

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 11

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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.



What Are You Grateful For?



As a Cultural Ambassador initiative, we went around Misericordia with the help of one of our residents, Jessica F, asking people what they are grateful for this year, and to pay it forward by extending a special message to the next person.



[Click here](#) to view this special series, and thank you to our participants:

- Madeline from CDS
- Kim from Social Service
- Time from Marian Center
- Scott from IT
- Frankie from Pool & Fitness
- Erin from Bakery
- Shyane from Nursing

What are YOU grateful for? Let us know for a chance to win your own Gratitude Journal: [ENTER HERE](#)

GRATITUDE MONTH

This November was Gratitude Month, a time at Misericordia when we show our gratitude for everyone in our community. From resident concerts and events to Cheesie's Food Truck and Gratitude Shirts for staff, Campus Connections would especially like to extend a thank you to our readers for keeping up with all of the updates and spotlights we aim to showcase each week.

As we round out the year, we encourage you to [click here](#) to send your colleagues a Gratitude Gram which Campus Connections will send to them personally.



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

CILA TALENT SHOW



Pictured: A group picture of all who participated in the CILA Talent Show on 11/16.

The CILA Talent Show took place on November 16th at the Jean Marie Ryan Center. Since its debut in 2012, it has only gotten better and better each year, with this one being the largest to date. It was a team effort to put it all together, but special shoutouts go to Rocco D. (AM DSP) and Ricky M. (PM DSP). They worked extremely hard from planning the music and the lineup to getting the stage ready for showtime. Residents and staff from CILAs look forward to next year!

BEST BUDDIES ILLINOIS

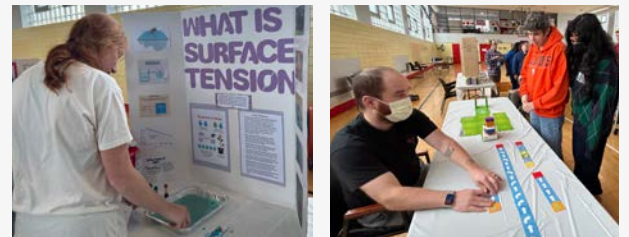
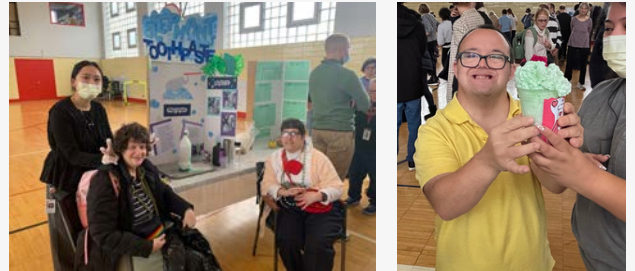


Pictured: Misericordia residents having a blast at the photobooth during the Best Buddies Illinois - Champion of the Year Event on 10/24.

On October 24th, our residents participated in the Best Buddies Illinois Champion of the Year event. This event is a competitive fundraising campaign that unites and recognizes leaders of inclusion in local communities nationwide. One of our residents, Lou Thor, had the opportunity to speak about his 15+ year relationship with his Best Buddy! Congratulations to Best Buddies Illinois and to all who participated.

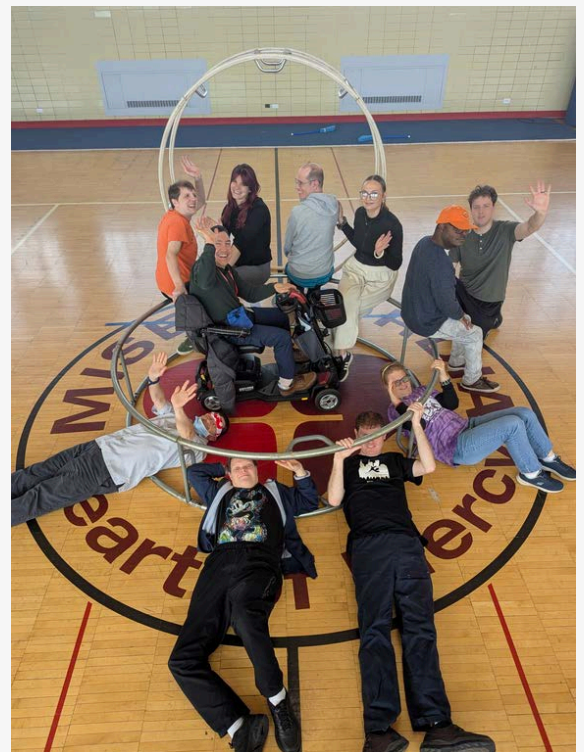
[Click here](#) to learn more about Best Buddies Illinois.

DT SCIENCE FAIR



Pictured: Residents and staff participating in the DT Science Fair that was held at Conway Gym on 11/19. A special thank you to all who joined in exploring fun experiments!

GYM WHEEL AT CONWAY



Pictured: Residents and staff having the best time during the Gym Wheel session at Conway Gym. Thank you to Cirque's Experience for providing this special class!

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

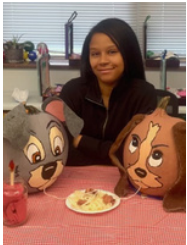
CONGRATULATIONS, PUMPKIN CONTEST WINNERS!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the pumpkin decorating challenge and voting. Of the 613 votes that were cast, **the top three winners are:**



1st Place - 96 votes

"Donuts & Coffee" by Staff Development



2nd Place - 70 votes

"Lady & the Tramp" by Jasmine M.



3rd Place - 61 votes

"Oscar the Grouch" by Olivia N.

Check out all the other wonderful submissions below:



FALL MARKET DAYS



Pictured: Residents and staff participating in DT's seasonal Market Days held at Conway Halls on 11/21. The event was once again a success! Thank you to all who brought their great projects to the table!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HAM GIVEAWAY (12/18)**
 - This is a ONE-DAY only pickup day. If staff are unable to pick up their ham, they must make arrangements for someone to pick it up for them.
- **STAFF HOLIDAY MEAL (12/18)**
 - All staff are invited to the annual holiday meal event at JMRC. Let us all come together for an hour filled with celebration, connections, and warm wishes...

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.



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FIT FOR SUCCESS: ESSENTIAL SKILLS FOR TEAMWORK



Front Row (L to R): Adrienne G (RCH), Reilly M (CDS), Jesenia S (Village), Alyssa M(Shannon), Cicley M (Recruiting/HR), Guido G (Village), Babs O (CILA); **Back Row (L to R):** Amy G (DT), Etina H (CILA), Karina L (CDS), Jasmine V (DT), Tim W (Marian Center), James B (Security). This quarter, we congratulate two graduating classes of Tier 1 of Fit for Success. The list of all participants will be included in the year-in-review.

We all know how important team work is to what we do at Misericordia. But have you ever stopped to consider, what do good teams really look like? What skills do I need to be a great team player? How do I help my team move forward to accomplish our central mission at Misericordia -- to provide our residents with the highest quality of life?

To explore these questions with other committed staff, we invite you to apply to the next session of Fit for Success, Tier 2: Essential Skills for Teamwork. Training will begin on January 8 from 1-3PM and will meet for six sessions. The end date will depend on number of applications received and whether there will be one or two groups that meet.

Tier 2 is open for all staff who have previously completed Tier 1 of FFS or Professionalism. Applicants must be in good standing and have worked at Mis for at least 6 months. Applications are now available on ADP and in HR and are due on December 12, 2025. For more information, contact Mary Ann Goode in Staff Development (maryanng@misericordia.com).

Haven't completed Tier 1? Watch for more information in Campus Connections about future dates for Tier 1 of Fit for Success!

CPR TRAINING



Pictured (L to R): Keith H, Arturo M, Jay C, Saheed K, George T, James B, George J, Latifu O. Not pictured: Valerie G. In November, the Mis Security Team completed recertification to be prepared and ready to step in during an emergency. These guards are newly in CPR, AED, Stop the Bleed, and EpiPen. They not only drive the AED around Misericordia, but they are all trained on how to use it and to help in an emergency.

CPR is performed to save lives, prevent brain damage, and keep vital organs functioning until professional medical help arrives. It is used in emergencies like cardiac arrest, choking, drowning, and severe trauma where a person is unresponsive and not breathing normally. Performing CPR immediately can significantly increase a person's chance of survival. CPR certification is required for any staff working with residents at Misericordia.

Staff Development's team of 5 trainers provides this important training to all new direct care staff on hire as well as recertification classes every 18 months. In the past year, Staff Development has taught over 600 staff on CPR, AED, Choking, Anaphylaxis, First Aid, and Life-Threatening Bleeding. Misericordia offers a unique class to those held elsewhere in that we are specific to the needs of our residents and focus on quick staff response in times of life-threatening emergencies. Basic Life Support for healthcare providers is also offered to our nursing teams.

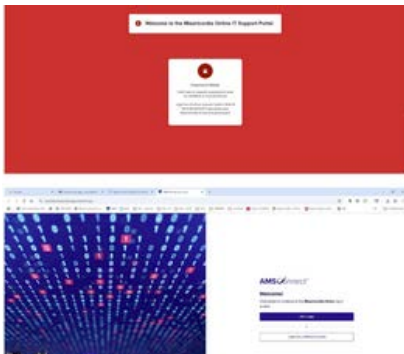


EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

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 [TeamBuilding.com](https://www.teambuilding.com)



What are you thankful for this year?



If you could invite any historical figure to Thanksgiving dinner, who would it be?



What's your favorite Thanksgiving dish and why?



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

Courtesy of Choose Chicago

AU LEVAIN

4301 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago IL 60618
[details here](#)

TRICKSTER CULTURAL CENTER

190 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, IL, 60193
[details here](#)

WILLOW ROOM

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

CENTER FOR NATIVE FUTURES

56 W Adams St, Chicago, IL 60603
[details here](#)

KETAPANEN KITCHEN

POP-UP EVENTS - LOCATION VARIES
[details here](#)

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF CHICAGO

3401 W Ainslie St, Chicago, IL 60625
[details here](#)

GICHIGAMIIN INDIGENOUS NATIONS MUSEUM

3001 Central St., Evanston IL 60201
[details here](#)

Additionally, [click here](#) to learn about how Chicago celebrated Native American history and culture throughout the city during **National Native 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!

SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY SONGS



Pictured: Cover art for Burl Ives's "Holly Jolly Christmas" submitted by Kevin I. (RMC)

In the spirit of connection and the holidays, we invite everyone to share their favorite holiday songs and help us curate a special playlist for the Annual Holiday Staff Meal Event!

Whether it's a **Christmas classic** or a song that takes you back to a holiday childhood memory, Campus Connections invites you to [click here](#) and share them with us.

For your submission to be accepted, please follow the guidelines below:

- You may include songs from any genre, songs in any language, or songs with no words/lyrics.
- Only clean/radio-edited versions of the songs will be accepted.

READ ABOUT OTHER HOLIDAY SONG SUBMISSIONS BELOW:



Joyeux Noël, Mes Amis by Glass Tiger

"This is a beautiful French- and English-language collaboration that celebrates the beauty of the holiday season and the importance of friendship - all with beautiful percussion and horns!"

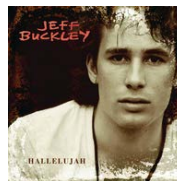
- Tim Y. (Foundation)



Toyland by Perry Como

"This song was first introduced in the 1930s movie THE MARCH OF THE WOODEN SOLDIERS with comedians Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy. Later, it was sung by Perry Como on the NBC KRAFT MUSIC HALL in the 1960s (B&W TV) through the 1990s on his HOLIDAY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, of course--then on color TV."

- Nancy K. (HR)



Hallelujah by Jeff Buckley

"Jeff Buckley sings a beautiful version of Hallelujah. It is my favorite version of the song. My sister introduced me to Jeff Buckley years ago. May he rest in peace. Jeff Buckley."

- Michelle R. (CILA)



Under My Christmas Tree by Braxton Family Christmas

"This song is the epitome of what it feels like to be loved and appreciated during the holiday season.."

- Tanesha M. (CILA)

Please note: We will aim to highlight all submissions in our newsletter, but due to the interest of time, we may not be able to showcase all submissions during the Holiday Meal Event.



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS



November is the month for gratitude at Misericordia, filled with organization-wide initiatives including:

- Cheesie's Food Truck Event
- Misericordia Turkey Toss¹
- Special Gratitude Shirts¹
- Staff Gratitude Grams²
- **Special Gratitude Video Series (Click to view)**

Check out some of the many Staff Gratitude Grams we received throughout the month:

- *"To my amazing dental team: Camille, Maggie, Dr. Ashley, and Dr. B... THANK YOU for being GREAT at what you do, and for putting your bodies through the trenches in order to provide the absolute best care for the residents. Not many get to see all the hard work you do, but I see you, and you are always so appreciated!! I am lucky to work beside you all."*
- **Jena C. (Dental Clinic)**
- *"I want to send a huge shout-out to the McAllister BSP team on ALL SHIFTS. They have been rocking it these past few months! I have increased all resident participation with on-campus events, and everyone has truly stepped up to ensure all the guys at McAllister have a chance to participate and engage with their peers. The McAllister team works tirelessly to ensure the house and residents are cared for, supported, and engaged. The day in and day out can be hard and long, and your dedication to the guys is an absolute gift. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful team to work with!"*
- **Sara M. (CILA McAllister)**
- *"I am grateful for all of the McAuley staff who make it all happen! Everyone's role here is an important role. I can't thank you enough for making it work!! I am grateful to be a part of this team. 🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷"* - **Susie L. (McAuley)**
- *"I would like to give a great big shout out to my overnight team at the Marian Center. You just don't know how much we appreciate the time and dedication you give to our residents each and every day. It may seem like overnights are overlooked, but I see you and I appreciate you all."*
- **Sophia A. (Marian Center)**
- *So much gratitude to the Bakery & Cafe Team for providing our customers warm drinks and tasty treats during this busy time of year. You make coming to work at the Cafe a pleasure each and every day. Keep up the great work!*
- **Beth W. (Hearts & Flour Bakery and Cafe)**

¹This initiative was available for all staff who were interested.

²All Staff Gratitude Grams are also personally emailed to each staff member, fostering a spirit of connection!

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 52 Gail Wojciechowski
- 46 Manisha Patel
- 34 Cynthia Baldwin
- 33 Carol McCoy
- 32 Tina Stenardo
- 31 Rose Renko
- 29 Kathlyn Hobbs, Esther Paredes
- 28 Lorraine Cobbs
- 27 Tracy Thomas, Angela Bass
- 26 Barbara Gurga, Jordan Atkins
- 24 Heather Andresen
- 23 Patricia Savieo, Kathleen Beck
- 22 Michelle Braswell, Joe Veselka, Sarah Wainwright
- 20 Fatima Feliciano
- 19 Richard Chapman
- 18 MaryAnn Zielke-Allen
- 17 Matthew Epstein, Beth Muckler, Sherill Hiser, Frances Cooper, Bobbie Vongonh
- 16 Latoya Foster
- 15 Christian Davis, Laquita Jackson
- 14 Fionn Boler, Conchita Drain, Angel Granados, Paul Schwartz
- 13 Cynthia Gonzalez, Stephanie Bieschke, Lashaun Blocker
- 12 Wednesday Walls, Brian Johnson
- 11 Kenneth Coburn, Leah McDonald
- 10 Juan Medina, Lucinda Skinner, Kajuan Byrd, Valerie Patton
- 9 Lokia Hill, Jae Shin, Consuelo Teresi, Joshua Turner
- 8 Alexandra Whigham
- 7 Michael Howlett, Emmanuel Moses
- 6 Jacquelyn Toigo, Juan Mendoza, Jesse Adams
- 5 Francine Johnson, Mickey Bonilla, Guadalupe Batres
- 4 DeMorris Harris, Areanna Allen, Eh Kler, Vincent Mosley, Valerie Olivo
- 3 William Clucas, Laurencia Haynes, Mareeba Hameed, TaKeema Harris, Michael Kompare
- 2 Priscilla Alvarez, Hannah McKercher, David Uribe, Carolyn Hanlan, Jakeria Clay, Judith Ayi, Lina Catano Bedoya, Katie Lewis, Julia Brown, Nicholas Cruz, Jared Glaaser, Cristina Hernandez, Vedia Johnson, Elizabeth Meister, Esmeralda Ortiz-Gonzalez, Jenna Vangalis
- 1 Pamela Zerbinos, Armando Lopez Santana, Teslim Animashaun, Michael Gebreab, William Gerring, Dawn Gibson, Gabriel Inserra-Mousin, Deshanna Neal, Ralph Parks Jr., Leah Richards, Haley Shull, Jacob Smithee, Sarah Tate



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS (CONT'D)

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Adams, Kassidy (CILA); **Alley, Alyssa (Al)** (CILA); **Antoine, Daphné René** (Mercy Glen); **Berneche, Nicole** (McAuley Residence); **Butz, Dave** (CILA); **Fuller, Dajia** (McGowan); **Hung, Nathan** (Rosemary Park); **Jackson, Keyonna** (McAuley Residence); **Mendez, Kayla** (McAuley Residence); **Moore, Tyla** (McAuley Residence); **Perry, Lametria** (Quinlan); **Reitz, Kyle** (Rosemary Park); **Romero, Joel** (Rosemary Park); **Ruffin, Leela** (McAuley Residence); **Samuel, Romah** (Village); **Sison, Sophia** (McAuley Residence); **Tariku, Leul** (Village); **Velazquez, Karina** (Quinlan); **Weatherspoon, Nigel** (Quinlan); **Barrientos, Karla** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Bodon, Zhane** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Garner, Audrey** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Hastings, Jean** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Hatten, Heidi** (Gift Shop - Seasonal); **Jones, Sydney** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Martens, Rita** (Bakery - Seasonal); **McDaniel, Julia Michelle** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Mc Dermott, Lily** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Medrano, Patricia** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Neal, Tianna** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Soto, Inahmi** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Thompson, Elsa** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Yun, Jaesun** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Deptula, April** (Bakery - Seasonal); **Dandridge, Shyane** (Nursing Services); **DeGruchy, Julia** (Resource Recreation); **Valipourkarimi, Dorsa** (Bakery - Seasonal)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS

Misericordia would like to thank all of the staff and residents who so generously donated to this year's food drive. Did you know:

- The most unusual food item donated was a can of squid
- The item donated most often was macaroni and cheese.
- There were four individual items that were homemade: cookies, brownies, and fudge!
- McAuley Residence donated the most per area/department!

In total, approximately 360 pounds of food have been collected. A special thank you also goes the Therapy Department for organizing this initiative. All of the donations will be appreciated by those members of the North and South side communities, who will receive the items in time for Thanksgiving.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS (CONT'D)

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Matthew

Residence: CILA

- Loves Legos and car models
- Loves riding his bike and scooter



Erik

Residence: CILA

- Works at Jewel-Osco
- Loves Hip-Hop music



Paige

Residence: CILA

- Works at Eli's Cheesecake
- Loves to Watch Food Network



Gabriela

Residence: Village

- Loves to paint her nails
- Has family in Spain
- Communicates fluently in ASL



Delores

Residence: Shannon Apts.

- Loves fashion
- Helps her mom run a charity for people in need



Ryan

Residence: Shannon Apts.

- Loves cooking shows
- Loves to FaceTime his family during free time



Anthony

Residence: CILA

- Loves Disney movies
- an uncle to two nieces and two nephews

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest condolences go to the loved ones of:



Thomas C
(1980 - 2025)



Stamatia S
(1971 - 2025)

Please click their underlined name to view their online memorial page.

***"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.