



Heart of Mercy

# Misericordia

## NEWSLETTER

Winter 2018

### Sister Rosemary goes to Washington

Leading a movement to protect the rights of the disabled community



November 8, 2017, was Illinois Day on Capitol Hill, when 32 members of **To-gether for Choice** joined forces to have their voices heard. Together for Choice is a national advocacy group of agencies and individuals, spearheaded by Misericordia, whose mission is to protect the rights of those with intellectual and developmental disabilities to work, live and thrive in the communities of their choice. Family members and individuals being served by these agencies spoke to legislators about the positive impact living in their chosen community has on their lives. As Sister Rosemary expressed, "Our purpose here is to redefine the definition of what community really means. It means choice for these individuals and their families." Thank you to all of the United State Representatives and Senators that visited with Misericordia and five other organizations from Illinois in Washington, D.C. during Illinois Day.

**Clockwise, from left: Senator Dick Durbin, Molly B., Sister Rosemary Connelly, Ciara C. (from Little City), and Jeff. F. Upper right: Fr. Jack Clair, U.S. Representative Susan Brooks and Kevin Connelly. Lower right: Brian Battle, U.S. Representative Randy Hultgren, Ray Carmody and Gregg Hartemayer**



U.S. Representative Bobby L. Rush



Geana Connelly, U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi and Lois Gates

**Special thanks to Congressman Rush and Congressman Krishnamoorthi for their efforts to protect choice for all families with respect to amending the HCBS Settings Rule.**

Dear Family and Friends,

The New Year is upon us, and we want to thank everyone who played a role in making 2017 such a wonderful and successful year. Only because of the loving friendship and generous support of you, our Misericordia Family, can Misericordia maintain the standard of care our children and adults deserve. How blessed we are!

One of the most important goals we have for the New Year is to share with you the importance of a newly formed national organization called "Together for Choice." We, along with other agencies not only in Illinois but throughout the country, are joining together so that the Federal/State officials will hear a "new voice" in regard to services for persons with developmental disabilities.

For almost 50 years, the policies made by government officials hold that there is only one way to serve people with developmental disabilities. Everyone, no matter how disabled they are, should be living in isolated homes in neighborhoods called CILAs (Community Integrated Living Arrangements).

By the end of 2018, we will have 13 homes in the neighborhoods; we now have 11. They provide wonderful residential home life for our residents who are higher functioning individuals with no or very limited physical challenges. Already we have had to bring four CILA residents back to our McAuley Skilled Nursing Residence because their physical needs changed so radically, that we could not adequately meet their needs in CILA settings. We were able to accomplish this because we have the full continuum of care, and the families were so grateful. After several years of dignified, competent and compassionate care here on campus, these lovely residents returned to God.

This philosophy that there is only one way and it is their way denies persons, especially families, the right to choice. Who knows their most vulnerable family member better than those who have shared life with them since birth? Those who love them dearly — and all they want for this special member of their family is to be able to live a good life of dignity, challenge and compassion. The gratitude of our families is boundless.

You could wonder how Misericordia campus has been able to grow from 39 children and 35 staff in 1976 to 600 children and adults with 1,100 staff in 2017! This happened in spite of these policies that hold anything big is bad and everyone belongs in isolated houses in the community.

Our political friends in Springfield, and there are many, intervened for us, but not until after they toured Misericordia. They saw the quality of life our children and adults are enjoying. Their consistent response is that we should be a "model for the country." We've never claimed to be the only way — just one legitimate way!

We'll need financial support to make "Together for Choice" a fiscally solvent national organization. Please read the Together for Choice article in this newsletter, which will explain where you can find more information, including our need for financial support.

Misericordia is the beautiful home it is today because you believe in us enough to be involved! Without you, life here would be bleak!

Thank you and may this New Year be filled with God's good gifts for you and yours.

Lovingly,



Sister Rosemary Connolly, RSM  
Executive Director



 **Together For Choice**

Over the past several months, Together for Choice (TFC) has continued its efforts in raising awareness and advancing the right of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to choose from a full array of quality residential and work options. Our most recent efforts have focused on increasing communications with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) leadership.

Nearly 200 families wrote letters to CMS about the importance of work and living options that best meet individual needs. In addition, TFC members, along with Scott Mendel, chairman of TFC, met with CMS leaders

regarding the Home and Community Based Settings rule.

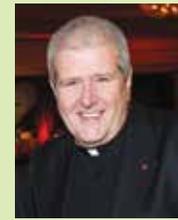
This rule defines what constitutes a community setting and has a significant impact on Medicaid waiver funding. Finally, TFC led “Days on the Hill” both in Springfield, Illinois, and Washington D.C. Six other states joined the Illinois group in the nation’s capitol in early November.

To date, Together for Choice represents 23 states, with members that include providers, donors, community members, parents, siblings and friends. While our advocacy work is growing, we need ongoing support to further help our voice be heard. Please consider joining Together for Choice to ensure that a full array of options is available to all

individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by visiting [www.togetherforchoice.org](http://www.togetherforchoice.org).

**Thank you to the all the United States Representatives and Senators that visited with Misericordia and five other organizations from Illinois in Washington DC during their Illinois Day On Capitol Hill.**

- Senator Dick Durbin**
- Senator Tammy Duckworth**
- Congressman Bobby L. Rush**
- Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez**
- Congressman Joe Kennedy III**
- Congressman Dan Lipinski**
- Congressman Randy Hultgren**
- Congresswoman Robin Kelly**
- Congresswoman Susan W. Brooks**
- Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky**
- Congressman Adam Kinzinger**
- Congressman Peter Roskam**
- Congressman Mike Quigley**
- Congressman John Shimkus**
- Congressman Darin LaHood**
- Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi**



**Father Jack Clair featured in Irish American News**

**“...a labor of love and a heart of mercy...”**

Father Jack Clair, Associate Executive Director and Chaplain at Misericordia, was featured in *Irish American News* last November. The story focused on Father Jack’s nearly 20 years of service at Misericordia. In addition to celebrating daily Mass at Misericordia, Father Jack is a beloved part of the lives of the residents and their families, and a valued and essential member of the administrative team. Congratulations Father Jack!

Campus visits are one of the best ways to learn about Misericordia, and we are grateful when our elected officials and friends from the business community tour our campus. Misericordia is grateful to the many groups that visited, volunteered, and gave generous gifts to benefit our children and adults!



**Thank you, AT&T for volunteering in our bakery and presenting Sister Rosemary with a beautiful gift. We are so grateful for your friendship. Pictured with Sister Rosemary are Paul La Schiazza, President of AT&T Illinois; Fr. Jack Clair; and Alderman Patrick O'Connor of the 40th Ward.**



**Chicago City Clerk Anna Valencia joined Sister Rosemary for a tour of the campus. Thank you for your interest!**



**From left: Legislative Director Barrett Monie; State Representative Carol Sente; and Father Jack Clair.**



**Illinois State Senator Toi Hutchinson of the 40th District, pictured with Paul P., toured Misericordia to learn all about our many life-affirming programs. Many thanks to Karen and Greg Dralle for coordinating the visit!**

## Party time with the MYPC Red Heart Bash

The Misericordia Young Professionals Council (MYPC) has entered its third year and welcomed more than 280 guests to the second annual Red Heart Bash event on October 14 at the Wintrust Grand Banking Hall.

The night was filled with music, great food and drink, and a special performance by the Misericordia Heartbreakers. The Red Heart Bash raised \$43,000 this year!

Margaret Keating, a member of the MYPC since the beginning, received the MYPC Spirit Award for her commitment and dedication to MYPC, Misericordia and the residents.

This year's MYPC Red Heart Award recipient was The Thomas & Christina Grusecki Foundation, for their continuous support and generosity towards MYPC and Misericordia these past three years.



Julie O'Sullivan with MYPC Spirit Award winner Margaret Keating



Above: The Red Heart Bash committee, front row, from left: Sarah Swanson; Kate Krebsbach; Julie O'Sullivan; Back row, from left: Paul Grusecki; President, J.R. Snyder; Colleen Kelly, Vice President; Eric Bacon; Tom Zulanas; and Tom Halleran

Interested in joining this dynamic group?  
Contact [julieo@misericordia.com](mailto:julieo@misericordia.com)



A big thank you to the Illinois State Wireless Association for their generous contribution to and continued support of Misericordia. We hope you enjoyed your day volunteering in our Misericordia's Hearts & Flour Bakery!

## 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](mailto:robertb@misericordia.com).

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

## Misericordia Heartracers Gear Up for 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon

A team of 64 runners will represent Misericordia this year at the 2018 Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 7. From seasoned runners to first-time marathoners, each member of this year's team will raise between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to support Misericordia's programs and services that benefit our 600 residents and nearly 200 outreach participants.

The Heartracers team raised an amazing \$123,000 at the 2017 Chicago Marathon! Year after year, the team

continues to grow both in the number of runners and the amount of funds they raise!

The last day to register as a charity runner is May 22, 2018. To find out about joining the 2018 Chicago Marathon Misericordia Heartracers, please contact Martha Floberg, Development Officer, at 773-273-4125, [marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com)

To donate to the 2018 Heartracers, please visit [www.firstgiving.com/misericordia](http://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia).



Above left: Susie R., Katie Wilson and Jordon Brockhoff

Above: Joe Ferrara and Bill McCarthy



## A show-stopping night at the Heart of Mercy Ball

The Misericordia Women's Board welcomed more than 800 guests to the Hilton Chicago for the Heart of Mercy Ball on November 17. Raising over \$1 million to benefit the children and adults of Misericordia is no small task, and the Women's Board accomplished this with style and beauty! This year's honored guests were celebrated for their dedication to the mission of Misericordia, and entertained by a spectacular performance when the Misericordia Heartbreakers joined Hamilton star Miguel Cervantes on stage. Thanks to Women's Board President Felice Madda and Ball Chair Beth Donovan for a night of lasting memories!



Clockwise from top left: The Heartbreakers thrilled ball guests in a performance with Miguel Cervantes.

Top right: Kelly and Miguel Cervantes

Above, from left: Sue and Dave Moore, Heart of Mercy Award; Paula Conrad, Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion; Fr. Jack Clair; Sister Rosemary Connelly; Jim Connolly, Pillars of the Community Award; Lois Gates; Kevin Connolly; Chuck LoVerde, Pillars of the Community Award; and Mary Pat O'Brien



Above: Heart of Mercy Ball Chair Beth Donovan, center, pictured with Co-Chairs Margie Hodur, left, and Jacque Simon



Above: Women's Board President Felice Madda, Fr. Jack Clair, Sister Rosemary, and Ball Chair Beth Donovan

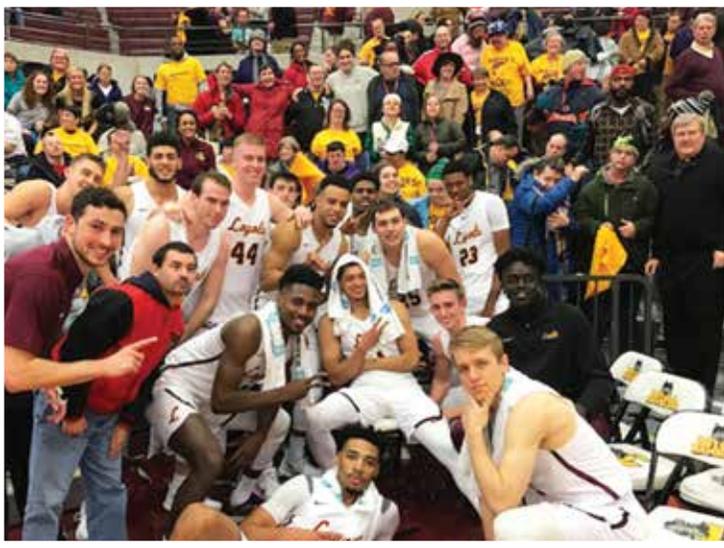


Left: WTTW's host of Chicago Tonight, Phil Ponce, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

To kick off the celebrations for the 2017 Heart of Mercy Ball, the Women's Board teamed up with Bloomingdale's 900 North Michigan Avenue for a Fashion Show and Shopping Night to benefit Misericordia! Past Women's Board honorees modeled the latest fashions while celebrating our Women's Board. Special thanks to Mark Cechini, Zoe Bracilano and Rishika Mahtani of Bloomingdale's, alongside event chairs Eileen Sethna and Patsy Caruso.



Bloomingdales Models and former Heart of Mercy Ball honorees, from left: Mary Beth Manfredini, Lois Gates, Vita Donovan, Sue Moore, Peg Lombardo, Paula Conrad and Sue Hartemayer



Saturday, December 3, was the Annual Misericordia & Loyola Ramblers Men's Basketball Tipoff Game! Thanks to our good friends at Loyola for once again inviting the residents of Misericordia to cheer them on!

## March Madness

Friday, March 9, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort  
3500 Midwest Road  
Oak Brook, IL

The Misericordia Women's League presents March Madness, an annual fundraiser featuring NCAA games on the big screen, silent auction, squares games, and exciting live auction!  
Please visit: [events.org/mismarchmadness](http://events.org/mismarchmadness) for information.

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:30 p.m. Seated Dinner

Wear your favorite college t-shirt  
and your jeans!

Sponsorship and Ad Book

opportunities available now.

Hosted by Rob Johnson,  
CBS2 Chicago News Anchor

Early Bird Ticket Price \$225

Please contact Patty Burke for  
Event Tickets at:

[burke-patty@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burke-patty@sbcglobal.net)

For questions regarding event or  
sponsorship, please contact event  
chairs:

Lisa Cruse at [cruse61@earthlink.net](mailto:cruse61@earthlink.net)  
or Nancy Jacob at [jonanjacob@aol.com](mailto:jonanjacob@aol.com)



On December 11th, 2017, Misericordia welcomed Fred Flather, (far left) Chief of Staff to James Dimas, Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services. The DHS group enjoyed a tour to learn more about the many services we offer. The Art department was one of several programs they visited, and Paul P. was happy to show them his latest painting.



On Friday, December 15, the Misericordia Junior Board hosted their 5th Annual Holiday Party for our Misericordia residents. Over 60 student volunteers assisted in the event that included games, bingo, a photo booth and tons of holiday cheer! Special thanks to all of our Junior Board Advisors, especially Anne Mills. Looking to get involved with the Misericordia Junior Board? Contact Teresa Puente at [teresap@misericordia.com](mailto:teresap@misericordia.com).

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**THE ARTIST IN ALL**  
**MAY 23, 2018**



Join the Misericordia Siblings Association (SIBS) for the 21st annual *The Artist in All* event at the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago on Wednesday, May 23, 2018. Misericordia's resident artists are already hard at work with their art instructors to present a wonderful show at this very resident-centered event. Tickets are \$155 per person and will be available at [misericordia.com](http://misericordia.com) beginning in April. Special thanks to our event chairs Kelly Burgess Mayer and Jack Mayer for their leadership!

*Please contact Lois Gates at [loisg@misericordia.com](mailto:loisg@misericordia.com) for 2018 sponsorship opportunities.*

 *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.*

Noel J. Barone; Charles Otto Bartz; Paul A. Camastro; John Devin Cassin; Honorable Michael C. Close; Elizabeth "Betty" Cody; Thomas Herbert Donohoe; Margaret M. Dorigan; Richard J. Driscoll; John M. Duffy; Francis J. "Frank" Dyra, Jr.; Daniel R. Edick, Sr.; Eileen T. Fahy; Therese "Terri" Fitzpatrick; Elizabeth Ann Groden; Christopher Larkin Hanley; Jacqueline Ann Harrington; Andrew J. Hartnett; Joseph J. Horwath; Beat R. Keller; Kenneth J. "Pete" Kelly; Martha M. Krajci; Helen LaDouceur; Laretta Lehman; Luella M. Marron; Mary McManamon; Luis D. Meneses; Maurice J. "Joe" O'Connor; Gerald "Jerry" O'Sullivan; Jay Krishna Pandit, M.D.; Blanche Reinhardt Peterson; Melanie P. Polinski; Don R. Rees; Lois Rodgers; Eugene J. Rooney, Jr.; William James Ryan; Judith Marie Santi; Richard E. "Dick" Urchell; Wesley Van Hook; Amy Mary Ann Wabiszewski; Theodor Witte; Helen Zorich

## Employee Service Awards



Preciosa Buen



Fatima Feliciano



Ashley Meeker



Susan Grund



Latishia Greer

**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: **Preciosa Buen**, RN, Nursing; **Fatima Feliciano**, Social

Service Assistant, Social Service; **Ashley Meeker**, QIDP, Village; **Susan Grund**, Therapy Aide, Therapy; and **Latishia Greer**, DSP, Rosemary Connelly.

*"Her kind nature and calm demeanor make her easy to work with, and her care for the residents is evident in every interaction."*

*"She demonstrates spirituality through courtesy and respect, and is willing to assist others when needed. She is especially kind and welcoming to new staff and families."*

*"She looks for the best in each resident and staff and encourages them to strive for their full potential."*

*"She has established great relationships throughout the entire Misericordia community because of her contagious spirituality."*

*"It makes me so happy to see how much she cares for each resident, how much patience she has, and how much she loves everything she does!"*



On November 4, Misericordia residents, friends and supporters all came together for a day of fitness and fun at CycleBar! Many thanks to our friends and neighbors, the Hulseman Family, for sponsoring the event at various CycleBar locations that has raised over \$22,000 for Mis!



Left: Members of the Lane Tech Tri-M National Music Honor Society came to our Lois Gates Courtyard Inn to sing and perform treasured holiday classics for our residents. Much cheer and joy was had by all.

Below: Many thanks to the team from Morgan Stanley for volunteering in the Misericordia Hearts & Flour Bakery as part of their bi-annual visit to Misericordia! Special thanks to Liz Navarro and Steve Austin for organizing this incredible group!



### Market Days teaches important and empowering skills in Misericordia's work opportunities programs.

Market Days takes place several times a year and is located in the Conway building from 9:30 am until 2:00 pm. This is a sales event with many areas of DT participating, including programs at McAuley. Residents work at the event, greeting guests and selling the wares created in their programs. They learn about planning and deadlines, money, proper sales etiquette, and, of course, profit! It has proven to be a valuable and fun work activity for all involved!

Above left: Sheila works on the loom in Heart-felt Gifts to ready holiday table runners for the December sale.

Left: Jon is hard at work in the ceramics program with instructor Geryn Roche. Residents in the Fire and Ice Ceramics program spent many hours creating Christmas trees that were then used to make snowglobes and sold at December Market Days.



## Save the Date

**March 9 | Women's League March Madness**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**March 17 | St. Patrick's Day Celebration**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**April 27 and 28 | Jelly Belly Candy Days**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**May 11 | Women's Auxiliary Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon**  
[claudiamiquelon@me.com](mailto:claudiamiquelon@me.com)

**May 23 | The Artist In All**  
[www.artistinall.org](http://www.artistinall.org)

**June 11 | Bums Golf Outing**  
[kevin@misericordia.com](mailto:kevin@misericordia.com)

## Winter Athletics

**Special Olympics Mens' Basketball**  
 Jan. 20 at Quest Multi-Sport

**Special Olympics Women's Basketball**  
 Jan. 27 at Northeastern Ill University  
 Contact Eric Engleson | [erice@misericordia.com](mailto:erice@misericordia.com)

**Powerlifting | Feb. 24 at Quest Multi Sport**

**Aquatics | March 3rd at Whitney Young HS**  
 Contact Mary Ann Zielke-Allen  
[maryz@Misericordia.com](mailto:maryz@Misericordia.com)

**Come on out and support our Misericordia Athletes!**

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).

**Candy Days 2018  
needs your  
support!  
Stand with us  
on April 27-28  
and be a witness to  
the mission  
of Misericordia.  
Call 773-273-2768**



**Misericordia is counting on you!** The support and advocacy for the mission of Misericordia is vital to maintaining the excellent care and loving environment that is our hallmark. Within the uncertain and divisive political climate of today, the needs of the most vulnerable — people with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities — remain the same! They depend on us to continue to provide full and productive lives at their "Misericordia home."

**Please join us,** as volunteers from every walk of life fan out across Chicagoland on April 27 and 28, 2018, distributing Jelly Belly jelly beans in exchange for donations from the community that benefit our 600 children and adults. Bill Kelley and the Jelly Belly Candy Co. have again generously donated 1.2 million bags of jelly beans for Candy Days weekend!

**Can we count on you?**

**Create your FirstGiving account for 2018 Candy Days! Visit <https://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/2018-misericordia-candy-days> to setup your account and invite friends and family to donate!**

