friends from Old St. Pat's.



Our Mayor Rahm Emanuel knows where to come for the best lunch in town!



Misericordia's wonderful Heartbreakers and Heartzingers entertained young and old at Christmas brunches and parties.



*Thank you* to the hundreds of volunteers, donors and Secret Santas who made the holiday season at Misericordia so special! Wishing you a happy and healthy 2014!

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](http://misericordia.org) or [misericordia.com](http://misericordia.com). The Misericordia Newsletter is published quarterly. Please send any comments about the newsletter to [kathyw@misericordia.com](mailto: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](mailto:tessag@misericordia.com).