

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

