

Misericordia

HEART OF MERCY | NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

FAMILY FEST



September 9, 2018 - A Day to Celebrate and Look to Our Future

Family Fest is Sunday, September 9 11am-6pm, 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago

Please join the Misericordia community for our largest fundraising event and the best party in town! The corner of Ridge and Devon Avenue will be hopping with great food and entertainment for all ages. As our beautiful campus continues to change to adjust to the needs of our community— come and see what the excitement is all about!

◆ **Order your tickets early!** Discounted tickets are available through Aug. 24. Purchase online at www.misericordia.org, or use the enclosed ticket order form.

◆ **Free parking** is generously provided by S&C Electric Company, accessed on

Devon Avenue, just east of Ridge. Buses to the Fest will be available.

Cash/Car Raffle Tickets are Available
Top prize is \$50,000, with additional prizes between \$15,000 and \$500.
Tickets: \$100 (3,000 tickets available).

Take a chance on winning a fabulous 2018 Kia Niro compliments of Andy Francis of Evergreen KIA – and cash prizes, too!
Tickets: \$50, or 3/\$100. Purchase before July 20 for an extra chance in the Early Bird Cash Drawing!

To enter, please call (773) 273-4147 or mail your check to: Misericordia Attn: Cash/Car Raffle 6300 N. Ridge Chicago, IL 60660.

Volunteer! This party takes planning!

Contact the Volunteer Office at 773-273-4161 or volunteeroffice@misericordia.com.

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 you or your company can become involved.

Dear Friends,

As I drive around the 31 acres of Misericordia's beautiful campus of today, I am in awe! In 1976 we arrived from Misericordia Home South with 39 children with Down syndrome and 35 staff. The campus had been abandoned for several years, and the existing buildings were dilapidated, with some beyond repair. Our "savings" enabled us to convert two of the buildings into two dormitories, a learning center, and a multi-purpose room for recreation and chapel services. That was the beginning of Misericordia, Heart of Mercy Center.

Today, 42 years later, if you visit our beautiful campus filled with residential homes and program buildings, knowing that there are 13 lovely CILA homes in various North side neighborhoods, one can be impressed! One of our favorite campus buildings is our Greenhouse Inn Restaurant/Bakery open every Tuesday through Friday, along with a delicious brunch on Sundays. All are welcome!

In 2018, we are blessed to share life with 600 residents in campus homes and in the 13 CILA homes in the neighborhoods. We also have 200 families who use our Outreach Programs; some are on our waiting list; others are not. We are truly blessed with 1,100 dedicated and generous staff who have responded to a "calling from the Lord." Our waiting list for residential placement is long, but with our "2018 to 2023 future growth and development" plans, our hope is to reach out to more people who want a Misericordia and need a Misericordia.

After a tour, the reaction of many visitors is that they felt "God's love in action." Others have said that they experience the "invisible God made visible." The response of many is that we all should be very proud! I honestly believe none of us have a sense of "pride" concerning the achievements of the above. What I do believe is true is that we have hearts filled with loving gratitude to God and the thousands of friends, past and present, whom the Lord called to be members of our Misericordia Family. With certainty, I know if we depended solely on the government for funding, the Misericordia of today would not exist! Raising private funds through fundraising is why we are able not only to face the future with confidence, but also to grow and expand in order to reach out to more of our families on our waiting list.

As many of you are aware, Misericordia stands in opposition to a national trend which holds there is only one way to serve people with developmental disabilities. According to our government's official policy for persons with developmental disabilities, everyone, no matter how disabled, belongs in isolated houses in the neighborhoods. They also hold anything big is bad!! This is why we are now involved in a newly formed national organization, Together for Choice, which states that the above approach to services for persons with developmental disabilities denies the family of the right to choose what they feel is appropriate for their family member. Throughout these years, the only reason we were able to grow and develop is because many of our government officials, both on the state and federal levels, intervened for us. These government officials made it possible for us to meet more needs through our growth and development, in spite of these policies. Families should have choice!! Who knows their most vulnerable family member better than the family? How blessed we are that they believed in us and continue to do so!

Words are inadequate to express to you, our loving and generous family and friends, how blessed we are because of your belief in us. You have been and we feel you will continue to walk this amazing journey with us in so many great and different ways.

We are all overwhelmed with God's goodness to us through you, His people. Thank you for believing in us! Our prayers are with you.

Lovingly,

Sister Rosemary

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM
Executive Director



Thank you to the legislators and friends in the business community who visited Misericordia recently to learn more about our programs and services.



From left: State Representative David Olsen with Sister Rosemary Connelly and constituent Benote Wimp.



Chicago's First Lady Amy Rule toured Misericordia's art studios and admired Paul's latest painting.



Fr. Jack Clair, State Representative Ann M. Williams, Senator Tom Cullerton, Senator Don Harmon, Sister Rosemary Connelly, State Representative Sam Yingling, State Representative Frances Hurley, and State Senator Julie Morrison. Special thanks to Julie Morrison for facilitating the group visit.



Above, from left: Illinois State Senator Tom Cullerton, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Misericordia parent Jim Varey and Fr. Jack Clair.



State Representative Allen Skillicorn (second from left) and the Aussin Family with Sister Rosemary Connelly.



Left: Chief of Staff Dean Peterson, Fr. Jack Clair, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Congressman Randy Hultgren and Misericordia parent Brian Battle.

April 24, 2018 was celebrated nationally as the Day of Choice for individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Organizations all over the country posted pictures on social media and visited state and federal legislators to remind others of the importance of choice in where to live, work and thrive. Misericordia's families wrote hundreds of letters to many federal legislators thanking them for supporting their choice of a campus setting offered by Misericordia for their loved one. In addition, several of these notes were hand delivered to the congressmen's offices in Washington D.C. while reinforcing the important message of allowing individuals with I/DD and their families to choose a community of their choice.

While in D.C., Misericordia staff and family members embraced the

opportunity to meet with Katherine McGuire, Assistant Secretary at the Department of Labor, along with staff from the Office of Disability Employment Policy to discuss the current vocational and employment landscape for individuals with I/DD. Many advocate groups are pushing for the elimination of the specialized minimum wage, which provides an employment pathway for many individuals with I/DD. This action would result in a reduction of meaningful job opportunities for many individuals with I/DD. This meeting was an opportunity to share the stories of

those we serve and the impact of eliminating such a pathway.

Today, Together for Choice has over 800 members representing 47 states. Together with organizations, families and self-advocates, the message for choice is growing.

If you would like to support this effort and become a sponsor, please visit www.togetherforchoice.org or contact Geana Connelly at gconnelly@togetherforchoice.org.





Father Jack Clair pictured with, from left, Co-Chairs Megan Banas and Christina Jaros, alongside Auxiliary President Claudia Miquelon.

First Look for Charity

Misericordia Women's Auxiliary welcomed guests to the reception for First Look for Charity at McCormick Place on a beautiful snowy night last February. The benefit, which is held the night before the Chicago Auto Show opens to the public, raises needed funds for the children and adults who are served by Misericordia. A night of live and silent auctions, great food and drink, and entertainment was enjoyed by



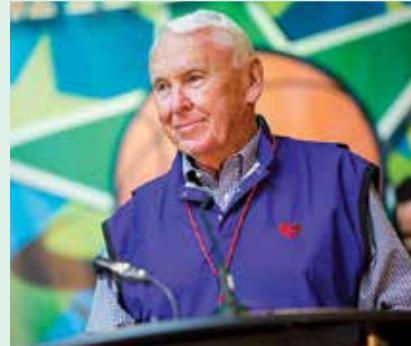
Above, from left: Lou Manfredini, Julie O'Sullivan, Lois Gates, Father Jack Clair, Mary Pat O'Brien and Lin Brehmer.

the generous friends of Misericordia. Many thanks to Honorary Chairs and Auctioneers Lou Manfredini and Lin Brehmer, and to chairs Megan Banas and Christina Jaros and President



Sister Rosemary and Lois Gates pictured with the Women's League March Madness event leadership. From left: Co-Chair Lisa Cruse, Vice President Lee Wilson, President Cara Long and Co-Chair Nancy Jacob.

Each year, the Women's League presents the Heart of Gold Award to a member of the Misericordia community who has continuously dedicated themselves to the mission of Misericordia. The Women's League was pleased to honor the Ron Miniat Family in 2018. Pictured at right, Ron Miniat addresses the crowd.



Join more than 600 golfers at the 44th Annual **MISERICORDIA BUMS GOLF OUTING**

Olympia Fields North & South
and Flossmoor Country Clubs
Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner,
Live Auction - Raffle
18 holes of golf and more!
\$800 per golfer or \$3,200 per foursome

Register online at www.misericordia.com,
or contact Dorie Finnegan
at dorief@misericordia.com,
773-273-4178 to purchase raffle
tickets/reservations.

Claudia Miquelon for their tireless work on this superb event!

Another Win for March Madness The Misericordia Women's League hosted an exciting evening, welcoming hundreds of guests to their annual March Madness event held at the Oak Brook Hills Hilton. Guests enjoyed a night full of basketball, live and silent auctions, delicious food and a knock-out National Anthem performed by Jim Cornelison! Special thanks to CBS 2 Anchor Rob Johnson, who graciously served as the MC for the night. Many thanks to our event chairs, Lisa Cruse and Nancy Jacob, as well as President Cara Long for all of their hard work to make March Madness 2018 a slam dunk!

*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.

It all starts with family at the MFA Dinner Dance

The Misericordia Family Association will host the annual Benefit Dinner Dance at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on Saturday, June 23. Enjoy an evening that features cocktails, sit-down dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing. Take part in "The Giving Tree," where donors can choose from a wish list of items requested to enhance the quality of our programs. Take a chance to win a 2018 Jeep Cherokee Latitude SUV, so generously donated by Bret Matthews and Jim Spellman of DuPage Chrysler Jeep Dodge RAM. Only 3,000 tickets will be sold at \$50 per chance.

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 available by contacting: MFAReservations@gmail.com



From left: Lois Gates, Mary Piemonte, Danny P., Bret Matthews, Sister Rosemary, Jim Spellman, Kris H., Tracie Platt and Sharon Solomon.

Many thanks to Bret Matthews and Jim Spellman, pictured right, and all of our friends at Dupage Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM.



Life's a party on St. Patrick's Day in Chicago

Friends and supporters gathered at The Montgomery Club for a post-parade party after Mis residents marched proudly with the Misericordia banner in the Southside Irish and "downtown" parades. A big thanks to Chicago Mayor's Office Rahm Emanuel and First Lady Amy Rule for marching in the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. Thank you to Gibsons Restaurant Group, The Montgomery Club, and Steve and Peggy Lombardo for hosting a great celebration!

From left: Chicago's First Lady Amy Rule and Mayor Rahm Emanuel joined Ryan J. (member of the Shannon Rovers), Sister Rosemary Connelly, Fr. Jack Clair and Lois Gates in the fun.



Dream Team Greenhouse Inn Summit! You can't beat the winning combination of Sister Rosemary and Sister Jean and Tom Hitcho from Loyola University Chicago! Sister Jean and Tom visited the Greenhouse Inn to lunch with Sister Rosemary and her team and celebrate the thrilling season of the Loyola Ramblers Men's Basketball team. Congratulations all around!

16th Annual Heart Links Open **Tuesday, July 17, 2018 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

\$1,250 per person

**Lunch: 11 am | Shotgun Start: 12 pm
Awards Reception/Cocktail Party: 6 pm**

**For information, contact
Hugh Connolly at
hughc@misericordia.com
773-273-3036**

Staff Recognition Dinner Celebrates Service and Shared Values

The Misericordia Staff Recognition Dinner is held every two years to honor our dedicated employees. This year, the evening included almost 400 people who have worked at Misericordia for 10 years or more! Anyone who has seen the amazing work that is carried out every day at Misericordia knows that it is more than just a job. We appreciate all of our staff and the exceptional work that they do!



35-39 years



45-49 years



30-31 years



Sr. Rosemary Connelly received the 100th Anniversary Centennial Award, which is a symbol of Catholics Charities 100 years of compassion and care to those in need for her dedication, commitment and service to Misericordia.

Monsignor Michael Boland with Sister Rosemary Connelly

Congratulations also to longtime Misericordia employee Bob Noga who was awarded the Holy Family Villa Caritas Sanctae Familiae Award for his dedication and support of Holy Family Villa and the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.



Bobby Magurany of Holy Family Villa, Bob Noga and Monsignor Michael Boland

Misericordia Heartracers Team Geared Up for 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon

A team of 64 runners will represent Misericordia at the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 7. Each team member will raise between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to support programs and services that benefit our 600 residents and nearly 200 outreach participants.

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



Special Olympians make Misericordia proud!

Fitness is important to the residents of Misericordia, and the Special Olympics is a great way for residents on campus to become actively involved and grow on a physical, social, and cognitive level! This year we had 60 gold medal athletes in four different sports that will travel



downstate to Illinois State University to compete in this years' Summer Games. Congratulations to all athletes!



The 5th Annual Springtime Shuffle

It may have been a rainy day, but the sun was shining inside the Misericordia gym as The Junior Board welcomed over 250 volunteers and residents for a day of fun and fitness that raised over \$15,000 for Misericordia! Many thanks to all the members of the Junior Board. Special thanks to Anne Mills, Saint Ignatius College Prep Women's Lacrosse Program, De La Salle Institute High School and The Frances Xavier Warde School.

If you are of high school age and are interested in joining the Misericordia Junior Board, please contact Teresa Puente at teresap@misericordia.com.



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.

Joseph T. Arrigo; Donald L. Barthold; Louise W. Bereznay; Marybeth T. Brawley; Jean T. Brennan; Michael D. Broadway; William R. Chambers; Patrick J. Clancy; Edward J. Connolly; Nancy J. Connolly; Ann Margaret (Anita) Cummings; Donald B. Cummings; W. Frank Cunningham; Helen M. Curran; Vilma E. Dal Corobbo; Mary Patrice DeVoy; Orville J. Donohue, Jr.; Marian Agnes Donovan; John M. Dreger; James F. Drennan; Gary Allen Drummond; Joseph Dziedzic; Terry R. Finegan; Mary Patricia Flynn; Edward A. Fraczek; Thomas I. Fraser, Jr.; Frances Lena Freund; Maureen Catherine Gamboney; William M. Gibbons; David R. Gould; Gerard F. "Buck" Grace; Elinor M. Gusinde; Robert Emmett Hall; Elizabeth "Bette" Hanley; Doris M. Harmon; Michael J. Hartigan, Sr.; Gloria J. Hedman; Donald L. Henry; Anna Horky-Appell; Rita Hornberger; Peter J. Hupperich; Ann C. Jaschob; Melvin V. Johnson; John Moody Kahoun; Colette V. Kallianis; Donamarie Keefe; John Keifer; Gaynor N. Kelley; John J. Kerrigan; William J. Kissane; Maureen Porth Koch; Edmund D. Korn; Thelma Rena Korn; Florence Kovin; August Lockefeer; James R. Logan; Elizabeth Ann Lyman; Mary Hereley Marren; James B. Marshall; Sharon J. Martin; Edward J. Mellon; Patricia Ann Mooney; Claire Shroba Morris; Dagmar M. Mulac; Ronald T. "Ron" Nelson; Regina Ann Newman; Cecilia Nikitscher; Patrick J. O'Brien; Patricia Evans O'Connor; Patrick Edward O'Donnell; William O'Hara; Maura Pandit; James T. "Jim" Pazik; Catherine Prendergast; Catherine S. Pyritz; Lawrene D. Rader; Anne Elizabeth Reed; Leonard J. Regal; Mary Kathleen Roche; Katina "Kathy" Romas; Gloria Rubak; Charlotte Helen Ryan; Gladys L. Scala; John E. Seguin, III; Gerald W. Smith; Elaine M. Sofedes; Darlene Steinbeiss; James Forsman Stokes; Carol A. Sullivan; Barbara "Bobbe" Sylvester; Timothy J. Teister; Deborah Irene Thode; Sofia Katherine "Sofi" Troglia; Bridget Ann Urban; Patrick Joseph Ward; Philip M. Whiting; Franz H. Witte; David M. Wolf; Martin Patrick Ziegenhorn

Save the Date

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

June 11 | BUMS Golf Outing
dorief@misericordia.com

June 23 | MFA Dinner Dance
MFAReservations@gmail.com

July 17 | Heartlinks Open
hughc@misericordia.com

September 9 | Family Fest
www.misericordia.com

September 24 | Women's Golf Outing
tloftus@misericordia.com, or 773-273-4163

October 7 | Bank of Chicago Marathon
marthaf@misericordia.com

October 12 | MYPC Red Heart Bash
julieo@misericordia.com

A Wonderful Evening at Stefani Prime

More than 300 attendees gobbled up all of the tickets to be among the first to experience the Stefani Family's newest restaurant - Stefani Prime, located at 6711 N. Cicero in Lincolnwood. The entire proceeds from the event benefited the children and adults of Misericordia.

Many thanks to Phil & Karen Stefani, as well



Pictured with Sister Rosemary and Father Jack are Anthony, Karen, Gina and Phil Stefani.

as Anthony and Gina, for their friendship and gen-

erous support. We wish you great success!



*Learn *Inspire *Think at the LITerature Lounge

Misericordia's work opportunities programs continue to thrive on-campus and off. Under the care and instruction of Nicole Martin, a "Literature Lounge" has opened on campus. The multipurpose space next to the technology lab offers residents in Developmental Training programs the opportunity to meet for book clubs, check out a book from the library, or just drop in to relax and read. In April, a "Poetry Slam" was hosted there to the delight of those residents who had a chance to read their poems to an audience!



Misericordia's Ragnar Heartsquad is

training for year six! Ragnar is one of the most challenging and rewarding team races in the world. Misericordia's Heartsquad — 12 runners, volunteer drivers and numerous cheerleaders — are ready to face the 30-hour relay race. The Heartsquad will run 200(ish) miles, day and night, relay-style, from Muskegon to Traverse City, MI from Friday, September 28 through Saturday, September 29. Heartsquad has committed to a goal of raising over \$10,000 to support the incredible work being done at Misericordia every day.

Offer your support at www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/misericordiaheartsquad-for-ragnar-relay or be a Corporate Sponsor! Contact Joe Ferrara at joef@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. 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.

Candy Days 2018



Candy Days 2018

Thank you to the thousands of people who supported Misericordia's Candy Days effort. We appreciate each and every one of you!

