

# CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 6

Vol 5

JUNE 2025



*In the loving memory of*  
**Sister Rosemary Connelly, R.S.M.**  
February 23, 1931 - June 19, 2025

It is with great sadness to share that our dear Sister Rosemary passed away last Friday after entering hospice a short time ago. It is a sad time, but we are comforted by knowing that Sister is reunited with her family and the Lord. On Monday, June 23, we held a wake and the funeral took place on Tuesday at Holy Name Cathedral. Special thanks to Lois Gates and Bob Noga, as well as Sister Rosemary's care team, for the wonderful care they provided at the end of Sister's remarkable journey. Sister Rosemary was always so grateful to every one of you for your dedication and commitment to our residents. Let us honor Sister Rosemary and her amazing legacy by making sure that our residents continue to live lives of dignity, respect, challenge and beauty. More information to follow and please keep Sister Rosemary, her family, the Sisters of Mercy and the entire Misericordia community in your prayers.

God bless you all and may God bless Sister Rosemary!

[Click here](#) to watch the video recording of her funeral services, and [click here](#) to read her full obituary in the Chicago Sun-Times.



# CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

### WHAT'S INSIDE

3

#### COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

MUSIC & MOVIES, JUNE MUSIC BINGO,  
THANK YOU MFA VOLUNTEERS,  
HEART & SOIL COMPOSTING

4

#### HIGHLIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

TOGETHER FOR CHOICE

5

#### EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

NORMALIZING MISERICORDIA E-MAIL,  
MISERICORDIA, TECH SUPPORT,  
ICEBREAKERS

6

#### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES, JUNETEENTH,  
ROSES FOR SISTER ROSEMARY

7-8

#### COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

SPECIAL SERIES

9-10

#### MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

WARM WELCOMES, ANNIVERSARIES,  
DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION, IN  
MEMORIAM

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEART

*"Everything in the universe is  
within you.*

*Ask all from yourself."*

*-Mawlana Jalal-al-Din Rumi*



**Pictured:** Residents, and staff participating in several campus events for the month June: Juneteenth, Pride Month, First Responders Day, and The Great Big Sing-along.

During this time of grief around the recent passings of loved ones in our community, staff who observe residents in need of extra support may reach out to our counseling department, and our counselors can provide a check-in with the resident.

In July, the counseling department will also offer a drop-in grief art therapy group for residents requesting additional support. We will share specific dates and sign-up times for this group. To learn more about Misericordia's grief services and resources for navigating conversations around grief, [click here](#).

Please know that there are resources available to support each other in our community during this difficult time.



# COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

## MUSIC & MOVIES



**Pictured:** Residents, staff, and family volunteers participating in movie nights and music concerts at the Jean Marie Ryan Center.

## JUNE MUSIC BINGO



**Pictured:** Residents, staff, and family volunteers participating in **Music Bingo** held at the Courtyard Inn and Jean Marie Ryan Center this June.

## THANK YOU, MFA VOLUNTEERS!



**Pictured:** MFA volunteers helping with organizing this year's Mother's/Father's Day polo shirts.

We are so grateful for all the support coming from the Misericordia Family Association (MFA). Misericordia thanks all the MFA volunteers!

Visit the [Misericordia Facebook page](#) to find more events that happened through the month.



## HEART & SOIL COMPOSTING: JOIN OUR MISSION!

Heart & Soil, operated by Misericordia residents, is now launching our services to the Misericordia community!

Services Start at \$20 a Month for Bi-Weekly Pickups



SIGN UP HERE



*"Enriching the soil, enriching the soul."*

Heart & Soil, our new composting and employment opportunity program is operated by Misericordia residents alongside their dedicated staff. The composting team has launched their services to the Misericordia community.

Please note, the program is currently operating in a limited radius and participation eligibility is limited by how much ground they can cover per day. People can share their info on the initial sign-up form to help the program determine if they are within our operation radius. They plan to expand that radius as they grow and more sign-ups outside of their current radius will help determine potential expansion.

For more information or questions about composting services please email:

[lsanchez@misericordia.com](mailto:lsanchez@misericordia.com)

To sign up: [Heart & Soil sign up](#)



# HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Advocating to expand options for individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities (I/DD).



Together For Choice's (TFC) basic position is that the individual and their family know best what type of residential and vocational programs and opportunities best meet their needs and preferences. The role of government, federal and state, should be to support all quality residential and vocational options, allowing the individual and his or her family to choose the option they prefer. By doing so, the government treats individuals with disabilities the same as those who do not have disabilities.



Individuals with disabilities should have that same right. This is the essential message of the Supreme Court's decision in *Olmstead* and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Both have at their core the fundamental principle that individuals with disabilities should have the same rights as everyone else to choose the life they wish to live. The role of government is to support that choice, not to limit choice.

**Pictured:** Board members, panelists, and guests at the Together for Choice (TFC) 2025 Conference, hosted by Misericordia. The conference lasted from June 18-20, and started with an open reception at Theater on the Lake. Topics of discussion included policy updates, I/DD services, the impact of collaboration, recruitment and retention, and fundraising policies. This year's conference was attended by nearly 200 people who traveled from all over the U.S., as well as internationally, from countries such as Argentina and Uganda!

Special thanks to all of the Misericordia Family Association (MFA) and staff who volunteered and worked at this event!

**We stand for the proposition that individuals with developmental disabilities should have the same rights as everyone else to decide where to live, work, recreate and receive services.**

**8.38 million**

It is estimated that there are 8.38 million people with I/DD living in the United States

**1.3 million**

Nearly 1.3 million adults did not get services through state IDD agencies.

**2.28 million**

adults had an intellectual and/ or developmental disability.

**61%**

Among people with IDD who got long-term supports and services (LTSS), 61% lived with family members.

To learn more about Together for Choice and get involved, [click here](#) to visit our website.

**CAMPUS CONNECTIONS**



# EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

## NORMALIZING MISERICORDIA E-MAIL USAGE

To continue improving communication across our workforce, IT will transition staff to using their Misericordia email address for Misericordia functions.

### What is my Misericordia/Outlook e-mail?

All staff are given an employee e-mail address upon hire (example@misericordia.com) If you are not sure what your Misericordia e-mail is, please ask your director or supervisor.

**Why normalize it?** Normalizing the use of e-mail would create an organizational culture that keeps up with the best practices in effective communications of today. This initiative aims to streamline all organization-wide communications through e-mail engagement and strengthen internal communications within each area.

**What can I expect?** Electronic employee engagement could take some getting used to. Over the next few weeks, you can expect the following:

- **Phase 1:** Everyone should have a Misericordia email. If you don't contact IT.
- **Phase 2:** Everyone should be able to access their email from an iPad or computer.
- **Phase 3:** Everyone should be checking their Misericordia email regularly for the latest Misericordia information.

Again, while adapting to technology can take time, in the long run, you can expect electronic communications through Outlook to be more interactive and help you stay organized and informed.

## NEED TECH SUPPORT?



Look for the IT Support icon (pictured left) on any Misericordia desktop.

Whether you need to access your Misericordia Outlook/email or have computer hardware issues, this system is designed to streamline our support process, making it easier and faster for you to get the technology assistance you need.

### Key Features:

- User-friendly interface
- Easy to access from: desktop, iPad, mobile phone
- Faster response times
- Improved ticket tracking
- Enhanced communication options
- Password reset request can be made from the home page. All other request you will need to login with Microsoft.

We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the new tool and take advantage of its features. A shortcut (see image below) has been added to all computers and AWARDS iPads to access the new help desk system.

## BREAK THE ICE WITH THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH CO-WORKERS



Courtesy of [Teambuilding.com](https://www.teambuilding.com)



What did you want to be when you grew up?



What was your first job?



What is your earliest memory of this job?



# FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

## LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

### CHICAGO METROPOLITAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION

3023 N Clark #806 Chicago, IL 60657  
[details here](#)

### SEMICOLON BOOKSTORE & GALLERY

1355 W Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60642  
[details here](#)

### JENNIVEE'S BAKERY & CAFE

2925 N Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60657  
[details here](#)

### THE CAJUN CONNOISSEUR

2300 S Throop St, Chicago, IL 60608  
[details here](#)

### OUT OF THE CLOSET - THRIFT STORE

3311 N Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60657  
[details here](#)

### GETFITIST - FITNESS STUDIO

3258 W North Ave, Chicago, IL 60647  
[details here](#)

As we celebrate **Juneteenth**, [click here](#) for a roundup of Chicago events, exhibits, and beyond celebrating the federal holiday honored across the country on June 19th.

Also, check out [this page](#) from **Choose Chicago** to read and get to know the locals behind some of Chicago's LGBTQ-owned businesses as we celebrate **Pride Month**.

Send us a tip! If you have recommendations for any local minority and women-owned businesses that Misericordia should know about it, [click here](#) and tell us about their goods and services. We may highlight your suggestion in future issues of Campus Connections!

## JUNETEENTH AT MISERICORDIA

Please [click here](#) to check out a list of resources shared through Campus Connections.

We additionally want to thank Programs and Quinlan Terrace for putting together a day of celebration for our residents in honor of this important American holiday. To see more pictures of the day, [click here](#).

Did you know that Juneteenth is recognized as a floating holiday? To read about our floating holiday policy, which will go into effect next month, [click here](#) and talk to your supervisor if you have questions about the policy's guidelines.



**WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF JUNETEENTH?**  
Juneteenth was originally celebrated in Texas, on June 19, 1865. It marked the first anniversary of the day that African Americans there first learned of the Emancipation Proclamation, more than two years after it was officially issued. The holiday was originally celebrated with prayer meetings and by wearing spirituals and wearing new clothes to represent newfound freedom. Within a few years, African Americans were celebrating Juneteenth in other states, making it an annual tradition. On June 17, 2021, it officially became a federal holiday.

**HOW IS JUNETEENTH CELEBRATED?**  
Juneteenth celebrations in the United States typically include prayer and religious services, speeches, educational events, family gatherings and picnics, and festivals with food, music, and dancing. The day is also celebrated outside the United States and is used to recognize the end of slavery as well as to celebrate African American culture and achievements.



**WHAT ARE THE JUNETEENTH COLORS?**  
You may commonly see two different color schemes associated with Juneteenth: red, white, and blue, as

**DELICIOUS JUNETEENTH RECIPES TO TRY**  
With Juneteenth taking place close to the summer solstice, you will find a lot of traditional Juneteenth dishes that are

**Pictured:** An excerpt of our Juneteenth Resource guide, which includes short articles about the origin of Juneteenth, as well as articles about Juneteenth traditions. Click the link on the right to read more.

## ROSES FOR SISTER ROSEMARY



**Pictured:** DIY paper roses

All residential areas are invited to participate in a campus-wide project in remembrance of Sister Rosemary. Residential areas will be provided with instruction packets and the paper outline needed to create the rose. [Click here](#) to see the full instructions.

Resources on grief and talking about loss are available to all staff. Using these resources alongside the Paper Rose Project may be helpful in navigating difficult conversations.

**All roses will be collected in a drop box in the main building and will be used to create a larger display. Roses will be collected up until Thursday, July 3rd.**

If you have any questions about the project or grief services, please contact our counseling department.



# COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

## CONNECTION

*From Linda B (mother of a Misericordia resident)*

This article begins an in-depth exploration of each of the core values that make up the Misericordia Community of Believers. This month we focus on the first core value: **Connection**.

The Community of Believers document summarizes this core value as follows: We value relationships, connecting to our residents and to one another with a caring heart. Our residents are valued for who they are, and we seek to connect to that loving person within them. We connect to our co-workers as well, honoring each other.

**Residents** ... At Misericordia, residents develop special friendships and spend quality time with each other. Because of the nature of many programs, residents mingle with people from other living areas, thus increasing their circle of friends. Residents also work, socialize, and volunteer in the greater community, further widening their circle of friends. Community outings are very much a part of life and provide residents with many opportunities, attending sports events, watching movies or listening to concerts, enjoying neighborhood restaurants, and participating in Special Olympics.

Conversely, people from the community visit the campus to dine, shop, volunteer, and attend various events. It is not uncommon for others to bring their expertise to work with Misericordia residents, whether in the fitness center, the swimming pool, or the art rooms. And visits from sports heroes, musicians, dancers, and choirs are not uncommon. Several years ago, residents had the chance to see and touch the Stanley Cup during a visit with Jonathan Toewes, for example.



**Pictured:** Residents with local celebrities throughout the years, from the Blackhawks, the Bears, Chicago Broadway, the Bulls, and Good Morning Chicago

This steady pattern of residents venturing off campus and community members coming into Misericordia means that people who live in the Mis community are not isolated and have a healthy connection to the greater community.

**Staff** ... There is a strong connection between staff and residents. Staff get to know the residents, become familiar with their individual needs, their likes and dislikes, and enjoy their unique personalities. Communication between staff and residents is tailored to the needs of each resident and always delivered positively.

Staff also communicate regularly with families to share information. The yearly staffing is one example of the connection between staff, residents, and their families.

Staff also participate in many of the Mis activities outside of their normal workday, patronizing events such as Family Fest, further demonstrating the strong bond between staff and residents.

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



## COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS (CONT'D)



**Pictured:** Residents having fun with families at Misericordia events.

**Families ...** Through the Misericordia Family Association (MFA), families have an easy way to connect with other families. When a new resident enters the Misericordia family, parents and guardians automatically become members of the MFA. Meetings, newsletters, and various activities keep families informed and involved. Because we all share similar concerns for our family members and have firsthand knowledge of dealing with special needs, family members connect with residents in a way that exhibits compassion and understanding. For example, it's not unusual to see a Mis Mom or Dad help to button a coat, cut up food, or offer other types of assistance. As Mis parents, "we get it" and can use our learned skills to connect with others on campus.

Volunteerism is one of the greatest gifts that Misericordia families give. By volunteering, families connect with other families, with residents, with staff, and with administrators. Visits with family are a regular part of the curriculum, both on and off campus. And throughout the year, the extended Misericordia family gather at events such as Artist in All, the MFA Benefit, Family Fest, and more. In addition, family groups for each residential area plan get-togethers where smaller groups can connect and share common concerns.

**Organization ...** As an organization, Misericordia connects with the larger I/DD community to ensure best practices and to engage with local, state, and federal lawmakers to make our voices heard. We partner with the Together for Choice organization so connect with other parents, guardians, administrators, and individuals with disabilities to promote the choice of a residential setting and lifestyle geared to the special needs of each person, rather than a one size fits all philosophy.

Misericordia also works with foundations, corporations, benefactors, auxiliary groups, families, and the community at large to share our mission and obtain resources. Some examples of this include a partnership with Loyola University, where residents are employed on the Loyola campus, often attend Loyola sports events, and interact with students in a Best Buddies program. A partnership with ComEd sponsors community outings, such as baseball games, spreads awareness through the ComEd ambassador program, and supports the Hearts and Flour bakery through generous orders of baked goods. Still another example is a partnership program with the Chicago White Sox.

Misericordia leadership also encourages and fosters volunteerism among families and other community members, which promotes the connection between Mis families and connects residents to the greater community.

Families of children with special needs often feel somewhat isolated from the greater community because our experiences are unique. At Misericordia, it is truly a blessing to feel that we are a part of this greater family with shared needs, concerns, and expectations.



# MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS



## DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION

June follows another round of monthly appreciation for the various departments on campus. This month, we hosted a special luncheon for the followigna areas:

- Business Office
- Development
- IT
- Purchasing

We thank all our celebrating staff for all they do to support our residents!

### Check out what some of our celebrants had to say about what makes their department special:



- *"We are the coolest B^)" - **Danny S. (IT)***
- *"Something special about our department is how much heart and hard work goes on behind the scenes—often without the recognition it deserves. From staff to volunteers, everyone pours so much into making events happen. I'm so grateful to be part of such an amazing team—thank you all!" - **Sammie R. (Development)***
- *"It is full of wonderful people, and it's a pleasure to see and work with them each day." - **Philip F. (Business Office)***
- *"We have the best boss" - **Abar J. (IT)***
- *"We are an excellent team. We support each other and are always there to lend a hand." - **Dorrie F. (Development)***
- *"Our 11 team members have a combined 156 years of service to Misericordia!" - **Amy B. (Business Office)***
- *"We have a new help desk ticketing system that can be used on any device that has access to the internet by going to [www.misericordia.haloitsm.com/portal](http://www.misericordia.haloitsm.com/portal) :)" - **Chris C. (IT)***
- *"01010111 01100101 00100000 01100011 01100001 01101110 00100000 01110010 01100101 01100001 01100100 00100000 01100001 01101110 01100100 00100000 01110111 01110010 01101001 01110100 01100101 00100000 01101001 01101110 00100000 01100010 01101001 01101110 01100001 01110010 01111001 00101110 00100000 01010100 01101000 01100001 01101110 01101011 01110011 00100000 01100110 01101111 01110010 00100000 01110100 01101000 01100101 00100000 01100110 01101111 01101111 01101111 01100100 00100001" [Translation below]*
  - *"We can read and write in binary. Thanks for the food!" - **Thomas M. (IT)***

## JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 40** Deb Hays
- 39** Diana Echavarria
- 34** Chris Krackenberger
- 31** Warren Barker, Tim Strong
- 30** Marilyn Ceniti, Susana Gonzalez
- 29** Jane Gaynor
- 27** George Jackson
- 26** Joe Ferrara
- 24** Jeff Lucero, Latisha Robinson
- 22** Lisa Hirschle, Gloria Lane, Mike Tilkin
- 21** Felicia Allen
- 20** Ashley Hespern, Kristin Roberts, Anne Weigand
- 19** Andrew Blomquist, Karina Leon
- 18** Dominique Greenwood, Aster Ijigu
- 17** Lynne Winogrocki, Monica Thompson
- 16** Anginette Magitt
- 12** Megan Glaser, Sam Sexton, Lindsey Tamulonis, Michael Sullivan
- 11** Teri Barr, Nelliz Granados, Celia Martinez
- 9** Akin Ajibade, Rose Bennett, Patricia Morgan, Guy Tourangeau
- 8** Rizalie Ali, Patricia Flores, Tatiana Dotson, Briana Walker
- 7** Stefanie Pinon, Taylor White, Jose Bazan, Lisa Janecek, Tracey Nolan, Noah Thomas
- 6** Anita Anderson, Mia Edwards
- 5** Heather Kauss, Cynthia Stowell, Emily Huguelet
- 4** Ashley Blackwood, Marieli Alamilla, Angelica Ocampo, Carmen Manfredini, Liam Sanchez, Winniefred Akello, Erica Yeboa Amoa, Felisa Arias
- 3** Jacquelyn Eisen, Jasmine Moore, Esmerelda Olvera-Serrano, Santiago Moreno Castillo, Frannie Sloss, Elizabeth De La Cruz, Shaquil Lawrence, Syed Saqib, Lesley Cervantes, Anacaren Perez, Tondum Pius-Alonee, Rebecca Torres
- 2** Kenneth Mallwitz, Jordyn Glanton, Arionna Johnson, Nicholas McGuire, Carra Scott, Donyetta Williams, Alnierys Venegas, Latonya Harris, Lourdes Cruz, Amy Cournoyer, Shimaia Dandridge, Shekira Ferguson, Connor Gargan, Andrea LeVasseur, Miracle Mensah, Edna Rivera, Valerie Rivera
- 1** Reyonna Burpo, Basy Calderon, Xavier Castillo, Mercedes Posadas, Noah Reese-Clauson, Elena Reilly, Michael Rahlfs, Madeline Blumberg, Melanie Davis, Nikita Ellis, Chrystal Fross, Dominique Giles, Amy Greenamyre, Reign Hobson, Angel Johnson, Amanda Karkula, Lauren McGuire, Nisha Patel, Andrew Roseman, Christian Takyi, Adorah Taylor



# MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

## WELCOME NEW STAFF



**Adegunju, Racheal** (Quinlan); **Carranza, Jocelyn** (McAuley Nurses); **Carter, Ariana** (Rosemary Connelly); **Copeland, Charles** (Village); **Corbett, Emma** (McAuley Residence); **Eaker, Finn** (McAuley Residence); **Gavargis, Pauline** (Village); **Goldberg, Jason** (Marian Center); **Harris, Precious** (Marian Center); **Detzner, Alexandra** (CDS); **Drucker, Jason** (McAuley Residence); **Jackson, Angel** (CILA Homes); **Kwarteng, Elizabeth** (McAuley Residence); **Malinowski, Jazmin** (McAuley Residence); **Mason, Lindsay** (Village); **Mozee, Ragan** (Marian Center); **Mujtaba, Baraka** (McAuley Residence); **Najimi, Ayah** (Village); **O'Malley, Jeffrey** (Mercy Glen); **Orosz, Michelle** (McAuley Nurses); **Sanchez Paredes, Lesly** (Quinlan); **Russell, Tatiana** (McAuley Residence); **Shunnarah, Marlene** (Marian Center); **Vargas, Monica** (McAuley Residence); **Yang, Aluna** (McAuley Residence); **Jones, Carleen** (Human Resources); **Sais, Elyse** (Administration Intern); **Tom, Emmet** (Building Operations); **Barnard, Joshua** (Behavior Therapy Intern); **Boselli, Ana Clara** (Behavior Therapy Intern); **Maniez, Samantha** (Food Services); **Mayas, Sebastian** (DT); **Nelson, Ashly** (Behavior Therapy Intern); **Shinohara, Christian** (Behavior Therapy Intern)

## IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest condolences go to the loved ones of:



**Benjamin B.**  
(1982 - 2025)



**Brendan Siddall**  
(1999 - 2025)

Please click the underlined names to view their online memorial pages, if available

***"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."  
-Matthew 5:4***



Stay tuned for weekly Campus Connections updates sent via email. You can also find previous issues of Campus Connections in ADP and [here](#) on our website. If you have any questions or feedback for us, send your messages [here!](#) Be sure to include your name, work area, and an email we can use to contact you!