



MISERICORDIA IS COUNTING ON YOU!

**Candy Days 2020
April 24 and 25**



Join us on Candy Days

Your support and advocacy of the mission of Misericordia is vital to maintaining the excellent care and loving environment that is our hallmark.

Please join us, as volunteers from every walk of life fan out across Chicagoland on April 24 and 25, 2020, distributing Jelly Belly jelly beans in exchange for donations from the community to benefit our 600 children and adults.

Thanks to Bill Kelley and the Jelly Belly Candy Co., 1.2 million bags of jelly beans have again been generously donated for Candy Days weekend and will be ready for YOU!

To volunteer: Call 773-273-2768 or email: candydays@misericordia.com



Creating a FirstGiving account is so easy to do!

By setting up a FirstGiving account, you can invite friends and family to donate from wherever they live.

Set up your FirstGiving Account by visiting:

<https://www.firstgiving.com/event/misericordia/2020MisericordiaCandyDays>

Being a part of Candy Days weekend is more than a donation of time or money. It is a testament to the joyful spirit of Misericordia that enables our residents to find new opportunities in each day.



We need your help to make Candy Days 2020 the most successful yet!



A message from Sister Rosemary

Winter 2020

Dear Family and Friends,

Thank you to each of you, our Family and Friends, for your loving friendship and generous support throughout the past year. Because of your belief in our mission and your generosity, we were able to cover our unbelievable deficit of \$20 million (the difference between what the government pays us and what it costs us to operate).

But of course, we are never satisfied! What “drives us” to continue to build and expand and never lose the “quality of life” we believe every person in our care deserves – is that we have 300 families waiting for admission to Misericordia. (Some newly admitted families state that they feel they won the lottery when they are informed that an opening at Misericordia is now available.) These families on our waiting list need a Misericordia – want a Misericordia – and we have no room unless we build and expand.

We have been ready to begin work on the Unity Church property (on Thome Street), which will provide 16 new homes with six to eight persons in each home, but plans have been delayed due to several zoning/landmark issues. We are hoping that these issues will soon be resolved. We have also been delayed at our property on Ravenswood Avenue off Ridge, which will be used for more outside jobs for our adults, and include a drive-thru bakery!! We do expect construction to commence as early as the spring.

As you can see, we are not “free agents.” We can’t just “buy and build.” When I drive around the campus, I am amazed we have accomplished all that we have. For many of you are aware, throughout these past years, we built in spite of the national trend that dictated there is only one way to serve people who are disabled, for they believe everyone belongs in isolated houses in the neighborhoods.

Today, we are one of the few agencies that are blessed with the full continuum of care: from a skilled nursing home on campus to 13 homes in various neighborhoods – along with various residential and program buildings on campus.

Without the help of many of our political friends, the Misericordia of today would not be the beautiful “home” it is today! Yes, it’s big – but we are a community of believers and every resident / person is regarded as a special individual who is uniquely himself/herself and treated as such. How blessed we are.

Thank you for your patience in reading this long epistle! But I wanted to express our gratitude for your continuous friendship and support. I felt you were owed a reason for our delays in moving ahead with some of our projects.

May the New Year of 2020 be filled with God’s good gifts for all our Misericordia Family.

Lovingly,

Sister Rosemary

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM
Executive Director



Many thanks to State Senator Don DeWitte (far right) for touring our campus along with two of his constituents – Jose and Doris Aussin. We are so grateful that Senator DeWitte would take time from his busy schedule to visit and learn more about Misericordia.



Thank you to State Representative Lindsey LaPointe (19th district) for visiting with our residents and tour our campus.



Many thanks to the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Mariyana T. Spyropoulos (center) for taking the time to tour Misericordia's campus and visit with Sister Rosemary, Fr. Jack and the residents.



Thomas J. Dart, Sheriff of Cook County, recently had lunch at the Greenhouse Inn and enjoyed his visit with Sister Rosemary.



State Rep. Terra Costa Howard (48th district) stopped by during the holiday season to tour and visit the residents of Misericordia. Pictured from left with Sister Rosemary are Judy Costa, Joanne Grano, and State Representative Costa Howard.



Representative Costa Howard enjoyed a visit with Jenni and Scott during the campus tour.



So grateful to Cook County Commissioner John Daley and the entire Cook County Board for issuing a resolution to celebrate Sister Rosemary's 70 years as a Sister of Mercy and 50 years as the executive director of Misericordia. Thank you, Commissioner Daley, and many thanks to all of the commissioners of Cook County for your friendship and support.

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.

The Heart of Mercy Ball 2019

Misericordia's Women's Board welcomed winter with a fabulous charity night

The Misericordia Women's Board welcomed almost 1,000 guests to the Hilton Chicago for their 2019 Heart of Mercy Ball while raising over \$1 million to benefit the children and adults of Misericordia.

Thanks to our friends and supporters and to Lou Manfredini of WGN who did a wonderful job as our MC for the night. Grateful thanks go to Misericordia Women's Board President, Bennetta Kelly, and 2019 Ball Co-Chairs Lisa Masucci and Jackie Kissane for a fantastic event!



(above, left to right) Women's Board president, Bennetta Kelly, and Heart of Mercy Ball Chairs, Lisa Masucci and Jackie Kissane with Sister Rosemary.



(left) Back row, left to right: Tina Stendaro, Denise Tigges, Father Jack Clair, Joe Ferrara, Lois Gates, Kevin Connelly, Geana Connelly, Michael Diaz, and Chris Hegg Krackenberger. Seated, left to right: Kay Golden, Mary Pat O'Brien, and Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM



Misericordia Women's League set for country fun

Check out the article on "Heart of Gold with a Touch of Country" in the Hindsdalen at <https://www.thehinsdalen.com>.

For information on this event, contact Nancy Jacob at: njacob615@gmail.com or call 630-325-7315.



From left to right: Nancy Jacob, Misericordia Women's League President; Event Co-Chairs: Janet Meyer, Diane Fritz, Theresa McClear; and Ann Weithers, Misericordia Women's League Vice President

Misericordia's Women's League will welcome guests to their fundraiser, "Heart of Gold with a Touch of Country" at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb 28, at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort.

Congratulations to the Ryan sisters of Hinsdale: Mary Ryan Buddig, Donna Ryan Coffey, Therese Ryan Rooney and Eileen Ryan Seyfarth. They will be presented with the "Heart of Gold Award" for their many years of support and advocacy for Misericordia in memory of their dear sister Jean Marie Ryan.

Photo courtesy of Helena Joergenrud Photography



Heart of Mercy Award
Carolyn Noonan Parmer (right), pictured with Mickie Noonan



Pillars of the Community Award
The Soudan and Hielscher Families/Lock Up Self Storage



The Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion
The Tom and Ann Higgins Family (pictured with Sister Rosemary)



Misericordia's Young Professionals Council hearts shine bright at this year's bash



The MYPC leadership

The Misericordia Young Professionals Council (MYPC) welcomed over 300 guests to their 4th Annual Red Heart Bash event on October 11 at the Ravenswood Event Center. This dynamic group raised over \$65,000 for Misericordia this year!

The 2019 Red Heart Award Recipient was awarded to Misericordia parents Tom and Jo Halleran. Congratulations and thank you for your leadership and dedication to the residents of Misericordia.



If you are interested in joining the Misericordia Young Professionals Council, please email the membership chair at: misyipc@gmail.com

THE ARTIST IN ALL 2020

Please join the Misericordia Siblings Association (SIBS) for the twenty-third annual *The Artist in All* event at the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago on Wednesday, May 20. Misericordia's artists, art instructors and event chairs Kaitlyn Deptula and Bob and Jim Snediker are already hard at work getting ready for the exhibit's big night.

Tickets will be on sale in early April at misericordia.com. Please contact Lois Gates at loisg@misericordia.com for 2020 sponsorship opportunities.

Right: Misericordia art instructor Kristine Monhollon looks on as resident artist Will G. works on a painting.



Rockin Around the Christmas tree with the Junior Board



Misericordia's Junior Board hosted their annual Christmas party for a lively crowd of members, residents and volunteers in December. Thanks to Grace Glan and Anne Mills for your leadership! If you are interested in joining Misericordia's Junior Board please contact: graceg@misericordia.com.

Misericordia Heartracers Gear Up for 2020

A team of 75 runners will represent Misericordia at the 2020 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 11, 2020. From seasoned runners to first-time marathoners, each member of this year's team will raise much-needed funds to support Misericordia's programs and services for our 600 residents and 200 Outreach Program participants.

Year after year, the Misericordia team continues to grow both in the number of runners and the amount of funds they raise! Choose Misericordia as your charity and be part of the Heartracers!

- The last day to register as a charity runner is May 31, 2020.
- Runners commit to raising a minimum of \$1,750.
- All Heartracers will receive a race day dri-fit team t-shirt.
- A "meet and greet" will be held for all registered Heartracers.
- Heartracers may participate in a training program through Clocktower Runners (www.cloktowerrunners.org) at no charge.



- Misericordia will have a designated location at the Marathon on race day for runners and family to gather.

To find out more about joining the 2020 Chicago Marathon Misericordia Heartracers, please contact Martha Floberg, Development Officer at 773-273-4125 or marthaf@misericordia.com.

Misericordia Celebrates the 2020 Jesuit Cup

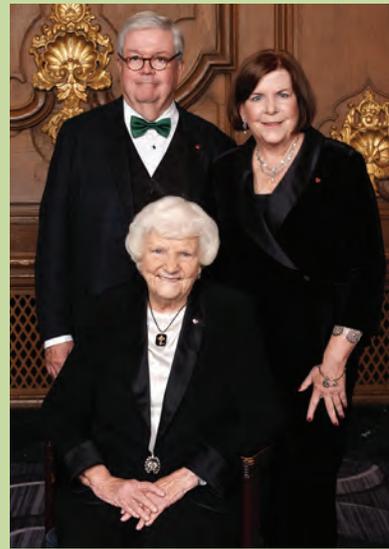


Above: Misericordia residents share some pre-game fun with Sister Jean at Loyola University, who hosted the game.

Left: Fr. Michael Caruso, Cardinal Blase Cupich, and John Chandler come out to cheer the teams.

donations were taken at the door, benefitting Misericordia. Loyola Academy came out on top, but both schools are winners with us! Thank you to our friends at Loyola University for hosting and for your generosity — and for the fans for coming out!

The annual Basketball game between Loyola Academy and St. Ignatius College Prep was a great way for our basketball lovers to show support for both Misericordia and their favorite team. Pre- and-post Family Reception



Congratulations to Kay Golden, Administrator for Human Resources and Staff Development.

The staff and residents of Misericordia have been blessed to have you with us these last 20 years.

Enjoy your retirement!

Pictured at left with Sister Rosemary are Kay Golden and her husband Tom Hart.

Thank you to Old St. Mary's School as they welcome Jane K. as their newest volunteer. Jane has been able to take the skills she has learned in Developmental Training and put them to use in this great opportunity in the community! Congratulations Jane, and thank you again to Old St. Mary's School for welcoming Jane into your wonderful community.



Theater on the Lake



Please join event chairs

Mary Doug Brown, Pam Lookatch,

Molly Foster and the

**Misericordia Women's Auxiliary
for our Spring Event**

**MISERICORDIA
LOVES CHICAGO**

For information please visit

<https://www.misericordia womensauxiliary.org/misspringevent2020>

MISERICORDIA LOVES CHICAGO

**Friday, May 1, 2020
7:00 pm**



Employee Service Awards

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 V. Boardman; Maureen K. Burke; Donald J. Carter; Gertrude M. Cernock; Erin E. Chrusciel; Kathleen Condron; Patricia E. Coniglio; Elizabeth J. Connolly; Marie J. Czerwinski; Barbara Dabrowski; Robert H. Dawson; John J. Doherty; Norma Drummond; Sheila E. Evans; Max F. Eysenbach; Joseph F. Fasano; Kari Ference; Elizabeth J. Flanagan; Bernard J. Francque; Rae H. Fritz; Judy B. Gilbert; Sarah K. Gilger; William D. Goodrich; Julie Harrington; Therese E. Heffernan; Joyce M. Jacobsen; John J. Joyce; Richard B. Kern; Theresa M. Klingelhoff; Judith L. Lewin; Edna M. Little; John D. Marshall; Helen M. Martin; Elizabeth A. McCarthy; Nora M. McDonagh; Marjorie A. McDonald; Blanche C. McDonnell; JoAnn C. McLaughlin; Geraldine "Jerre" McPartlin; Dennis J. Meskill; Eleanore F. Michalak; Kathleen Miller; Michael W. Moran; Richard H. Morin; Rita D. Murnane; Mary Jane Murphy; Kathleen "Keke" Newell; Mary Jo Nyhan; Elise P. Radtke; Mary T. Rathslag; Gabriel P. Remy; William J. Ritter; Donald J. Ryan; Joseph S. Rzepka; George E. Sinnott; Donald H. Smith; Theodore E. Smith; Daniel H. Swift; Donald J. Tesmond; John M. VanDermeir; James V. Viverito; Mary C. Wall; Raymond P. Wilkins;



Rachel Munoz-Munoz



Latasha Hall



Jena Cahill



Lizbeth Juarez



Anna Bogdanski

CONNECTION ★ QUALITY OF LIFE RESPONSIBILITY ★ SPIRITUALITY

The Employee Service Award is given to five of Misericordia's employees each year.

Nominated by their coworkers, these individuals embody the spirit of Misericordia and live the core values of Connection, Quality of Life, Responsibility and Spirituality.

Congratulations to Lizbeth Juarez, Marian Center; Latasha Hall, Social Service Coordinator; Anna Bogdanski, Nursing; Rachel Munoz, Village; and Jena Cahill, Donovan Dental Clinic.

"Families are thrilled with the services this individual provides, which reaches across to all residents of Misericordia."

"She is a team player who handles challenging situations with patience and compassion."

"This person is compassionate and committed to the mission of Misericordia and lives the mission each day."

"She has positive energy in all that she does and gives 110%."

"She is compassionate, empathetic, respectful and humbled by the miracle of Misericordia."

February 7 | First Look for Charity
misericordia.com

February 28 | Heart of Gold with
a Touch of Country
misericordia.com

April 24-25 | Candy Days
misericordia.com

March 14 | St. Patrick's Day Party
misericordia.com/events/st-patricks-day---post-parade-party1/

May 1 | Misericordia Loves Chicago
www.misericordia.womensauxiliary.org/misspringevent2020

May 3 | Junior Board Springtime Shuffle
graceg@misericordia.com

May 20 | The Artist In All
www.artistinall.org

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

POST-PARADE PARTY

1-5pm Saturday, March 14
Memorial Hall • IBEW

2722 S. Martin Luther King Dr.,
Chicago, 60616 (lots of free parking!)

\$60 per person (\$50 IN ADVANCE)
\$10 Kids 6-12 ♥ Kids 5 & under are free!

Exciting Raffle Prizes

For tickets, please contact
Dorie Finnegan: 773-273-4178 or
stpats@misericordia.com.

Sponsored by **GIBSON'S**
RESTAURANT GROUP



visit: www.misericordia.com/events/st-patricks-day---post-parade-party1/

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. 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 Peter Behle at 773-273-2768 or peterb@misericordia.com.