

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 10

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WHAT'S INSIDE

2

COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

SUKKOT 2025, HISPANIC HERITAGE,
FALL FEST, UPCOMING EVENTS

3-4

HIGHLIGHTS & OPPORTUNITIES

SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS,
STATE OF THE STATE, QUARTERLY
PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENTS,
MISERICORDIA HEARTRACERS

5-6

EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

OPEN ENROLLMENT, ONE LOGIN FOR
MULTIPLE SYSTEMS, PHI BOOSTERS,
ICEBREAKERS

7

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES, PREPARING FOR
ALL SAINTS' DAY AND ALL SOULS' DAY

8-10

MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

APPRECIATIONS, ANNIVERSARIES,
WARM WELCOMES, IN MEMORIAM



Pictured: Misericordia residents, staff, and friends participating in several events and opportunities throughout the month of October: Staff Appreciation Luncheons, Music Bingo, Sing-Alongs, Sukkot, Loyola Best Buddies, McAuley Family Circus, Reptile Show, Concerts, McAuley Puppet Show, Fall Fest.

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART

Misericordia strives to be a welcoming, all-inclusive community. We want our staff and residents to always feel welcome and safe on Misericordia property

Please [click here](#) to read an important message concerning Misericordia's Immigration Protection for residents and staff living and working within our organization and community.

GRATITUDE MESSAGE

October marked the end of our annual Department Appreciation 2025 calendar, but we have many gratitude events ahead for November and December. Please continue to read Campus Connections for updates about the Employee Gratitude Shirts, Turkey Toss, and another food truck. Additionally, we will release a call for submissions regarding holiday music for the annual holiday meal in December, as well as an organization-wide vote on its menu.

As always, thank *you* for reading Campus Connections!



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

SUKKOT 2025



Pictured: A group picture at the Sukkot event on 10/9 with Misericordia staff and residents, along with Chicago's Jewish community. Thank you to Rabbi Zelik and our friends at Keshet for celebrating with us!

HISPANIC HERITAGE



Pictured: Misericordia residents and staff participating in a Hispanic Heritage celebration on 10/17 at the Conway Gym.

FALL FEST ON CAMPUS



Pictured: Misericordia residents and staff participating in Fall Fest 2025 on 10/20 at the Holbrook Field, organized by Day Services.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MISERICORDIA DAY SERVICES - HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES (10/31)**
 - Staff and residents are welcome to wear appropriate and respectful costumes on Halloween. Let's make this a fun, festive Halloween for all!

- **NIKKI & RICH (11/2)**
 - A night of soul, folk, and blues from the Old Town School of Folk Music performance duo.

- **MISHKAN AT MIS (11/15)**
 - A night of soul, folk, and blues from the Old Town School of Folk Music performance duo.

- **DANIEL OCHOA MARIACHI BAND (11/16)**
 - A night of soul, folk, and blues from the Old Town School of Folk Music performance duo.

Check Campus Connections Weekly Updates and Mis Biz for ongoing resident and staff events happening throughout the month, and visit the [Misericordia Facebook](#) page for recaps.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

SERVICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS



Pictured: Alecia Y, Olivia N, Richard S, Danijela V, and Andreea C, winners of the 2024 Annual Service Award.

We want you to tell us a story! Please look for the nomination link and instructions in the weekly updates. All staff are eligible to be nominated.

Submissions are due by November 1st. Winners will be announced at the Annual Holiday Gathering.

STATE OF THE STATE

Misericordia implemented an organizational State of the State in 2024 for a few reasons. First, we aim to enhance transparency regarding growth and change within the organization. Two, because Misericordia is invested in the growth of our employees, and this is an opportunity to share organization-wide initiatives that support employee growth. Third, by coming together for an hour twice a year, State of the State offers a chance to hear from leadership as well as employees and creates an opportunity to build community.

To watch the 2025 October State of the State in full, [click here](#). As always, please continue to look for weekly organizational updates in Campus Connections.

QUARTERLY PROMOTIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jacqueline White (from DSP to a QIDP in the Marian Center);
Liam Sanchez (became the Composting Manager in Heart & Soil);
Andrea Newson (from DSP to Environmental Manager in Mercy Glen);
Angel Jackson (from DSP to BSP in the CILAs);
Eric Nygren (from DSP to PM Supervisor in Mercy Glen);
Mohammed Salam (from DSP to ON Supervisor in Mercy Glen);
Kayden Byard (from DSP to Environmental Manager in Mercy Glen);
Tim Wambac (from DSP to QIDP in the Marian Center);
Garrett Floyd (from DSP in the Village to PM Sup in Rosemary Connelly);
Ken Gasch (from DSP to Recreation Instructor);
Andrea Cooper (from DSP to QIDP in Quinlan);
Stephanie Lopez (began relief supervising in Rosemary Park);
Michelle Braswell (from DSP to DSP & OJT in Quinlan);
Mayra Ayala (from SSP in McAuley to DSP in Shannon Apts);
David Graham (from RN to Nursing Supervisor in Nursing Services);
Ninine Newman, Joaquin Serna, Esmeralda Chavez, Adrienne Green, Marion McDaniels, Jared Glaaser, Veronica Torres, Ricky Martel, Noah Styer, Linda Garcia, Eh Kler, LaKeelah Clark (all promoted to Lead Job Coaches);
Marquita Rupert (from DSP to BSP in the CILAs);
Joanna Salgado (from RN BSN to RN Trainer of the CILAs);
Chase Gilbertson (from Barista to Shift Lead in H&F Cafe);
Brianna Denny (from DSP to QIDP in the CILAs);
Mary Grace Kapraun (from RN BSN to RN Trainer in Nursing Services);
Kate Cacho (from DSP in Rosemary Connelly to QIDP in McGowan);
McIlloyd Iwueke (from DSP to DSP/OJT in the Village)

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (CONT'D)

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MISERICORDIA HEARTRACERS



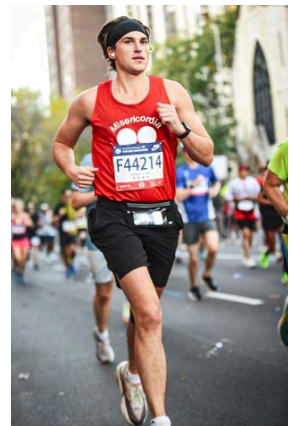
Pictured: Members of Misericordia's 2025 Heartracers team at the Chicago Marathon. Congratulations to our Heartracers and all those who ran in this year's Marathon! [Click here](#) for more marathon pictures!

Congratulations to the 90 Misericordia runners who completed the 2025 Bank of America Chicago Marathon! Together, we've raised an incredible \$303,607! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported us this year, whether you were out on the course cheering on our runners or contributed financially to this amazing cause.

Run with Heart in the 2026 Bank of America Chicago Marathon!

Misericordia is proud to be a charity partner for the 2026 Bank of America Chicago Marathon scheduled for October 11, 2026. Don't miss your opportunity to be guaranteed a spot in the Chicago Marathon and go the extra mile for Misericordia! Runners commit to raising a minimum of \$2,200.

Choose Misericordia as your charity and be part of the Heartracers! Our team grows bigger every year and is up to 95 runners. The number of funds they have raised over the years tops \$1.5 million!



Pictured (clockwise): Misericordia employees Saul H., Liam O., Daniel B., and Emad G. Congratulations to them on completing the 2025 Chicago Marathon!

If you are interested in joining the team or need additional information, please contact Samantha Richter at 773-273-4533, srichter@misericordia.com.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

OPEN ENROLLMENT
OCTOBER 17 - OCTOBER 31

Please [click here](#) for a 2026 benefits overview video and continue reading below for more details.

Updates & Plan Name Changes: Starting January 1, 2026, Misericordia will be offering an additional medical plan – Essential HDHP (High Deductible Health Plan). This additional plan is Employer Paid, which means Misericordia is covering the employee's bi-weekly premiums for all tiers under the Essential Plan.

Current Plan Name (now thru 12/31/2025)	New Plan Name Changes (effective 1/1/2026)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Platinum Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Premium EPO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gold Plan• Silver Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced PPO• Standard PPO
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bronze Plan (HDHP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value HDHP

New Health Savings Account (HSA) with P&A Group for employees enrolled in a HDHP.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) services will transition from CVS Caremark to OptumRx. Note: The change to OptumRx will not affect most participants, however if there are any changes to current medications, RxBenefits will contact you directly.

As a reminder, all insurance enrollments/changes will be done in ADP. Please check your email for further details, or if you have any questions, email HRBenefits@misericordia.com.

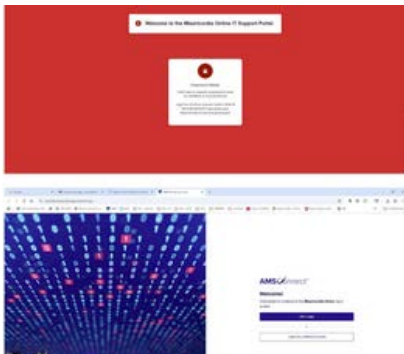


EMPLOYEE RESOURCES (CONT'D)

ONE LOGIN FOR MULTIPLE SYSTEMS

Imagine having one key that opens many of your work doors—that's what Single Sign-On (SSO) does!

With your Misericordia email and password (your special key), you can now access:



Pictured: The three interfaces for the platforms that allow Single Sign-On (SS).

- IT Helpdesk
- ShiftWizard
- AMS Connect

No need to remember multiple passwords just one secure login (your Misericordia email and password).



Use SSO only for these three tools at work (ShiftWizard, AMS Connect, and IT Help).



Good SSO: Using your Misericordia email and password to log in only through official links provided by IT for ShiftWizard, AMS Connect, and IT Helpdesk.



Bad SSO: If a website or app asks you to log in using your Misericordia email but it's not one of those three systems—don't do it. It could be a fake site (phishing) trying to steal your information.



Tip: Always check that the site looks familiar and has "misericordia.com" or the official link you received from IT before entering your login info.

COMMIT TO YOUR OWN LEARNING AND GROWTH JOIN US AT A PHI BOOSTER THIS FALL

We've all been to webinars and trainings that perhaps have not been that helpful to our day to day tasks. In our PHI Boosters, we strive to make the trainings relevant and pertinent to the work of leaders like you at Misericordia. Give yourself 90 minutes this fall to invest in your learning and growth.

These small, "round table" type discussions provide an opportunity to bring your real life challenges and seek guidance and support from your peers. Each session focuses on different PHI skills that were introduced in either the full day PHI training or your Direct Care class training.

To learn more, [click here](#) for details and talk to your area's supervisor about joining.

BREAK THE ICE WITH THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH CO-WORKERS



Courtesy of [Kraftylab.com](https://www.kraftylab.com)



What song or album screams Fall to you?



If you could only pick one cozy fall clothing item, what would it be?



What is your favorite fall scent?



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

KING KARAOKE

2002 S Wentworth, Flr 2, Chicago IL 60616
[details here](#)

CANDYALITY

3737 N. Southport Ave., Chicago IL 60613
[details here](#)

NECESSARY & SUFFICIENT COFFEE

728 S Dearborn St, Chicago IL 60605
[details here](#)

DEMERA ETHIOPIAN RESTAURANT

4801 N. Broadway St., Chicago IL 60640
[details here](#)

This October 2025, we celebrate the 80th anniversary of **National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM)**, an annual recognition of the positive impact of people with disabilities in the American workforce. [Click here](#) to read about the history of NDEAM, as well as explore several resources in planning observances.

Additionally, check out the links below to learn how Chicago celebrated these **Heritage Months** in October:

[“The Halo Halo Project”](#)

for **Filipino American Heritage Month**

[“Pasta and Neckbone Dinner Concert”](#)

for **Italian American Heritage Month**

[“Polish Museum of America Guided Tour”](#)

for **Polish American Heritage 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!

PREPARING FOR THE FEASTS OF ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS IN NOVEMBER

This weekend, we will be celebrating the **Feast of All Saints** (November 1) and the **Feast of All Souls** (November 2). These are days when we remember and honor the saints and pray for all of the loved ones we have lost in the past year—and beyond.

To learn more about these celebrations, click on the links below, courtesy of Catholic Online:

- [All Saints’ Day - a solemn holy day of the Catholic Church celebrated annually.](#)
- [All Souls’ Day - a holy day set aside for honoring the dead.](#)

Additionally, check out these videos below, also courtesy of Catholic Online, to watch about the respective celebrations:



[Click here](#), or the image thumbnail on the left, to watch about **All Saints’ Day**.



[Click here](#), or the image thumbnail on the left, to watch about **All Souls’ Day**.

In Catholic tradition, during this season, we put out photographs to honor and remember the people we have lost. In Mexican tradition, it is called *Día de los Muertos*.

Here at Misericordia, we will have a special altar in the Our Lady of Mercy Chapel (Main Building) where we can place photos of loved ones and residents we have lost and want to remember. So, **if there are photos you would want to contribute, please bring them (preferably framed) to the chapel on October 30 or 31**. They will remain on the special altar throughout the month of November.



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

DEPARTMENT APPRECIATIONS

October follows another round of monthly appreciation for various roles on campus. This month, we hosted a special luncheon to appreciate the hard work of the following departments:

- Programs
- Ministry



Our Programs not only contribute to the enrichment of vocational, physical, and educational skills but also offer countless social events and fun opportunities to support our residents. We thank all our celebrating staff for all they do!

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

- *"I hope to build a tech library with multiple tech activities that can be "checked out" by other departments to help expand my program's reach for more resident participation."*
- **Jeremy W. (DT)**
- *"DT at the Greco Gardens provides so many opportunities for our residents to connect with nature and our environment."*
- **Joshua T. (Greco Gardens)**
- *"Helped start in a new dept. called Resident Events this year."*
- **Jordan A. (Resident Events)**
- *"I think I have the best job because I get to spend time learning and exploring with wonderful students."*
- **Wendy G. (McAuley Teachers)**
- *"CDS does an incredible job of nurturing and empowering the passions and dreams of participants, doing a ton with a little, as creatively and supportively as possible, is what we do. All day, every day!"*
- **Alex D. (CDS)**
- *"Our department at McAuley D.T. is special in that we are a good team, which shows respect and appreciation for our residents and one another. We communicate well, support each other, and have fun."*
- **Lisa U. (McAuley DT)**
- *"Outreach is able to collaborate with many departments on campus. This gives families a wonderful opportunity to see what great things Misericordia has to offer. It welcomes people from the community onto our campus."*
- **Anne M. (Outreach)**
- *"The Performing Arts aspect of our department is growing, and it is exciting to be able to reach more of our dancers, performers, and actors on campus! Every resident has their own brand of creativity, and it is amazing to showcase!"*
- **Tessa K. (Recreation)**
- *"We have created a culture of Water Sports activities for residents to have fun while getting in shape. (Water Aerobics, Water Polo, Water Walking.)"*
- **Kevin P. (Pool & Fitness)**

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 52 Robert Kupscuk
- 47 Cynthia Primar
- 44 Kim Villalobos, Mark Cherry
- 34 Guadalupe Olivo, Susan Grund
- 33 Alexandra Mikosz
- 29 Stephanie Bouldin
- 27 Fred Wood
- 26 Sharon Montgomery
- 25 Svitlana Martyniv, Theresa Rooney
- 24 Amy Boyle, Jate Lee
- 23 Kristin Strong
- 18 Jasmine Browning, Marco Chavez, Angelica Cantiberos
- 17 Lisa Ulman, Christopher Lising
- 16 Sikirat Lindsey, Lucia Pichardo
- 15 Tiffany Johnson
- 14 Erica Hernandez, Sonia Contreras
- 12 Mayra Martinez, Laura Raymond, Megan Tosca
- 11 Maria Gutierrez, Tayna McChristian, Etina Hymon, Kimberly Tyus, Peter Cullen-Conway, Leisa Powell
- 10 Esteban Clara, Luis Medina, Karen Marlborough, Gloria Vance
- 9 Elizabeth Gonzalez, Sheenah Carter, Teresa Holman, Aysa Jenkins, Belen Rivera, Pamela Wilder
- 8 Fernanda Aguilar-Sanchez, Chernel Fulwiley, Tessa Kammer, Nora O'Callaghan
- 7 Jade Kroninger-Walker, Sanela Bihorac, Kathleen Alexiades, Elizabeth Denbow, Barbara Rush, Bridget Gondek, Azeez Lawal, Bridget McDermott
- 6 Franshawn Attaway, Eric Balagot, Shakitta Thompson, Maribel Carreno, Kimyata Presswood, Paris Reynolds, Jacob Kreiner, Aisha Khatoon
- 5 Maighyn Magee, Hal Martinez, Theresa Wolfe, Mulu Lema, Veronica Amattey, Andreea Cosma, Lauren Lin, Cristina Zuniga De Menjivar, Vanessa Zuniga
- 4 Jonathan Beverly, Taina Jones, Sonia Lewis, Kathleen Morris, Richard Smith, Jon Larson, Carlos Palacios, Esperanza Ramirez, Jacolby Simmons, Chelsea Williams, Rene Flores, Ryan Stewart, Thomas Suarez
- 3 John Mayer, Outreya Alshamaq, Justin Gianoutsos, Shauneesa Rosemond, Lizbeth Gonzalez, Jennifer Kenny, Odie Marshall, Marisol Bacilio, Tiara Duckworth, Leah Lehman, Roberto Peralta, Michelle Romero, Iris Trejo-Apolinar
- 2 Shaima Mamon, Ezau Perez Ruiz, Maria Perozo Grimaldi, Evodia Vega, Escarlis Cabrera, Jonathan Cathi, Janeeva Clark, Sean Coen, Elizabeth Joiner, Victoria Kricke, Allison Mora, Randeann Nunez, Paul Palanca, Shiloh Canellis, Quiara Dortch, Patrice Hayes, Matthew Thibodeaux Major, Jeraldine Thompson
- 1 Oluleke Bamgbade, Lawrence Cady Jr., Nicholas Driver, Angela Duong, Cooper Froehlich, Taija Gatewood, Shakara Jolly, Runa Knutsen, Rhian Kocer, Lark Lux, Christian Aberin, Carlos Cordero Santiago, Kierre Fletcher, Guido Gonzalez, Sophia Kamen, Zaria Perry, Susy Rivera, Latisha Thomas

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS (CONT'D)

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Aguilar, Alyssa (Village); **Beal, Amiryah** (McAuley Residence); **Berger, Missi** (Mercy Glen); **Bostic, Stacey** (Mercy Glen); **Boughey, Maureen** (CDS); **Butts, Ebonee** (Village); **Cox, Dontasia** (Quinlan); **Davis, Amber** (Village); **Harvey, Donyanha** (Marian Center); **Johnson, Shania** (Marian Center); **Kemp, Arrington** (CDS); **Lee, Randy** (McAuley Nurses); **Linh, Jenny** (Village); **McFarland, Nashay** (Village); **Nguyen, Alina** (Marian Center); **Osborn, Lucia** (Pool/Fitness); **Parker, Zachariah** (Marian Center); **Robinson Smoot, Taylor** (Quinlan); **Rodriguez, Michelle** (CILAs); **Salgado, Arlo** (Village); **Spight, Zaria** (Quinlan); **Stewart, Koren** (Marian Center); **Strecker, Jai** (Mercy Glen); **Wesseh, Abraham** (CILAs); **Ponder, Anthony** (McAuley Nurses); **Austin, Aja** (Shannon Apartments); **Brown, Sharena** (CILAs); **Carranza, Laura** (Marian Center); **Coleman, Zakiyah** (Marian Center); **Dasu, Tresor** (Marian Center); **Feeney, Bridget** (Rosemary Park); **Ford, Tnenisha** (Quinlan); **Gibson, Evan** (CILAs); **Green, Tykeshia** (Rosemary Park); **Jackson, Janece** (Marian Center); **King, Keirah** (Marian Center); **Knight, Marvin** (Quinlan); **Mbayo, Ntumba "Jo/Joelle"** (Mercy Glen); **Morales, Edgar** (Rosemary Park); **Peracca, Abriana** (Village); **Schmidt, Jacqueline** (Rosemary Park); **Shikhaboolhassan, Roxanne** (Quinlan); **Smith, Glenn** (Marian Center); **Smith, Stacie** (Rosemary Connelly); **Spero, Samuel** (Nursing Services); **Starzec, Reese** (Quinlan); **Sumrell, Toosdhi** (Village); **Thomas, Imani** (McAuley Residence); **Tran, Brendon** (McAuley Residence); **Whitsett, Imani** (Village); **Hounkpati, Afi** (Nursing Services); **Lewis, Sophia** (IT); **Macias, Denise** (HR); **Ramirez Herrera, Valeria** (DT Day Training); **Thunholm, Erin** (Bakery); **Galvan, Natalia** (DT Day Training); **Paz, Hugo** (Finance)

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS (CONT'D)

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Connor

Residence: Marian Center

- Huge Disney fan
- Loves elevators
- Loves outdoor bike rides and walks



Guy

Residence: Rosemary Connelly

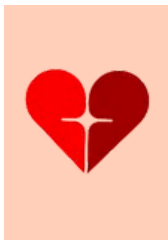
- Loves trains
 - One of his favorite movies is Polar Express!
- Loves dogs



Maggie

Residence: Mercy Glen

- Loves listening to music
- Loves car rides
- Loves puzzles



Princeton

Residence: McAuley Residences

- Loves musicals
- Likes funny sounds
- Loves stuffed animals



Tori

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Loves to dance
- Loves to sing and karaoke
- Likes library books

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest condolences go to the loved ones of:



Molly O

(1953 - 2025)



Roman I

Also known as Tim K
(1993 - 2025)



Mary Ellen R

(1954 - 2025)

Please click their underlined name to view their online memorial page, if available.

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



Stay tuned for weekly Campus Connections updates sent via email. 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!

Remember to use caution when opening and responding to emails. Every day, more than 3 billion phishing emails are sent out worldwide. These emails are tactics used by scammers to trick you into giving up sensitive information. [Click here](#) to find eight tips on how to avoid email phishing scams.