

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

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Pictured: Misericordia residents, staff, and families participating in several events in March: Red Heart Bash, Arts & Crafts, Community Outings, St. Patrick's Day Parade, St. Patrick's Day Party at JMRC, Conway Gym, Programming Activities, Polar Plunge at Moore Aquatic and Spa.

THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Mandatory masking ends this month. Given the low levels of acute respiratory illness on campus and across Chicago, this end date will remain in place. After March 1, masks will no longer be required when working with residents unless specifically indicated due to an illness or infection.

We thank everyone for supporting this initiative and helping to keep our residents healthy. We'd also like to share encouraging data related to respiratory illness trends at Misericordia. The number of COVID-19 and Influenza cases has been trending downwards over the past few years. While multiple factors contribute to this improvement, it is clear that staff attentiveness to masking, hand hygiene, and appropriate use of PPE has played an important role in protecting our community. So again, thank you for all that you do!

MESSAGE FROM THE HEART

Safe roads start with us.

[Click here](#) to see the latest security memo around driving safety.



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

MCAULEY ALTAR CLOTH PROJECT



Pictured: A quilted art piece symbolizing Lent created by Elizabeth M, staff from, McAuley and their residents. Purple is the color used during Lent.

THE DONNYBROOKS CONCERT



Pictured: Residents, family, and staff attending the Donnybrooks concert at Jean Marie Ryan Center on 3/12.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARTY



Pictured: Residents, family, and staff participating in St. Patrick's Day Party at Jean Marie Ryan Center on 3/17.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS
 - Swim Meet Event



- PART TIME LOVERS LIVE!
 - 80s Cover Band



- STAFF 10 YRS & BEYOND CELEBRATION
 - All staff who have been at Misericordia for ten years and up are invited!



- AUNT NANCE'S DANCE PARTY
 - Totally 80s Dance Party!

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

INVEST IN YOURSELF THIS SPRING

Join us for Tier 1 of Fit for Success!

WHY SHOULD I APPLY TO FFS: TIER 1?

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?



Picture: Some recent graduates of FFS: Tier 2. All graduates had previously completed FFS: Tier 1. Stay tuned for the next Campus Connections Month In Review for the full list of names and their photos.

- FFS offers you the chance to grow as a leader no matter what your role is at Mis!
- Through small group discussions, exercises and selfreflection, FFS provides a safe space to explore some of challenges and solutions to our everyday work experiences.
- We'll explore the skills needed for good communication, managing conflicts and building empathy!

Our next session of Fit for Success Tier 1: Self-Identity will begin on May 7, 2026. 183 Misericordia staff have completed this program since its inception in 2021! This training consists of 6 two-hour sessions and is open to all staff interested in developing the leadership skills needed to succeed at Misericordia. Over the course of the training, we'll explore topics such as communication, conflict management, social and emotional intelligence and look at ways we can make a positive impact on our work environment. Learning more about our own individual perspectives, talents and areas for growth helps strengthen our teams.

Applications are due to HR by April 17. Applicants must be in good standing and have completed a minimum of six months of employment. Space is limited, and applicants must have the approval of their director to participate. For more information, contact Mary Ann Goode in Staff Development (x4730, maryanng@misericordia.com).

OUTWARD INCLUSION

ARBINGER INSTITUTE

In an effort to continue upholding our value of inclusion, Misericordia is pleased to offer a professional development opportunity that centers on self-reflection and belonging. Created by the Arbing Institute, Outward Inclusion will be a quarterly, half-day seminar geared toward "safe, honest, reflective, and productive conversation."

Additional information will be included in a later Campus Connections, so please be on the lookout and sign up to attend!

COMMIT TO YOUR OWN LEARNING AND GROWTH

JOIN US AT AN UPCOMING PHI BOOSTER

Join us at an upcoming booster. PHI Boosters provide a refresher on some of the basic emotional intelligence and leadership skills necessary to meet many of the challenges we encounter in our day-to-day work at Mis. Gaining practice in these skills helps YOU to grow in confidence and helps our teams function better! [Click here](#) to sign up.



EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF RESIDENT CARE WITH WELLSKY

We are excited to announce that the design phase of the WellSky Resident Care System (RCS) is officially underway! Over the past several weeks, Misericordia has mobilized nineteen workstreams across clinical, operational, and technical areas, bringing together subject matter experts, operational leaders, and WellSky partners to begin shaping how the future system will support our residents and staff. This critical design work will occur over the next several months, early in the summer. There is a lot to do in a short amount of time. [Click here](#) to read our outline.

THE BRIAN BARRY RECYCLING CENTER

The Brian Barry Recycling Center, established 10 years ago, continues to be a thriving and impactful program. It currently employs 12 residents and provides valuable training and educational opportunities for 40 additional residents. Participants take great pride in their work, which includes processing and shredding paper, baling cardboard, sorting metals and styrofoam, and disassembling a variety of recyclable materials. We sincerely appreciate the ongoing commitment of the Misericordia staff and residents for supporting our shared mission of sustainability and environmental responsibility.



Pictured: Residents working in the Brian Barry Recycling Center.

[Click here](#) to learn more about what we recycle. **Friendly**

reminders: Please do not mix recyclable materials. Rinse all aluminum cans before placing them into recyclable containers.

Thank you for your continued support in maintaining an effective and meaningful recycling program.

NEW TO SHIFTWIZARD

ShiftWizard offers a site called Knowledge Base. [Click here](#) to view multiple resources/user guides/videos to increase your understanding of how ShiftWizard works. Users can learn about MyCalendar, how to use the app, and how to utilize ShiftSwap. On this site, users can navigate to any of the offered resources that they wish.

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES PROJECT

The Environmental Services Project is underway with a clear focus on strengthening our operations and improving the quality of products used across our campus.

It is important for our staff to know that some of the most used products may look different and come in different packaging, but Misericordia is committed to getting the best product at the most efficient price.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

BREAK THE ICE WITH THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH CO-WORKERS



Courtesy of [Sessionlab.com](#)



What's a topic you could give a TED talk on without preparation?



What are you most looking forward to this spring?



What band or artist will you always get you singing or dancing?

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



EMPLOYEE RESOURCES (CONT'D)

THE ROLE OF MISERICORDIA STAFF IN AN OIG INVESTIGATION

When an allegation of abuse or neglect is reported, Misericordia's trained internal investigators may conduct an investigation on behalf of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). These investigators are Misericordia staff members who are certified to complete investigations in accordance with OIG requirements.

How will I know if I am being asked to participate in an investigation?

You may receive a text from an investigator explaining who they are and asking to schedule an interview. The text may look something like this:

Hello, my name is _____. I assist with investigations at Misericordia. Are you available for a phone call with me today?

If you are contacted by one of our investigators:

- **Please respond promptly.** Timely communication is essential to ensure investigations are completed within required timelines.
- **Make yourself available.** Investigators may request interviews or written statements.
- **Be open and honest.**
- **Maintain confidentiality.** Information related to an investigation should not be discussed with coworkers or others who are not involved.

Not responding to an investigator can delay the investigation and may require follow-up from leadership.

These investigations are in place to protect the health and safety of the residents we support. Thank you for doing your part to help us maintain a safe environment.

[Click here](#) to enlarge and save for future reference.

NEW MISERICORDIA PASSWORD REQUIREMENTS

To strengthen our overall security posture, we are updating our domain password requirements. All new passwords must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum of 14 characters; at least one uppercase letter; at least one lowercase letter; at least one number; at least one special character; a password cannot contain your first or last name.

TIPS: Here are a few methods to create a strong password you can actually remember.

1. Use the "Passphrase Method."
 - Pick 4-5 random words and connect them with unusual separators.
 - Example: Cactus!River-Window3Dance
2. Turn a Sentence You'll Never Forget Into a Code
 - Take the first letters of a memorable sentence or lyric you make up, not from copyrighted material.
 - Example: Sentence: "My dog Luna wakes me up at 6 every day!"
 - Password: MdLwmu@6ed!
3. Mix Unrelated Concepts
 - Think of two totally unrelated themes and mash them together.
 - Example: Volcano_TeaParty94
4. Use "Chunking."
 - Break the password into memorable pieces.
 - Example: Fox-17-Glass!Run

These requirements will be enforced immediately for all new staff. For current staff, the updated policy will take effect the next time you are prompted to change your password or have to reset your password.

8 TIPS TO AVOID EMAIL PHISHING SCAMS

- **Verify the sender's email address.** Scammers may pretend to be your bank, a colleague, or even a family member.
- **Call to verify requests.** If you are skeptical of any requests made in an email, call the source to verify.
- **Look for spelling errors.** Various spelling or grammatical errors within an email can indicate fraudulent activity.
- **Avoid opening unsolicited attachments.** Attachments can be embedded with malware, which, if opened, can steal information.
- **Never give out sensitive information.** Most legitimate companies will avoid asking for personal information via email.
- **Verify hyperlinks.** Before opening a hyperlink, hover over the link text to verify the linked web address.
- **Be wary of urgent messages.** People are more likely to give up sensitive information when pressured by a sense of urgency.
- **Contact IT or security teams.** If unsure of an email's validity, report it to your IT dept. or security team to have them investigate.



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

SCRATCH GOODS

127 N Peoria St. Chicago, IL 60607
[details here](#)

SHRED415

2150 N Clybourn Ave. Chicago, IL 60614
[details here](#)

WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST BOOKSTORE

5233 N. Clark St. Chicago, IL 60640
[details here](#)

SQUASHT BOUTIQUE

2556 W Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL, 60622
[details here](#)

MILK HANDMADE

5137 N Clark St. Chicago, IL 60640
[details here](#)

THE GODDESS AND THE GROCER

1649 N Damen Ave. Chicago, IL 60647
[details here](#)

WHISKEY GIRL TAVERN

6318 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60660
[details here](#)

Additionally, [click here](#) to check out this article from Choose Chicago for a curated list of events, markets, exhibitions, shows, and panel discussions celebrated during this March of **Women's History 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!

MISERICORDIA HAS A WINNER



Pictured above: Robin J, a supervisor at Misericordia and winner of the March 9 episode of the Wheel of Fortune. While Robin intends to spend her earnings conservatively, she says she would like to invest in a new laptop and treat herself to a nice dinner. The show is also sending her on a trip to Mexico. In addition to the Wheel of Fortune, Robin enjoys playing Bingo and going to karaoke.

Two things she didn't expect, however: First, "Ryan Seacrest is shorter than I thought," she jokes, which she says he acknowledged with great humor; and second, "That wheel is a lot heavier to spin than it looks on TV!"

As someone who has worked at Misericordia for nearly 26 years, she says so many staff and families reached out to her upon seeing her on the show. Robin says, "I heard a parent had asked someone, 'Is that Robin on the Wheel of Fortune? Her name is even Robin, but I'm not sure if it's her!'" To be fair, Robin says that winning felt like a dream, too. "It sank in when my sister came up to me," says Robin. She had, in fact, guessed the phrase correctly: He's Beaming with Joy.

"I don't know how you got that," Ryan Seacrest said to Misericordia's Robin J, after she won the final puzzle on the Wheel of Fortune. Robin, a current supervisor at Rosemary Connelly/McGowan, calls herself a longtime fan of the game show, so much so that she and her twin sister used to travel to attend their live tapings. While she never desired to appear on television, she took 30 seconds to audition before the show contacted her a year later to participate as a contestant. "It was an email, and I thought it was a scam!" Robin laughs. After hearing an official confirmation from producers, she flew to California and saw firsthand what goes into the show she always loved. "Everyone was so nice," Robin says, describing the behind-the-scenes atmosphere as very supportive. "We practiced in the studio. The producers gave us tips on how to beat the puzzles, and the contestants were all rooting for each other."



Pictured right: The bonus round puzzle that Robin solved. Note: the last square is cut off in the image.

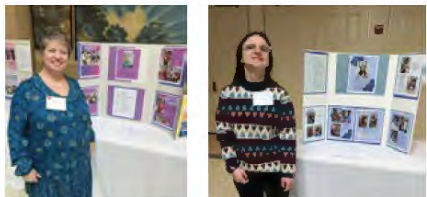


FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION (CONT'D)

MARCH IS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS MONTH



National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is observed in March in the U.S. This class of disabilities can refer to impairments in learning and behavior, such as autism, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and impairments in physical and/or intellectual functioning such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, and Down syndrome.



Last week, Day Services participants (pictured left) shared their work experience with guests at our 2nd annual Community Employment Open House. Participants prepared by polishing up their resumes and creating "About Me" boards that showcase their experiences at Misericordia and in the broader community. Our guests from community businesses were very impressed by the wide range of experience and abilities!

Pictured: Misericordia residents at the Community Employment Open House.

OUR NEW RESIDENT AUTHORS

Residents from Imagination Studios (pictured right) have self-published their first two books. They created storylines and helped develop illustrations for both books, and also used tools to bind their books together. It was a great experience to create something straight from their imaginations.



[Click here](#) to check out the new books!

CELEBRATING DDAM AT CONWAY



Pictured: Residents and staff participating in a photobooth dedicated to Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM) at DT. The Misericordia community was encouraged to wear orange on March 20th. Special thank you to all who participated and Catherine H (DT Director) for organizing this event!

Please see below for information regarding the meaning of wearing orange this month for DDAM:

- Orange is the official color for DDAM and symbolizes energy and positivity. Wearing it is a simple yet powerful way to:
- Promote inclusion, acceptance, and opportunity for all individuals with developmental disabilities.
 - Help spark conversations and spread the message that people with developmental disabilities are a positive and meaningful part of society.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

DEPARTMENT APPRECIATION

March follows another round of monthly appreciation for the various departments on campus. This month, we hosted special events for the following areas:

- Behavior Services
- Culture & Communication
- Housekeeping/Laundry (Main/Aux only)
- Human Resource
- Kitchen
- Reception
- Security
- Social Service
- Staff Development

We thank these departments for all they do in the lives of the residents.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Abner, Charity (Quinlan); **Annoreno, Jessica** (Dental); **Bilao, Marthe Rose Fernande** (Rosemary Park); **Evans, Valerie** (Rosemary Park); **Guillotte, Daniel** (McAuley); **Jebet, Faith** (DT); **Liontos, John** (Village); **Manzanillo, Marihen** (Quinlan); **McNeely, Gavin** (Rosemary Park); **Njeta, Kenneth** (CILA); **Owen, Angela** (Rosemary Park); **Pflaumer, Grace** (McAuley); **Pius-Alonee, Jennifer** (Village); **Prince, Laura** (DT); **Su, Caroline** (Misericordia Foundation)

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 45** Laura Schulz
- 38** Maria Rivera
- 33** Julius Hernandez
- 31** Elizabeth Devey
- 30** Damon Laws, Tony Bethel, Juana Harnett, Sharon Keane
- 27** Nourisha Mohammed-Ali
- 25** Bryan Perry
- 24** Megan Nykiel
- 22** Malgorzata Raszyk, Cristina Zuniga De Menjivar, Nancy Kremer, Chris Centeno, Pha Hen
- 20** Stephanie McGhee
- 19** Jennifer Ayala
- 17** Joseph May, Marcia Reinhard
- 15** Mariana Montes-Truss, Marina Galindo, Tara Reffett, Stacy Trammell, Anita Paulin
- 14** Tiffany Roper, Aleta Stallworth, Suzanne Arias, Bryan Lee
- 12** Erick Arrieta, Jesmina Memedova, Diana De La Vega
- 11** Nicolas Viveros Jr., Shannetta Jackson, Crystal McHenry
- 10** Agata Brej, Elizabeth Donaldson, Michael Faight, Lisa Hagar, Shantie Harris, Erika Simpson, James Sommer
- 8** Sarah Walker, Natasha Carey
- 7** Mary Isho, Lisa Harris
- 6** Steve Quesada, Michael Drew, Joana Galindo, Eva Kutsche, Matthew Preciado, Sam Bower, Svetla Panagonova, Fatoumata Toure
- 5** Megan Wortel, Amy Marek, Cristina Martinez, Robyn Shimmin, Eric Pinon, Jasmine Meredith, Yuliana Pena
- 4** Michael Lyons, Marquess Larry, Carolyn Marcantonio, Tamara Vance, Daray Williams, Amy Wojtas-Koetz, Soraida Antunez, Kenton Field, Gaelle Kaneza, Conor Korbisch, Bart Winters, Germaine Samuels, Rebekah Asbury
- 3** Patrick Reppen, Mahnaz Yousefi, Carol Bude, Yolanda Loggins
- 2** Selina Head, Kristina McLendon, Alula Mena, Beyonace Rogers, Jesse Vail, Kylo Watson, Rachel Wisdom, Clemencia Amarteifio, Mayra Ayala, Marie Sandstrom, Aisha Barry, Giselle Hernandez
- 1** John Calvin, Sarah Magana, Richard Picart, Johanna Salgado, Adenike Akinlabi, Asia Allen, Luis Arellano, Luci Faith, Daniel Cooney, Shannon Costello, Ivan Garcia Paredes, Ariadna Garcia, Nico Goldberg, Jada Grangent, Maryella Holloway, Neisha Johnson Edwards, Nicole Kieres, Quanise Knuckles, Evelyn Ludwick, Betty Nelson, Kayode Olugbodi, Angel Piedra, Shannon Price, Skyla Sanders, Jamie Smith, Lee Smith, Paige Thomas, Devinley Young, Alexandra Roth, Carlos Steele, Solange Tchamba, Bobby Vanecko, Laura Finnegan



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS (CONT'D)

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Christian

Residence: Village

- Loves Batman, and will wear a Batman cape around
- A master at puzzles



Jocelyn

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Loves puzzles
- Loves to travel with her family



Zachary

Residence: Mercy Glen

- Likes swinging and bowling
- Likes going to Top Golf
- Likes to watch movies



Mitchell

Residence: Village

- Collects DVDs
- His favorite holidays, in order, are his birthday, Halloween, and Christmas

MISERICORDIA'S GOT TALENT



Pictured: Frankie S, a Misericordia fitness instructor and guitarist. He has been a musician for over 22 years, and says if he could collaborate with any musician in the history of music, it would be Antonio Vivaldi.

Frankie S, a Misericordia fitness instructor, credits music as one of his biggest interests since childhood. Growing up, his family exposed him to different genres and guitar legends such as Randy Rhoads, Jimi Hendrix, Brian Haner Jr., and Michael Angelo Batio. At age ten, his parents even gifted him his own electric guitar, further introducing him to a lifelong love. Frankie describes his musical style as a mixed bag. Although he feels rooted in rock n' roll and metal, he also finds influence from jazz, blues, flamenco, doo-wop, and classical music. Creatively, he says, inspiration comes at any given point. Sometimes he finds it in colors, overhead conversations, and even something as everyday as observing a flower on a rainy day. Having spent the past year learning how to play and sing without looking down at his guitar, Frankie says, "It sounds silly and a bit superficial, but when you factor in the dark stage, running around to interact with the crowd, playing solo while locking eyes with a fan while there's hair in my face, it was one of the most beneficial skills to learn. I haven't mastered it yet, but I'll get there!"

Currently, he plays in a band that recently distributed their first EP and headlined their show, which sold double the number of tickets they expected on opening night! Generally, in the moments before stepping on stage, Frankie describes the feeling of every thought and emotion he's ever felt running through his mind before bringing it all to life through his guitar. "Music has gifted me so many lessons and skills that I apply to my everyday life," he says. "One of the greatest lessons music has taught me is patience. I have learned to be patient in life and power through any challenges, especially the ones that I know will have a bigger meaning."

HAVE A TALENT THAT YOU WOULD LIKE FOR US TO SHOWCASE?

[CLICK HERE](#) TO SHARE YOUR SUBMISSION AND WE MAY PUBLISH IT FUTURE CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest condolences go to the loved ones of:



Patrick "PJ" R

(1961-2026)



*"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.