

# CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

## EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 12

Vol 5

### 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

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**Pictured:** Misericordia staff submitted photos from several areas and departments for the holidays.

As the new year begins, there is deep appreciation for the work you do every day with our residents here at Misericordia. Your compassion, patience, and commitment make our mission real in the most human way—through relationships, respect, and daily moments of support and encouragement. And as a result, you give every parent peace of mind.

This past year has asked a lot of you, and you have continued to show up with professionalism, creativity, and heart—whether you work directly with residents or in a vital supporting role. Each of you helps create a home and a community where our residents are understood, valued, and given opportunities to grow. As we ring in the new year, may you feel proud of the difference you make and hopeful about what we will continue to accomplish together. Wishing you and your loved ones health, peace, and renewed energy for the meaningful work ahead.

Misericordia Leadership

**CAMPUS CONNECTIONS**

2026

Tell us what's in store for your 2026!

[Click here](#) to share your goals for the new year with us, and we can share them in Campus Connections. If you met your resolutions and accomplished any goals in 2025, feel free to share those as well!



# SNAPSHOTS OF 2025

## JANUARY - MARCH



**Pictured:** Misericordia residents and staff participating in several celebrations during the first quarter of the year: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Dental Clinic 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Valentine's Day, Program Arts & Crafts, March Madness.

## APRIL - JUNE



**Pictured:** Misericordia residents and staff participating in several celebrations during the second quarter of the year: Pink Party, Spring Fling Sale, First Responder's Day, Pride Month, Juneteenth, Candy Days, Summer Market Days, Nurses Week.

## JULY - SEPTEMBER



**Pictured:** Misericordia residents and staff participating in several celebrations during the third quarter of the year: McGowan Christmas in July, 4H Event, Savory Crust Food Truck Event, Disability Pride at Conway, Resident Fashion Show, Chicago Fire Event, Resident Appreciation Day, Family Fest Clean Up, Model T Show.

## OCTOBER - DECEMBER



**Pictured:** Misericordia residents and staff participating in several celebrations during the fourth quarter of the year: Sukkot 2025, Hispanic Heritage Month, Fall Fest at CDS, JG Reptile Show, Runners for Misericordia at the Chicago Marathon, Halloween Dance Party, CILA Talent Show.

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# SNAPSHOTS OF 2025

## ART WALK 2025



**Pictured:** Misericordia residents preparing a piece for the Annual Art Walk by Programs, a few of the art pieces displayed around campus, and residents posing as they walk around to view the displays.

## PHOTOBOOTH MEMORIES



**Pictured:** Misericordia staff participating in a special photobooth at several staff appreciation and recognition events throughout the year.

## ANNUAL STAFF HOLIDAY MEAL



**Pictured:** A few snapshots of Misericordia staff participating in the Annual Holiday Meal Event, with special performance from the Heartbreakers.

## TRACKING A YEAR OF HARVESTING

This year, the Gardens programs grew 650 vegetable seedlings in early spring and tracked their overall health, popularity, and production. From Greco Gardens to Amina Grace, these seedlings flourished into an impressive harvest. Crops were shared with our residents, the bakery and kitchen, and local food pantries, while flowers brightened campus and supported community partners. [Click here](#) to read more and explore the full harvest tally!



## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



# LOOK WHO'S ON THE MOVE

## CONGRATULATIONS, 2025 FIT FOR SUCCESS GRADUATES!

Congratulations to the 54 staff who completed the Fit for Success training program during 2025! Your willingness to invest in yourself and continue to develop your leadership skills ensures Misericordia will remain strong as we strive to provide the highest quality of care to our residents. We are grateful for your willingness to grow personally and professionally, and encourage you to continue to share your skills from FFS with your teams!

- **Adams, Jesse\*** (Therapy)
- **Bledsoe, William\*** (Security)
- **Buckner, James** (Security)
- **Byrne, Allyson** (Rosemary Park)
- **Catano-Bedoya, Lina\*** (Housekeeping)
- **Cervantes, Rosa** (Rosemary Park)
- **Cruz, Nicholas\*** (Marian Center)
- **Delgado (Gomez), Leticia** (DT)
- **Garrison, Paulie** (Behavior)
- **Glaaser, Jared\*** (Mercy Glen)
- **Gonzalez, Guido** (Village-Besser)
- **Green, Adrienne** (RCH)
- **Greenamyre, Amy** (DT)
- **Hanlan, Carolyn\*** (Village -Besser)
- **Head, Selina\*** (Village)
- **Hernandez, Cris** (DT)
- **Hymon, Etina** (CILA)
- **Isho, Mary\*** (Nursing)
- **Isleb, Kevin** (RCH)
- **Johnston, Amy** (CDS)
- **Kasonga, Patrick\*** (Village)
- **LeVasseur, Andrea\*** (CDS)
- **Leon, Karina** (CDS)
- **Lewis, Kathryn\*** (McAuley)
- **Marquez, Rielly** (CDS)
- **Martinez, Alyssa** (Shannon)
- **McDermott, Bridget** (CILA)
- **McManus, Thomas\*** (IT)
- **Meredith, Jasmine\*** (DT)
- **Mosley, Cicley** (HR)
- **Newman, Ninive** (Village)
- **Odeyemi, Babatunde** (CILA)
- **Olugbodi, Kayode** (CILA)
- **Payne, Kamden** (Marian Center)
- **Perkins, Anthony** (DT)
- **Reilly, Elena** (DT)
- **Rio, Ryan\*** (McAuley - DT)
- **Rogers, Beyonace** (Mercy Glen)
- **Roth, Andrew** (HR)
- **Sanchez, Jesenia** (Village)
- **Schrotenboer, Matthew\*** (Quinlan)
- **Tate, Sarah** (Shannon)
- **Thunholm, Joseph** (Marian Center)
- **Torres, Rebecca\*** (Village)
- **Tyus, Kimberly** (Mercy Glen)
- **Ulman, Lisa\*** (McAuley - DT)
- **Vega, Tess** (CDS)
- **Velasquez, Jasmine** (DT)
- **Wallace, Latanya** (Marian Center)
- **Wambach, Timothy** (Marian Center)
- **Wilkins, Lorrie\*** (RCH)
- **Wortel, Megan\*** (DT)
- **Wyatt, Jeremy\*** (DT)
- **Young, Sandra** (McGowan)

Interested in growing and developing your career at Mis? Fit for Success is open to all staff from all departments who are in good standing and have worked at Mis for at least 6 months. Look for applications for the next class in Campus Connections!

*\*Indicates they have completed Tier 1 and Tier 2.*

## Our 2025 IARFutures Leadership Participants



*"IARFutures provided an opportunity to learn from professionals in our field who encounter the same challenges that we do on a daily basis. We were able to share ideas, strategies, and experiences with peers and leaders who support individuals with I/DD in a wide variety of roles. It has been an invaluable experience!"*

**- Jason Reis (CDS)**



*"IARF was an impactful and informative experience that highlighted the power of partnership and strengthened our shared passion for the people we serve. IARF fostered an engaging environment that was centered around learning, connection, and renewed passion and commitment for the work that we provide day in and day out."*

**- Paul Palanca (Mercy Glen)**

The IARFuture Leadership Initiative is an opportunity to take your potential to the next level. It is a one-of-a-kind program designed to develop, train, and strengthen future generations of leaders working in not-for-profit social service agencies. [Click here](#) to visit the IARF Future webpage and learn more.

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



# LOOK WHO'S ON THE MOVE

## STAFF PROMOTIONS OF 2025

- **Alamilla, Marieli** (RN → Nurse Coordinator)
- **Allen, Areanna** (McAuley DSP in McAuley → Village ON Supervisor)
- **Anderson, Paula** (CILA OJT Trainer)
- **Arellano, Aiden "Jace"** (CILA DSP → BSP)
- **Ayala, Mayra** (McAuley SSP → Shannon Apts DSP)
- **Braswell, Michelle** (Quinlan DSP to DSP & OJT)
- **Byard, Kayden** (Mercy Glen DSP → Environmental Manager II)
- **Cacho, Kate** (Rosemary Connelly DSP → McGowan QIDP)
- **Cervantes, Rosa** (Shannon Apts DSP → Lead Job Coach → Rosemary Park QIDP)
- **Chapman, Richard** (Village EMII → AM/PM Supervisor)
- **Chavez, Esmeralda** (Rosemary Connelly Lead Job Coach)
- **Clark, LaKeelah** (CILA Lead Job Coach)
- **Cooper, Andrea** (Quinlan DSP → QIDP)
- **Corbo, Adelaide** (H&F Cafe Barista → Shift Lead)
- **Denny, Brianna** (CILA DSP → QIDP)
- **Dick, Elizabeth** (Mercy Glen DSP Relief Supervisor to ON Supervisor)
- **Dickerson, Ashley** (Shannon Apts DSP → Lead Job Coach)
- **Felder, UnShell** (DT DSP → BSP)
- **Floyd, Garrett** (Village DSP → Rosemary Connelly PM Supervisor)
- **Garcia, Linda** (CILA Lead Job Coach)
- **Gasch, Ken** (Resident Events Coordinator)
- **Gilbertson, Chase** (H&F Cafe Barista → Shift Lead)
- **Giles, Dominique** (McAuley CNA → Lead Job Coach)
- **Glaaser, Jared** (Mercy Glen Lead Job Coach)
- **Graham, David** (RN → Nursing Supervisor)
- **Granados, Nelliz** (Village DSP → DT Trainer)
- **Green, Adrienne** (McGowan Lead Job Coach)
- **Gutierrez, Maria** (McAuley RN to RN Supervisor)
- **Hernandez, Daisy** (Laundry/Housekeeping Aux Staff → Lead Housekeeper)
- **Iwueke, McLloyd** (Village DSP → DSP/OJT)
- **Jackson, Angel** (CILA DSP → BSP)
- **Johnson, Renita** (Quinlan DSP → PM Supervisor)
- **Johnson, Daniel** (DSP → Environmental Manager)
- **Kapraun, Mary Grace** (RN BSN → RN Trainer)
- **Kellough, Tatyana** (Village DSP → Behavior Therapy RBT)
- **Kler, Eh** (CILA Lead Job Coach)
- **Kocer, Rhian** (DT DSP → DT Trainer)
- **Krajcir, Allison** (Behavior Therapy RBT Case Manager → BCBA)
- **Lee, Conrad** (Rosemary Park PM Supervisor)
- **Leyva, Bianca Reyes** (CILA DSP → BSP)
- **Lopez, Erica** (McGowan OJT Trainer)
- **Magana, Sarah** (RN → RN Trainer)
- **Martel, Ricky** (CILA Lead Job Coach)
- **Martinez, Celia** (Finance Accounts Receivable Supervisor)
- **Martinez, Alyssa** (Shannon Apts DSP to QIDP)
- **Mayer, John** (Foundation Development Technician → Development Manager)
- **Mayfield, Raquel** (McAuley CNA to QIDP)
- **McCoy, Danielle** (CILA DSP to BSP)
- **McDaniels, Marion** (Mercy Glen Lead Job Coach)
- **McDermott, Bridget** (CILA BSP → Lead Job Coach)
- **Moerman, Barbara** (Rosemary Park AM Supervisor)
- **Monhollon, Kristine** (CDS Relief Supervisor/Art Instructor → Behavior Therapy Art Therapist)
- **Mulloy, Sara** (CILA QIDP Relief Supervisor to Lead QIDP)
- **Newman, Latoya** (Village DSP → Environmental Manager)
- **Newman, Ninive** (Village Lead Job Coach)
- **Newsom, Andrea** (Mercy Glen DSP → Environmental Manager II)
- **Nibarore, Goreth** (CILA BSP → Lead Job Coach)
- **Nygren, Eric** (Mercy Glen DSP to PM Supervisor)
- **Olugbodi, Kayode** (CILA DSP → BSP)
- **Ortiz, Migdalia** (Finance Accounting Supervisor → Manager of A/R and Resident Funds)
- **Palanca, Paul** (Mercy Glen Lead QIDP)
- **Panagonova, Svetla** (CILA BSP → Behavior Therapy RBT)
- **Peterson, Katie** (CILA Compliance Manager → Director)
- **Roberts, Kristin** (Rosemary Park Director)
- **Romero, Elida** (CILA Lead Job Coach → Environmental Manager)
- **Rupert, Marquita** (CILA DSP → BSP) Salgado, Joanna (CILA RN BSN → RN Trainer)
- **Sanchez, Jesenia** (Village DSP → Lead Job Coach → OJT)
- **Sanchez, Liam** (Heart & Soil Composting Manager)
- **Santana, Hector Peraza** (Food Services Kitchen Aide to Cook)
- **Scott, Julius** (Quinlan DSP → EMII)
- **Serna, Joaquin** (Village Lead Job Coach)
- **Serna, Joaquin** (Village LJC → Environmental Manager)
- **Shenault, Jessica** (Marian Center DSP → CDS BSP)
- **Styer, Noah** (CILA Lead Job Coach)
- **Tate, Sarah** (Shannon Apts DSP → CDS BSP)
- **Torres, Rebecca** (Village DSP → Lead Job Coach)
- **Torres, Veronica** (McAuley Lead Job Coach)
- **Tovar, Jazmin** (Marian Center Lead DSP Job Coach to PM Supervisor)
- **Valentin, Dakoby** (CILA BSP → Environmental Manager)
- **Vongonh, Bobbie** (Shannon Apts OJT Trainer)
- **Wallace, Latayna** (Marian Center OJT Trainer)
- **Wambach, Tim** (Marian Center DSP → QIDP)
- **White, Jacqueline** (Marian Center DSP to QIDP)
- **Wolfe, Theresa** (CILA DSP → BSP)
- **Woods, Michael** (Quinlan DSP Relief Supervisor → ON Supervisor)
- **Woytek, Beth** (H&F Cafe Bakery Manager → General Manager)

## CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



# 2025 ANNUAL SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

This year, we received dozens of heartfelt submissions from all of you who nominated your coworkers for the Annual Employee Service Award. Your colleagues described many of you as going above and beyond to live out the mission and values of Misericordia. From the quality of life you provide our residents to the camaraderie you share across teams, departments, and the Misericordia community, you make every day here impactful. We are excited to share the messages that staff wrote about you, so please be on the lookout for them in your employee email.



## **Brandy P-H (McAuley Receptionist)**

Brandy serves as a messenger who communicates across all channels to help every shift run smoothly. A motivational spirit, she is described as recognizing and celebrating the best in everyone around her. She uplifts residents, encourages staff to strive for excellence, and keeps the Misericordia mission at the forefront of her work. Brandy once said, "No matter what challenges come our way, we are called to work here for a reason." For the past 23 years, she has exemplified that calling. Congratulations to Brandy for receiving the 2025 Employee Service Award!

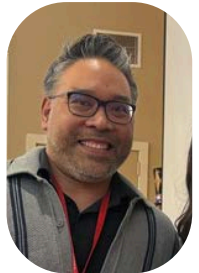
## **Naja R (CILA Lead Job Coach)**

Coworkers have described Naja as the definition of compassion. She always puts residents and her team first, stepping in calmly to help anyone through a tough day. She pays attention to details about the residents in her care and truly gets to know them. She also takes pride in guiding new direct care staff, who all reflect on what a phenomenal mentor she is. Because of her motivation to look for the best in everyone, she has helped team members build confidence and find purpose and belonging in their work area. With six years of working at Misericordia, we congratulate Naja for receiving the 2025 Employee Service Award.



## **Jeffrey L (CILA, Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Professional [QIDP])**

Known to have an open-door policy, Jeffrey is always approachable, willing to answer questions, and lend a helping hand. Their commitment to providing quality care to residents continuously inspires the staff they lead and makes a lasting impact. In challenging times, their sense of responsibility and uplifting spirit have contributed directly to the strength of his department and the Misericordia community. Over the past 24 years that he has worked at Mis, he's demonstrated our values in every way. That is why it is an honor to recognize Jeffrey as a recipient of the 2025 Employee Service Award.



## **Ken G (Recreation and Leisure)**

Ken is known to go out of his way to include as many residents as possible in various activities, so no one ever feels left out. He truly goes the extra mile, whether it's to help escort residents to and from areas or make new employees feel like they belong here at Misericordia. He contributes to elevating the experiences of residents, staff, and volunteers through onboarding and appreciation initiatives, and weekly events that make Misericordia a vibrant place to live and work. In just four years since he started at Misericordia, his compassion, drive, and leadership have helped reinvigorate this community. Misericordia is proud to recognize Ken as a recipient of the 2025 Employee Service Award.



## **Rosemarie A (Nursing)**

Rosemarie is described as humble, understanding, and someone who radiates positivity. Known for providing thorough care and rising to every challenge, she focuses on solutions that best serve the residents in her care. When she arrives at an assigned unit, staff members often light up. When she is working, she goes the extra mile to listen attentively and make sure everyone around her feels seen and supported. With three years of service at Misericordia, we congratulate Rosemarie on receiving the 2025 Employee Service Award.





# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

## HOLIDAY PLAYLIST & SLIDESHOW

[Click here](#) to read the list of Holiday songs staff submitted to Campus Connections. These songs were included on the [playlist](#) for our annual staff holiday meal. If you weren't able to attend, you're invited to [click here](#) to view the slideshow.

## PAYING IT FORWARD DURING GRATITUDE MONTH



**Pictured:** Staff across various departments and shifts who stopped to answer questions and participate in the Misericordia Pay It Forward video for Gratitude Month.

For this Gratitude Month, members of the [Cultural Ambassadors Team](#) and resident Jessica F went around Misericordia 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 watch the YouTube shorts of the interviews. Staff who watched the video were invited to participate in a raffle by sharing what they're grateful for. Congratulations to our winners, Paulie Garrison (Behavior Services), Beth Muckler (Therapy), and Jacquie Toigo (Development), who received their very own gratitude journal, as featured in the video.

## THE ROSEMARY PARK HOME TOUR

This year saw the opening of Misericordia's Rosemary Park Homes, which was designed to meet the evolving needs of our residents across the Misericordia campus and in our CILA homes. Rosemary Park consists of 16 houses with an average of 6 to 8 residents living in each of them. [Click here](#) to watch a tour of the area.



**Pictured:** A drone view of the Rosemary Park Homes, which opened in September 2025.

## STATE OF THE STATE 2025

Misericordia hosted its third and fourth State of the State addresses, an ongoing, bi-annual initiative for employees. With presenters representing various roles throughout the organization, the State of the State aims to help increase transparency, inform staff of growth and empowerment opportunities. Most importantly, it serves to reconnect everyone to Misericordia's mission and values. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to watch the addresses from April and October.

## COMING SOON - THE CAMPUS CONNECTIONS ARCHIVE

Campus Connections is working with IT to create an archive of weekly updates, monthly newsletters, and additional community coverage listed above for staff to access on all Misericordia devices.



## HONORING SISTER ROSEMARY



*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.

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!

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