

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 9

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MONTHLY APPRECIATION,
ANNIVERSARIES, WARM WELCOMES,
DIRECT CARE WEEK, RESIDENT
APPRECIATION DAY, RAFFLE
WINNERS, IN MEMORIAM



Pictured: Misericordia residents, staff, and volunteers participating in several events that occurred this month: Resident Appreciation Day Photo Booth, Family Fest and Next Day Clean Up, Direct Care Week - Spirit Days ("Twin Day" and "Superhero Day").

STAFF GRATITUDE SHIRTS



Pictured: A mockup of the 2026 Gratitude Shirt graphic. Staff who wish to receive a shirt can sign up through the Campus Connections email sent to their Misericordia Outlook account. **Deadline 10/5/26 by 9AM.**

The residents of Misericordia are at the heart of our mission, inspiring one another and everyone they meet with their strength, spirit, and joy. This year, Resident Appreciation Day celebrated the many ways our residents enrich our community through live music, self-esteem-focused activities, and tokens of appreciation, while also highlighting the programs and services that support their growth and quality of life. Additionally, we celebrated Direct Care Week, which included recognition of our dedicated Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs), Direct Support Professionals (DSPs), Behavior Staff, Therapy Aides, and Residential Housekeepers for their compassionate commitment to enhancing residents' lives. We also enjoyed Family Fest, bringing together residents, families, staff, and community members for performances, games, food, and activities that celebrated the spirit of the Misericordia community. We are grateful for the month we spent with all of you.



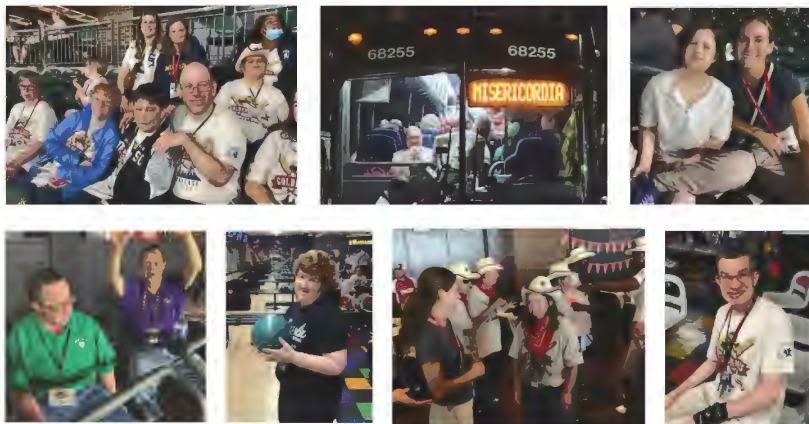
COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

MONTHLY MASS AT CONWAY



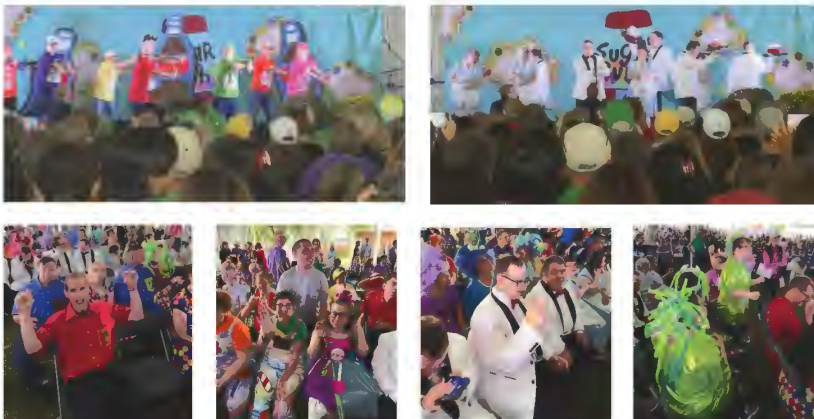
Pictured: Monthly Mass at Conway, occurring on the first Wednesdays of the month, is especially intended to help familiarize our new staff and residents with our tradition of Catholic Mass at Misericordia. The priest (Fr. Bart or Fr. Jack) teaches about different parts of the service (i.e., context, origins, etc.) as he performs them, so that all might feel increasingly comfortable and familiar with what to expect and how to assist if/when they should attend again.

GOLDEN GAMES - SPECIAL OLYMPICS



Pictured: Misericordia residents, staff, and volunteers participating in this year's Golden Games Special Olympics outing done by the Park District for some of our older residents. They went to Waveland Bowl for bowling and lunch, Theater on the Lake for a Hoedown dance and dinner, and a White Sox Baseball game!

THE HEARTBREAKERS AT FAMILY FEST



Pictured: The Misericordia Heartbreakers expressing excitement as they performed at the Annual Misericordia Family Fest held on Sunday, September 13.

UPCOMING EVENTS



- **MISERICORDIA BOOK FAIR (10/3)**



- **ADA ENSEMBLE (10/11)**



- **NEW HORIZONS BAND (10/19)**

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LATEST EMPLOYEE PROMOTIONS

- **Kayode Olugbodi**—promoted to PM Supervisor in the CILAS, also promoted to BSS Supervisor in the CILAS
- **Dena Thompson**—promoted to ON Supervisor in the Marian Center
- **Jonathan Carrasquillo**—promoted to BSS in the Village (now Anchor)
- **Vivian Ukesone Harris**—promoted to RN in Nursing Services
- **Fionn Boler**—promoted to BSS in the Village (now Anchor)
- **Lauren Vance**—promoted to QIDP in McAuley
- **Marieli Alamilla**—promoted from RN to RN Trainer in Nursing Services
- **Imani Whitsett**—promoted to BSS in the Village (now Anchor)
- **Evan Gibson**—promoted to CDS Instructor in CDS
- **Rosemarie Aco**—promoted from RN to Nurse Supervisor in McAuley
- **Jordan Atkins**—promoted from Rec Supervisor to Director of Rec & Leisure
- **John Lontos**—promoted to BSS
- **Anne Grandt**—promoted DT Trainer in DT
- **Thavorey Hang**—promoted to QIDP in McAuley
- **Nieemah Hill**—promoted to LPN in McAuley
- **Argenis "Eddie" Suarez**—promoted to Cook in the Cafe
- **Eric Valdez**—promoted to Back of House Assistant Manager in the Cafe
- **Daniel Nguyen**—promoted to PM Sup in Quinlan
- **Cecilia Mejia**—promoted RN in McAuley Nursing
- **Reign Hobson, Alyssa Aguilar, Louavinia Brown, Kylee Guerra, and LeKara Fletcher**—promoted to Lead Job Coaches
- **Evodia Vega**—promoted to OJT in the Marian Center
- **Tatsiana Churyla**—promoted to QIDP in the Village
- **Maria Vazquez Benitez**—promoted to DTI in DT
- **Latisha Thomas**—promoted to AM Sup in Quinlan
- **Jason Mason**—promoted to DT Trainer in DT
- **Nicholas Cruz**—promoted to Manager, Heart of Mercy in Action in Ministry & Mission
- **Chrislet Casimir**—promoted to Baker in the Bakery
- **Esmeralda Olvera-Serrano**—promoted to QIDP in McAuley
- **Tristan Shawley**—promoted to DTI in DT
- **Nisha Patel**—promoted to RN in McAuley
- **Thomas McManus**—promoted to Project Manager in IT
- **Tanesha Baldarez**—promoted to DT Trainer in DT
- **Josh Terrazas**—promoted to DT Instructor in DT
- **Lynette Coleman-Eaton**—promoted to BSS Supervisor in Anchor
- **Nicholas McGuire**—promoted to BSS Supervisor in Anchor
- **Babatunde Odeyemi**—promoted to LJC in Anchor

Congratulations!

COMMIT TO YOUR OWN LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Fall is a great time to commit to your own learning! We know schedules are challenging, but give yourself 90 minutes to learn from - and with - others who are striving to grow as leaders at Mis by signing up for one of our PHI Boosters. Reminder: QIDPs receive 1.5 CEU hours for attending! [Click here](#) for more details, and [click here](#) to sign up with approval from your area's supervisor.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (CONT'D)

A CULTURE OF GRACE AMIDST CHANGE



Pictured: Misericordia and WellSky's Change Champions gathered in person for a workshop focused on how best to support staff through the transition to WellSky, a health records management system.

What are Change Champions?

Change Champions are Misericordia staff members who help make the WellSky resident care system implementation more understandable, practical, and connected to day-to-day work. Change Champions serve as a bridge between the project team and staff across campus by:

- Sharing updates with their team
- Listening for questions and concerns
- Gathering feedback from their areas
- Helping identify what support staff will need before, during, and after Go-Live.

On Monday, September 21, approximately 22 Change Champions gathered in person for a workshop focused on the WellSky implementation, upcoming User Acceptance Testing, training needs, and how best to support staff through the transition to WellSky. Working in small groups, participants discussed realistic staff scenarios and shared practical feedback about technology comfort, role overlap, documentation expectations, workarounds, device needs, and support after launch. Several themes stood out.

Change Champions emphasized that training should reflect how work actually happens, including staff who regularly fill in for DSPs or use the system only occasionally.

They also noted that some staff may need extra support with technology, hands-on practice, quick reference guides, and clear go-to support people in their areas.

The group also identified several benefits of WellSky, including more streamlined incident reporting and fewer separate logins for some workflows.

A key message from the workshop came from Deb Hays, who encouraged the group to approach the transition with patience and support: "Let's be a culture of grace." That message captured the spirit of the workshop and the important role Change Champions will continue to play as Misericordia prepares for WellSky: helping teams ask questions, share concerns, learn together, and stay focused on supporting residents and one another through change.



EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

YOU SHARED, WE LISTENED

OPEN ENROLLMENT BENEFITS SURVEY RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Open Enrollment benefits survey. We received incredible participation, and your feedback is greatly appreciated. We want to share the final results with you.

- **Information Delivery:** When it comes to learning about benefits, 64% of you prefer email, followed by 20% who prefer short videos.
- **Our Action:** Look out for Open Enrollment updates in your Misericordia inbox and stay tuned for brief video summaries we are working on to help clarify complex coverage details.
- **Materials & Events That Help You Most:** You overwhelmingly told us that Benefit Comparison Charts (31%) and real-world examples of how plans work (20%) are the most helpful tools. For Events, 30% prefer recorded presentation you can watch on your own schedule.
- **Our Action:** We will provide a recorded presentation and build comparison charts with real world cost scenarios.
- **Topics You Want to Understand Better:** We heard your request on clearer information on out-of-pocket costs: Coverage levels (24%) and deductibles (22%) topped the list, closely followed by premiums and copays. Additionally, 76% of you want to learn more about Misericordia's Essential Medical Plan (\$0 cost to employees), and 90% want information on Preventative Care.
- **Our Action:** Our upcoming benefits guide will focus on breaking down deductibles and coverage levels. We will also build dedicated spotlights on the free Essential Plan and how to maximize your preventative care benefits.
- **Asking Questions:** If you get stuck, 68% of you prefer to ask questions via email and 18% in person.
- **Our Action:** You can email your questions to our dedicated HR Benefits inbox at hrbenefits@misericordia.com. We will also offer scheduled in-person meetings and phone support for those who prefer them.

We appreciate your feedback and are committed to giving you the tools you need to make the best choices for the coming year. If you have any immediate questions, please reach out to hrbenefits@misericordia.com or call HR at Ext. 3038.

STAYING HEALTHY THIS SEASON

Respiratory Illness season, typically from October to mid-May, is when Influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and other respiratory illnesses are at their highest. These illnesses are spread through exposure to infected respiratory droplets and can cause symptoms like sore throat, runny nose, fever, headache, and fatigue. By taking precautions, we can help reduce the risk of ourselves, our communities, and our residents getting sick this season!

1

Stay home if you feel sick, if possible, and stay away from others for at least 24 hours until you are fever-free without using fever-reducing medications and your symptoms are improving overall.

2

Practice good hygiene. Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitizer. Cover your coughs and sneezes.

3

Wear a mask. Wearing a mask helps reduce the amount of germs you breathe in and also helps protect others if you are sick.

4

Get vaccinated! Staying up to date with vaccinations is the best way to protect yourself and those around you from serious illness or hospitalization. Both the influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations are recommended for all adults, and the RSV vaccination is recommended for all adults over 75.

Questions? Contact us at

infectionprevention@misericordia.com.

TAKE A LOOK AT
INSIGHTS



Insights is designed for internal staff use. To access, click the icon (pictured left) on a Misericordia computer desktop or iPad. **Insights** is a work-in-progress site and we'd love staff feedback! Please visit and send suggestions, ideas, or requests to insights@misericordia.com.

Need quick access to accurate Misericordia news, events, and resources? Find it on *Insights*!

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

AZUL

1177 N Elston, Chicago, IL 60642

[details here](#)

MANNY'S CAFETERIA & DELICATESSEN

1141 S Jefferson St, Chicago, IL 60607

[details here](#)

FORTY ACRES FRESH MARKET

5713 W Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60651

[details here](#)

WILL'S PLACE

7927 Lincoln Ave, Skokie, IL 60077

[details here](#)

¡WEPA! MERCADO DEL PUEBLO

2559 W. Division St., Chicago, IL, 60622

[details here](#)

MARINA'S BISTRO

4554 N Magnolia Ave. Chicago, IL 60640

[details here](#)

KIE-GOL-LANEE – UPTOWN

5004 N. Sheridan Rd., Chicago IL 60640

[details here](#)

Additionally, [click here](#) to check out this article from Choose Chicago for a recap of the different events and activities that happened in the city this past month of September!

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!

CAMP COURAGEOUS: A WEEK OF COURAGE, ADVENTURE, AND UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES



Pictured: Residents at Camp Courageous in Iowa.

Romah S, a Village QIDP, reflects on her week at Camp Courageous:

Camp Courageous was an amazing experience filled with adventure, laughter, and unforgettable memories! Throughout the week, our residents had the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, face their fears, and discover just how much they are capable of accomplishing.

From climbing new heights and experiencing the thrill of the zipline to fishing for the first time and meeting farm animals, every day brought something exciting. One of the highlights was the adaptive equipment, thoughtfully modified to meet our residents' individual needs, allowing everyone, including our non-ambulatory residents, to participate and enjoy these incredible experiences.

Residents also explored their creative sides by learning how to tie-dye shirts and participating in arts and crafts. Seeing their excitement, confidence, and smiles made every moment worthwhile.

As a QIDP from Village, I truly cherished the opportunity to experience camp alongside our residents. Spending the week camping, exploring the grounds on a four-wheeler, and getting to know everyone in a different setting helped me build stronger connections and create memories I will always treasure.

Camp Courageous truly lived up to its name, providing a safe, inclusive, and empowering environment for everyone.

We are already looking forward to next year! I highly recommend Camp Courageous to residents ready to explore new adventures, discover their courage, and create memories that last a lifetime!

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

MONTHLY APPRECIATIONS

September follows another round of monthly appreciation for the various roles and departments on campus. This month, we had a week-long celebration to appreciate the hard work of all our direct care and support staff roles:

- Behavior Support Specialist (BSS)
- Behavior Support Professional (BSP)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Direct Support Professional (DSP)
- Residential Housekeeper
- Therapy Aide

We thank them for all they do for the lives of our residents!

Additionally, check out some special messages from our celebrants below sharing their favorite thing about Msiericordia:

- *"My favorite thing about Misericordia is coming to work every morning and being greeted by residents."*
- **Joyce P (Marian Center)**
- *"My favorite thing about Misericordia are the wonderful residents I get to take care of every day. They make me laugh, they make me smile, and I love coming to work to be with them each and every day."*
- **Bathsheba E (Therapy)**
- *"Honestly, my residents and co workers working together the way we do. It truly takes a village and no one understands that concept more than the staff who work with the residents, which we see in how the residents welcome us. Our grace comes in for them on their not so good days. Yet and still we hang in there with them through thick and thin like a village support team should."*
- **Komashia B (CILA)**
- *"Waking up every day and looking forward to work with the residents, seeing the smiles on their faces and being present for them when they are having a good and not so great day. I Love my job.."*
- **Carolyn H (Besser)**

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 41 Leticia Annoreno, Dorothy Stewart-Gray
- 39 Carol Hawley
- 36 Rhonda Ellis
- 34 Geana Connelly, Tracy Prather
- 30 Rocco Devincenzo
- 29 Sylvia Tracy
- 27 Janie Jeffries
- 26 Robin Jackson
- 24 Valerie Freil, Rachel Munoz
- 23 Jacob Green
- 22 Nicole Humphrey
- 21 Mirafior Oaing, Terence Williams
- 20 Cilenen Fair, Bathsheba Evans
- 17 Rachel Michels
- 16 Jose Hernandez, Mary Ann Goode, Mae Echaveria
- 15 Paula Anderson, Jennifer Schertz
- 14 Edwin Karr, Colleen Meehan, Johanna Granobles, Nathan Nordine, Edenel Orillaza
- 12 Dante Hays, Demia Dominguez, Nicolette Walker
- 11 Leisa Hancock, Erin Luboff, Dwane Boyd
- 10 Oluchi Ike
- 9 Carolyn Coleman, Felecia Jamison
- 8 Julie Adams, Zaria Mack, Isela Rojas, Charles Walsh, Jonathan Orillaza
- 7 Jayson Punzalan, Brandon Whiting, Samantha Richter, Dominique Neylon
- 6 Dejanire Akpa, Hermalita Doss, Joel La Luz, Terrell Ward, Leticia Delgado Gomez, Mallika Kachchakaduage
- 5 Jennifer Guieb, Olasupo Abiola, Ken Gasch, Itzel Ramos, Tanner Barr, Maria Walter
- 4 Delilah DeJesus, Jennifer Orocio, Derrick Allen, Eduardo Escobedo, UnShell Felder, Sharein Noble, Jason Reis
- 3 Jodiann Nelson Samuels, Jessica Shenault, Clark Egerton, John Harrington, Guadalupe Rangel, Jasmine Velasquez
- 2 Anna Svolos, Marcus Aguinaga, Kenia Flores, Veronica Torres, Latasha Williamson, Hayes Kennedy, Brecilda Rodriguez, Saheed Kehinde, Michelle Odisho, Nicole Citragno, Maria Connaire, Danny Davis, Brianna Denny, LeKara Fletcher, Sommer Hawkins, Devion Ingram, Lloyd Iwueke, Paul Merley, Kaley Rios, Jessica Vong
- 1 Michelle McGrath, Alyssa Aguilar, Missilou Berger, Stacey Bostic, Maureen Boughy, Ebonee Butts, Dontasia Cox, Amber Davis, Donyanha Harvey, Arrington Kemp, Randy Lee, Jenny Linh, Nashay McFarland, Alina Nguyen, Lucia Osborn, Zachariah Parker, Taylor Robinson Smoot, Michelle Rodriguez, Arlo Salgado, Koren Stewart, Jai Strecker, Abraham Wesseh, Sam Bowman, Ma. Elena Estillore, Anthony Ponder, Sharena Brown, Laura Carranza, Bridget Feeney, Evan Gibson, Janece Jackson, Ntumba Joelle Mbayo, Edgar Morales, Jacqueline Schmidt, Roxanne Shikhaboolhassan, Samuel Spero, Reese Starzec, Toosdhi Sumrell, Imani Thomas, Brendon Tran, Imani Whitsett, Sophia Lewis

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

DIRECT CARE AND SUPPORT STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK



Pictured: Misericordia direct care and support staff from various areas around campus participating in a special photo booth during Direct Care Week.

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Austin, Mercedes (Rosemary Park); **Decker, Kielee** (DT); **Galuska, Theresa** (Driskill Volunteer Program); **Gundumura, Cindrella** (Rosemary Connelly); **Guzman, Ashley** (Quinlan-Kaperl); **Hampton, Tanzyanika** (CILA); **Ibrahim, Mohammad** (Village); **Lopez, Eduardo** (CILA-Besser); **Mitchell, Tamia** (CILA); **Quiroa, Lester (Keanu)** (Marian Center); **Rainey, Karizma** (Mercy Glen-Coleman); **Thomas, Darrian** (Marian Center); **Ware, Justice** (Rosemary Connelly); **Watson, Trinity** (Rosemary Connelly); **Coleman, Desjanel** (McAuley); **Martinez Ramirez, Enrique** (Fitness); **Huber, Haley** (Fitness); **Dvoracek, Olivia** (Rosemary Connelly); **Green, Za'kuria (Agency)** (McAuley); **Harrington, Lienne** (Main Nursing South); **Moon, Cody** (Main Nursing North); **Ruiz, Angelica (Agency)** (McAuley); **Carey, Ryan** (Foundation); **Daye, Irwin** (Main Kitchen); **Lanera, Sharon** (Finance); **Nsalar, Melvin** (McAuley)

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

RESIDENT APPRECIATION DAY



Pictured: Misericordia residents participating in Cultural Ambassador-led initiatives for Resident Appreciation Day (9/10): "Affirmation Station" and "Mission: Recognition." Additionally, [click here](#) to view a special photo booth album featuring residents who participated that afternoon.

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS



Emma

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Enjoys art
 - Pour paintings, sketching
- Enjoys playing music
 - Ukelele, guitar



William

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Swimming is his first love
- Dog lover
- Played for the Miracle Baseball League



Bryanna

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Enjoys bowling
- Enjoys snow skiing
- Enjoys reading



Samuel

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Loves arts and crafts
- Loves swimming
- Enjoys music



Brianne

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Love to sing
- Enjoys dressing up
- Enjoys going to the movies



Matthew

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Loves to swim
- Loves to watch Disney
- Enjoys trips to the zoo



Suzanne

Residence: Rosemary Park

- Loves to stay active and exercise
- Enjoys reading books



William

Residence: Mercy Glen

- Enjoys playing sports
 - Basketball
 - Soccer
- Loves attending sporting events

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS (CONT'D)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DIRECT CARE WEEK RAFFLE WINNERS!

As part of Direct Care and Support Staff Appreciation Week celebration, all direct care and support staff were automatically entered into a special raffle distributed based on the numbers per area. Congratulations to our winners, and thank you for all that you do every day to provide quality care for our residents!

Besser

- Jonathan C
- Adrienne C

DT

- Sylvia C
- Sonia L

Mercy Glen

- Jai S
- Ariel R
- Patrice S
- Adrian C

Rosemary Park

- Yvonne J
- Sadauf A
- Kenya D
- Valerie E
- Taylor I
- Bridget F

Village

- Shehzad A
- Stephanie C
- Richard K
- Makiya O
- Mauro P
- Shannon G
- Shelley S
- Danielle D
- Guadalupe O
- John L

CDS

- Eduardo E

Marian Center

- Lynise W
- Julie A
- Kamden P
- Jacob S
- Koren S
- Cherie C

Quinlan

- Vedia J
- Myla J
- Lewis J

Shannon Apt

- Nellie G
- Thanh V

CILA

- Janisha J
- Louisa C
- Ralph P
- Tiffany R
- Ashley D
- Kevin T
- Kaylin M
- Alfredo B

McAuley

- Jalen L
- Martha S
- Ariana V
- Carlos J
- Mia V

RCH/McGowan

- Michelle R
- Dominique G
- Cateca F
- Shania Y
- Carol M

Therapy

- Schalom A



IN MEMORIAM



Jack
1972 - 2026



Michael
1968 - 2026

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

Please click on the underlined names to view their obituaries.



Stay tuned for weekly Campus Connections updates sent via email. If you have any questions or feedback for us, send your messages to campusconnections@misericordia.com!

⚠️ **REMEMBER** ⚠️ Use caution when opening and responding to emails. Every day, more than three billion **phishing emails** are sent out worldwide. These emails are tactics used by scammers to trick you into giving up sensitive information. If you receive a suspicious email to or from your Misericordia account, **report it** in Outlook to our IT Department. More IT Support information can be found at the bottom of this page.