



# Misericordia

SUMMER 2018

HEART OF MERCY | NEWSLETTER



Thank you to the Greco Family for their continuing dedication to the Cash and Car Raffle in memory of Pauline.

Please join the Misericordia family on September 9, 2018, for our largest fundraising event, a day of entertainment, food and fun for all ages! As our campus changes to accommodate the needs of those we serve, we celebrate the values that define us as a community. To foster each person's spirituality and provide a great quality of life through dignity respect, and high quality care and services is at the heart of Misericordia's mission. It is now more vital than ever to protect the continuation of the programs we offer residents and their families.

**Please join us on the beautiful Misericordia campus as a guest, volunteer or sponsor!**

**Volunteer!** Click on the volunteer tab at [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com), or email the Volunteer Office at: [volunteeroffice@misericordia.com](mailto:volunteeroffice@misericordia.com) or call (773)273-4161.

**Corporate Sponsorship** accounts for the majority of funds raised at the Fest. Contact Father Jack Clair at: [frjack@misericordia.com](mailto:frjack@misericordia.com) or call (773) 273-4165 to learn how you or your company can become involved.



This year, the **Chicago Tribute Anthology Band** will be headlining the Fest Main stage! Be sure to join us to hear the sounds of one of the most popular and endearing bands of all time!

For tickets, please call 773-973-6300 or visit our website at [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

Top prize \$50,000  
Additional prizes between \$15,000 and \$500  
Tickets: \$100 (3,000 available)

**Our Gratitude to Andy Francis of Evergreen KIA** for the generous donation of a 2018 Kia Niro!  
Tickets: \$50 or 3/\$100.

To enter, please call: (773) 273-4160 or mail your check to:  
Misericordia, Attn: Cash/Car Raffle, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660.

The Early Bird Drawing for the 2018 Family Fest Cash Raffle was pulled on August 1. For a list of winners, please call 773-273-4160.

Dear Family and Friends,

An unknown writer is quoted as saying: “Opportunities are missed by many people because opportunities can be dressed in overalls and look like work.”

Everyone who knows Misericordia, especially those involved with our daily operations, know how hard Misericordia’s “in-house” people, at every level, work! When there is a need, all want to help, and they do it so generously. Every position is important and valued. Together, we have a wonderful spirit because we all are aware how blessed we are to be called to this very special mission of sharing life with God’s most vulnerable people and their families. This also includes the thousands of Misericordia volunteers and donors who comprise our Misericordia Family. They, too, give of themselves so generously, and this calls for much sacrificial work and great commitment.

In this newsletter we are including our “Misericordia Plans for 2018 through 2023.” Is it not proof that all here at Misericordia want to seize all opportunities available in order to meet more unmet needs? Yes, Misericordia is known for the “excellent quality of life” provided for our residents. We never want to lower our standard of care because we believe strongly our children and adults deserve the best. And we are confident that God will continue to call good, generous, compassionate people to this special ministry.

As most of you are aware, we have hundreds of families who need a Misericordia and want a Misericordia but we have no vacant rooms. The only way we can respond to this need is by constructing more residences and work opportunities on and off campus.

We also want to create a more homelike environment in our Marian Residence. This means reducing the number of residents living there. The relocation of Marian residents who are appropriate for other campus residences will make this possible. The new construction will help make all these new plans a reality.

After studying our future plans, knowing my venerable age, one of our friends asked if I was an “eternal optimist.” No, I am not! But I’m absolutely certain that we are doing God’s work. As long as Misericordia never loses this “Vision” of doing God’s work for His most vulnerable people, I trust that our future is secured. I also know that these plans are not dependent on my presence. Our Board of Directors, Executive Team, and our Administrators are 100% behind these plans. They know how needed they are! All feel certain, with the continuous and generous support of our Misericordia Family, which is made up of thousands of good and generous friends, our future plans will be successfully implemented.

Please take time to study “Misericordia Future Plans

— continued on next page



— letter, continued from page 1

for 2018 to 2023” located below. I do believe you will be impressed with our efforts to reach out to more families. We also need to “keep up with the times.” The challenges never seem to end. Thank God we can respond to them because of your loving friendship and generous support.

Thank you, dear Families and Friends! How blessed we are that so many of you believe our children and adults not only have a right to life, but to one worth living. And you believe enough to be actively engaged in so many different and generous ways!

God bless you and yours!

Lovingly,

*Sister Rosemary*

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM

Executive Director

## Misericordia Future Plans 2018 – 2023

- \*\*1** Plan and Build residential homes on recently purchased property immediately behind our Thome entrance in order to reach out to more families on our Wait List.
  - 2** Renovate Marian Residence in order to provide a more “homelike setting” for smaller numbers of adults while relocating others to smaller residences on Campus.
  - 3** Build the Besser Apartment Residence on Campus for 15 residents. Take ownership of the apartment building at 1956 W. Devon for six residents, and open two new CILAs – one in Chicago and the other in Evanston for six adults in each home.
  - \*\*4** Purchase, plan and construct a large building mall at (already purchased) 6124 N. Ravenswood strip mall which will include a drive-in bakery called “Our Daily Bread,” along with rooms available for work opportunities and community outreach.
  - 5** Open Misericordia Sweet Heart Shoppe in Glenview located at 989 Waukegan for outside work opportunities. (Paid for by generous donors.)
  - 6** Expand bakery / kitchen to meet the needs of the additional demands of productivity.
  - 7** Study the needs and expand our IT Department to meet the expectations of the times.
  - 8** Finish and open a Hair Salon room. (Paid for by generous donors.)
  - 9** Replace roofs on the six original, large buildings built in 1950.
- \* Indicates projects for which we will especially need to raise funds.



# A Night of Champions Celebrating a great year of community employment

The second annual Appreciation Dinner for businesses that hire and employ Misericordia residents was held on May 31.

Employers were able to visit with their resident employees along with guests from community volunteer sites, advocacy groups and job developers. More than 135 community guests were able to enjoy dinner, tour the campus, and get to know the 'Mis' community on a more personal level.

Residents participated in a guided panel discussion, where they spoke about how much they value their work experiences.

The inspirational evening was a great example of the strides that Misericordia has made with the help of so many friends in the business community as the program continues to grow.

Congratulations to all involved!



**Tyler S., center, with his community employers from the Chicago Art and Industrial Design Center, left: Matthew and Sandra Runfola.**

**Pictured above, left to right with Sister Rosemary Connelly: Pamela Mitchell-Boyd, Presence Health; Michael Diaz, Administrator of Developmental Training and Resident Employment Services, Misericordia; Lou Manfredini, Ace Hardware; and Anne Pellettieri, Community Access Supervisor, Misericordia.**



**Josh M., 2nd from left, pictured with his community employers from Hu-Friedy Manufacturing Company: David Platt, Errol Edwards and Steve Damiani.**

## Please Help Us Reach Our Challenge Grant Goal!

A kind donor continues to challenge Misericordia's friends and supporters. If we receive \$50,000 in new or increased contributions by the end of this year, the donor will match those gifts dollar for dollar.

If you are donating to Misericordia for the first time, the entire amount will be matched. If you have made donations in either of the last two years and are able to increase that amount in 2018, the increased amount will be eligible for matching. Thank you for your generous support!!



## 2nd Together for Choice Conference October 17-19, 2018

**Misericordia Home, 6300 N. Ridge Ave, Chicago, IL**

Misericordia is excited to be hosting the second Together for Choice conference on our beautiful campus. We will be welcoming like-minded providers, self-advocates and their families to network, share and strategize ways that we can impact the legislative landscape to support choice for individuals and their families to live, work and thrive. In addition, experts in the field will be sharing best practices around the workforce crisis, innovative housing and work models.

Together for Choice is a national grassroots advocacy organization formally incorporated in 2017 with over 800 members in 47 states. Our mission is to protect and advance the right of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) to

live, work, and thrive in communities and settings of their choice. We work with national networks, self-advocates, families, and service providers to advance choice, quality, and increased resources for the I/DD population.

Since our incorporation, we have been educating the public and governmental officials on the need for Medicaid funding of choice-based housing and employment/developmental training models, as well as increased resources at the federal and state levels to ensure quality services. Our continued focus is to develop policy reform initiatives addressing the myriad of I/DD community needs. To register and for more information, please visit:

**[www.misericordia.com/events](http://www.misericordia.com/events) , or  
<https://www.togetherforchoice.org/conference-registration>**



**Above: Thanks to Coach Doug Bruno and Coach Mike Ditka, who joined in the fun!**

**Pictured, from left: Rebecca Besser, Coach Mike Ditka, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Diana Ditka, Brennan Besser, Rachel Besser and Charlie Besser.**



*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.*

James R. Barney; Maureen Frances Barnicle; George Edwards Berger; Anne Broderick; Jim Coakley; George M. Dytko; Dolores Jean Keeney Fleming; Monika Franzen; Daniel J. "Dan" Gainer; Martin Giarelli; Louise Gulliford; Gerald Kirk; Bridget Lannan Kleiderer; Geraldine S. Laughlin; Richard C. LaVan; Doris M. "Dorrie" Lemanski; Thomas P. Matassa; Anna M. "Nancy McGeehan; Francis J. "Frank" McGovern; Raymond L. "Ray" Merrell; Chester J. "Chet" Michon; Eleanore K. Mondl; Sheila Moustakis; John C. Mullen; Catherine M. "Kay" Murtha; Edward Jerome O'Callaghan; Alois F. "Ollie" Oliver; Mary Jane Peterson; Robert D. Rosenbloom, M.D.; Daniel Aloysius Sullivan; Patricia J. Terando; Idamae Unger

## Walk on America Heroes and hoops at Misericordia

Duke basketball player, Chicago native and Misericordia Outreach sibling Brennan Besser of the new foundation — Walk on America — stopped by with his sister Rachel in June to shoot hoops and lead a basketball clinic with our Misericordia team players! Brennan and Rachel are raising funds, awareness and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities across

the country, with Brennan biking from Seattle to New York this summer. Along the way he has stopped by facilities in many cities to meet, mingle and teach basketball! Rachel has accompanied Brennan on parts of the journey and is the creative force behind the effort. Brennan, Rachel and family brought several sports personalities along for added inspiration! Misericordia's teams

had a great afternoon of basketball, with a lively crowd to cheer them on. The event was featured on CBS and other local media. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Besser family, CBS Chicago's Rob Johnson, Diana Ditka and Coach Mike Ditka and Coach Doug Bruno with the DePaul Blue Demons Women's Basketball team for their wonderful support of our entire community!

## All eyes on the Chicago Sky!

### Ladies night with WNBA basketball

Some very lucky Mis ladies were treated to a Chicago Sky WNBA game, including high-fiving the players as they came out of the tunnel, sitting court-side, and meeting the players after the game!! We are so grateful to the Chicago Sky, UChicago Medicine, and Sharon O'Keefe and Hal Moore. Thank you dear friends for an unforgettable experience!



**Sharon O'Keefe and Hal Moore with their daughter Mackenzie.**



**Amy presents the game ball to the ref at game time!**

# Family Night Everyone's related at the annual MFA Dinner Dance!

Misericordia's family gathered at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on Saturday, June 23, for the 58th annual Misericordia Family Association Dinner Dance. Dinner, live and silent auctions, raffles, dancing, and entertainment by the Heartzingers and Heartbreakers added to the party atmosphere. A paddle raise to support our new off-campus, Drive-Thru Bakery and Coffeehouse was held. When completed, the bakery will support employment of our residents! Thank you and congratulations to Chair Couple Jim and Sharon Solomon, the MFA committee and to all who donated or volunteered!



Pictured above, from left with Sister Rosemary, Mary Pat O'Brien, MFA Chair Couple Jim and Sharon Solomon, MFA Benefit Chairs Tracie and David Platt, and MFA Fundraising Chairs Margaret and Mark Dillon.



The Halleran Family enjoys the night's festivities!



## Misericordia Women's Golf Outing



Monday, September 24, 2018  
Oak Park Country Club, River Grove, IL



**8:30 a.m. Step Aside Scramble**

**Reservations: \$350 per person**

Price increases to \$400 after September 7.

Sign-up on line at: <https://www.misericordia.com/events>

Sponsorship opportunities available.

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

### Legacy Sponsors

**\$50,000**

Steven and Janis Hersh  
Family & Friends

**\$20,000**

The Cabin Family

The Calabrese Family: Zia's  
Trattoria, Café Touché, Zia's  
Lago Vista, Beacon Tap  
Mark and Margaret Dillon  
Jim and Carol Palmer

### Heartfelt Heros

**\$10,000**

The Chicago St. Patrick's Day  
Parade Committee,  
Grand Manager James F. Coyne  
Howard and Judy Gilbert  
Sue Nesbitt and  
Bill Westerbeke  
Jim and Cheri Rafferty  
Erich and Janice Teske Family  
The Veldman Family  
WINTRUST

# The Artist in All™ Every picture had a story to tell

Each piece of art created by a Misericordia resident artist reflects their inspiration and effort throughout the year with assistance of instructors, staff and volunteers! The story of Misericordia's art programs cannot be fully appreciated in words — the art spoke for itself as this joyful event was again held at the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago on May 23, 2018. Two hundred artists had the opportunity to display

their work at the iconic museum on a warm spring evening.

Hosted by the Misericordia Siblings Association, guests enjoyed dinner and cocktails while bidding on artwork in the beautiful setting.

Our most sincere thanks to this year's **Presenting Sponsors and Honorary Chairs**, the

**Soudan and Hielscher families** for their overwhelming support of this year's celebration. Many thanks also to Brian Shannon of Print Post and our many generous printers for their continued support of Misericordia. Congratulations to Artist in All Chairs



**The Artist in All leadership with Sister Rosemary Connelly.**

Kelly Burgess Mayer and Jack Mayer, President Debbie Lasch Crane, and the SIBS committee!



The Misericordia Siblings Association was proud to celebrate the Soudan and Hielscher Families as the Presenting Sponsors and Honorary Chairs for the 2018 The Artist in All. The Soudan and Hielscher families have actively contributed to the SIBS for the past 25 years!



*Presenting Sponsors and Honorary Chairs*  
**The Soudan and Hielscher Families**

*Supporting Sponsor*  
**The FGMK/Netrix Family of Companies**

*Grand Sponsors*  
**Sarah Hackett-Lien/  
Housing Headquarters**

**Lock Up Self Storage**

**The Mead Family**

**Butch & Maura Navarro and the Sylvester Family**

**Northern Trust**

**Iris and Michael Smith**

**The Villers Family**

**American Airlines**

**ComEd**

**Practical Angle Framing**

## PLANNED GIVING

*Have you remembered Misericordia in your estate plan?*

Bequests and other planned gifts are an important source of funds to assure the continuation and growth of Misericordia. If you want to learn more about ways to include Misericordia in your estate plan, please call or email:

**Bob Bourke at 773-273-4173  
robertb@misericordia.com**

**You can also learn more by visiting the Planned Giving page at  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com).**



**From left: Abel Lee, Alice Lee, David Lee and Becky Lee Li.**

# BUMS Golf Outing Salute an amazing 44 years!

More than 500 golfers and friends came together for the 44th annual Misericordia Bums Golf Outing held on Monday, June 11, at the beautiful Olympia Fields, Calumet and Flossmoor Country Clubs.



**BUM of the year Sean Reynolds with Sister Rosemary Connelly.**

The Bums outing has raised funds and awareness over the decades to ensure that Misericordia's programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities continue.

Congratulations to **Sean Reynolds** who was presented with the Brian O. Shannon "BUM of the Year" award for his commitment to the outing and to Misericordia. Thank you to all of our sponsors, golfers, friends and to the BUMS committee for their generous support.



**Above: Some members of the BUMS Committee gather for a photo-op to welcome newest "Bum of the Year" Sean Reynolds.**

**Sister Rosemary enjoys the BUMS Golf Outing with (from left) Frank Stone, Bill W., Kevin Hricik, Christopher M. and Ron Miniat.**



## HOM Ball Honors for contributions and commitment

The Misericordia Women's Board held their 2018 Ball Kick-off celebration on June 19, when this year's 2018 Heart of Mercy Ball Honorees were announced.

Congratulations to Andy Gloor of Sterling Bay, recipient of the Heart of

Mercy Award; Jay and Colleen Doherty, recipients of the Sr. Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion; and ComEd, recipients of the Pillars of the Community Award, accepted by Anne Pramaggiore (not pictured).

*Please join us on Friday, November 16, 2018, at the Hilton Chicago for the 2018 Misericordia Women's Board Heart of Mercy Ball.*

*For more information or to register for the event, visit: [www.heartofmercyball.org](http://www.heartofmercyball.org)*

## Heartracers Team Geared Up for 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on October 7

To donate to the 2018 Heartracers, please visit <http://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/2018-chicago-marathon-for-misericordia>.

To find out about joining the 2019 Chicago Marathon Misericordia Heartracers, please contact Martha Floberg, Development Officer, at 773-273-4125, [marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com)



Jay and Colleen Doherty  
**Sr. Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion**



Andy Gloor of Sterling Bay (far right) with Dave Gloor and Vicki Gloor  
**Heart of Mercy Award**



Jacquie Simon, 2018 Ball Co-Chair; Felice Madda, Misericordia Women's Board President; and Margie Hodur, 2018 Ball Co-Chair



## Misericordia Women's Auxiliary Luncheon and Fashion Show All smiles, lots of style!

The Misericordia Women's Auxiliary hosted their wonderful annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show at the Hilton Chicago on May 11. Sponsored by our generous friends at **Bloomingdale's Old Orchard**, guests enjoyed a delicious lunch and viewed the best in summer fashion on the runway. The Misericordia Heartbreakers performed, to the delight of the 600 in attendance. Thanks to our good friends at Bloomingdale's Old Orchard, Vince Theodore, Phil Wells,

Debbie Beaty and their entire team. Many thanks to our Fashion Show chairs, Katie Seigenthaler, Margaret Dillon and Tracy Winslow, and to Auxiliary President Claudia Miquelon and all committee members for the most beautiful and successful day.

**Right: The Bloomingdale's Old Orchard team.**



Above, from left: Claudia Miquelon, Margaret Dillon, Katie Seigenthaler, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Fr. Jack Clair, Lois Gates, and Tracy Winslow .



Catie B., enjoying the luncheon, with Sister Rosemary Connelly.

## Heartlinks Open Making memories for Misericordia



The Heartlinks Committee once again welcomed guests for a day of golfing and giving at Shoreacres Golf Club in Lake Bluff on July 17. The 2018 event celebrated the 16th annual event, as well as honored the memory of a founding member of the event, Phil Whiting. Various other members from the inaugural and current Heartlinks Committee held a reunion. Pictured above, from left, Jeff Mory, Sue Moore, Cari Mory, Dave Moore, Linda and Greg Fahrenbach, Kim and Pat Murlas, Janet and John Keller, Kathy Moore, Carol Whiting, Kevin Connelly, Carrie and Hugh Connolly, and Janice and Rick Price.



Hugh and Carrie Connolly pictured with Shannon Rovers members, from left, Ryan J., Tom Finnegan, and Jim Murphy.

# Special Olympics Our Coach Gail is all heart



Gail Wojciechowski, director of Misericordia's Recreation and Leisure department, has been a passionate advocate for those with developmental disabilities for over 45 years at Misericordia. When *Chicago Catholic* magazine interviewed Gail for a feature on the 50th anniversary of the Special Olympics, her responses reflected that passion! The following is an excerpt from the article:

*"For some, they experience new abilities and skills that can lead to improved self-confidence and social opportunities not only in sports but in everyday life,"* Wojciechowski said. *"Special Olympics bring so many opportunities to the athletes. Some strive to be their best in individual sports and become leaders in team sports."*

*"I have seen so many achieve goals that no one ever thought possible,"* Wojciechowski said. *"They have given me more happiness and joy over the years than they can even imagine."*

Gail, Misericordia is so proud to call you our own! Congratulations on your ongoing work with our Special Olympic athletes.



Gail Wojciechowski with Maika.



Gail celebrates another great year of Special Olympics with Meghan Z. and Carly Z.

## Misericordia Young Professionals Council

### Red Heart Bash

benefiting Misericordia

Friday, October 12, 2018

7:30 pm — 11:30 pm

The Montgomery Club  
500 West Superior | Chicago, IL

For more information, email Julie O'Sullivan at [julieo@misericordia.com](mailto:julieo@misericordia.com)



## Save the date!

### Farmers Market

Tuesdays, May - October | Federal Plaza  
Thursdays, May - October | Daley Plaza  
773-273-4759

September 9 | Family Fest  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

September 24 | Women's Golf Outing  
[tloftus@misericordia.com](mailto:tloftus@misericordia.com),  
or 773-273-4163

Sept. 28-29 | Heartsquad Ragnar Race  
Joe Ferrara at [joef@misericordia.com](mailto:joef@misericordia.com)

October 7 | Bank of Chicago Marathon  
[marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com)

October 12 | MYPC Red Heart Bash  
[julieo@misericordia.com](mailto:julieo@misericordia.com)

October 28 | Columbian Club  
Foundation Brunch  
[columbianclub.org](http://columbianclub.org)

November 16 | Heart of Mercy Ball  
[misericordia.com](http://misericordia.com)

Sundays | Dec. 2 and 9  
Christmas Brunch  
limited seating available  
Hotline 773-273-4738

Sunday, Dec. 16 | Open Seating  
Christmas Brunch in Courtyard Inn  
Hotline 773-273-4738  
Email: [christmasbrunches@misericordia.com](mailto:christmasbrunches@misericordia.com)  
Contact: Nancy Turry at  
[giftshop@misericordia.com](mailto:giftshop@misericordia.com)



Misericordia is a residential facility serving children and adults with intellectual, 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.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 Peter Behle at 773-273-2768 or [peterb@misericordia.com](mailto:peterb@misericordia.com).