



# QUARTERLY PROGRAM UPDATES

## *Returning To Who We Are*

August 2023

The second quarter of the year ended very differently than it began. The biggest change occurred when most residents no longer had to remain in their cohorts. We know we had to be cohorted during the pandemic, for safety reasons, but in June the campus made the decision to pull back on some Covid restrictions. In June, residents were encouraged to return to work and recreation programs based on their talents and interests. Residents are now able to participate in programs with friends outside of their previous cohort.

Day Services also welcomed a new leader. Alnierys Venegas was hired to be the Assistant Vice President of Developmental Training. Alnierys began her training in June and is excited to work alongside Michael Diaz, the AVP of Community Day Services, to continue to grow and develop Day Services.

When I think of this past quarter, we have many things to be grateful for. Residents are able to socialize, work, swim and hang out with their friends from on and off campus. Masking is no longer required in most areas on campus. We are starting to see the return of volunteers, visitors and tours. All of these happenings help to make us feel like life is returning to what it was pre-Covid. And that makes us all so happy. Please enjoy the second quarterly newsletter on behalf of Programs. We are looking forward to the rest of the year and are very hopeful for all that it brings.

Thanks,  
Tina Stendaro, VP of Program Delivery  
[tinas@misericordia.com](mailto:tinas@misericordia.com)

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# POOL and FITNESS



## Highlights From Pool/Fitness - Part 1

August 2023

Report prepared by Mary Ann Zielke-Allen, Supervisor

### April

- New sport: Tennis Skills: 12 participated in practice. Regionals held in July.
- New sport: Tennis Play: 12 participated in practice. Regionals held in July.
- New sport: Golf skills: 16 participated in practice. Regionals held in July.
- Number of swimmers in our swim team programs - Grand total is 158.
- Powerlifting - 10 participated in practice. 3 advanced to Summer State Games.
- Swim - 12 placed for State / 8 went to Summer State Games in June.
- April/May Special Olympics- intermural softball - 4 weeks – new program.
- New Staff Water Safety Training - April - 11 new staff.
- Helped CDS with their Walking Club every Wednesday afternoon.
- Helped escort Quinlan-Walsh home to DT every Monday afternoon.
- Outreach Youth Open Swim was April 1st with children.
- Outreach Tot - Learn to swim started in April with 9 children and parents.
- Helped Rec & Leisure with MATP at LaSalle High School on April 20th.

### May

- Said goodbye to 2 federal work study students and 2 interns in May.
- Intramural Softball ended on the 25th with Village folks.
- New Staff Water Safety Training on May 5th & 19th – total 18 new staff.
- Collaborated with Rec & Leisure helping with Special Olympic Track outing.

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# POOL and FITNESS



## Highlights From Pool/Fitness - Part 2

August 2023

Report prepared by Mary Ann Zielke-Allen, Supervisor

(Continued from page 2)

- Collaborated with Rec & Leisure helping with Special Olympic Bowling outing.
- Collaborated with Rec & Leisure helping with Choir Concert.
- Tennis entries were due: entered 21 athletes for July event.
- Outreach Tot - Learn to swim ended May 20th with 9 children and parents.
- Number of swimmers in our swim team programs - Grand total is 119.

### June

- New Staff Water Safety Training on June 2nd & 16th – total of 19 new staff.
- Summer State Games 8 swimmers:
  - Four on the relay team got 2nd place 4x25 Freestyle Relay
  - One got 1st place 25 Butterfly, One got 1st in 25 backstroke.
  - Another got 2nd place 25 freestyle, one got participation in 25 freestyle.
  - One got 2nd in 50 backstroke and one got 1st 25 freestyle.
- Start new summer programs for Fitness: Fitness in the Park, Hallway Fitness, Stretch Night and Relax Yoga. These are for anyone on campus.
- Collaborated with Rec & Leisure helping with Band Concert.
- Golf entries were due: entered 14 skills and 8 playing the course for July event.
- Number of swimmers in our swim team programs - Total participants is 159.
- Welcomed a new intern from Notre Dame Student working in Fitness afternoon programs.



THE VALIANT WOMAN



# SUMMER at McAULEY

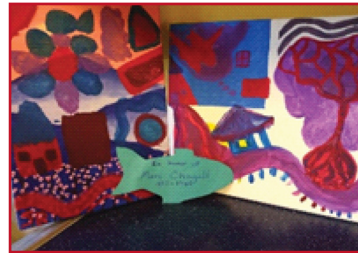


August 2023

By Deb Hays, DT Director, Misericordia School Principal

## Misericordia School

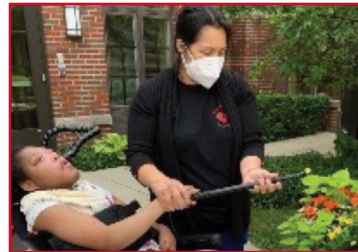
Students have been enjoying ESY - Extended School Year (aka Summer School). We have been learning about artists and painting in the artist's style. We also enjoy our times in sensory, yoga and music.



## McAuley DT

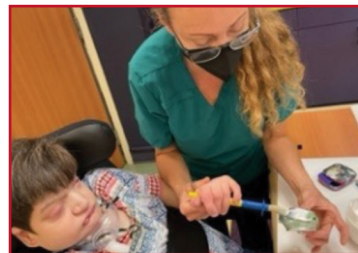
### Margarita and Svitlana's DT Classrooms

Margarita has been assisting Svitlana in having residents take care of our outdoor planters.



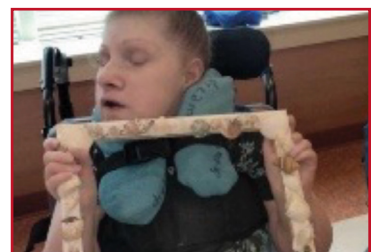
### Hilda's DT Classroom

Hilda has been working on reusing plastic and glass bottles by using the "Pour" technique with her residents.



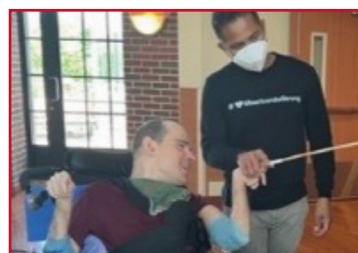
### Lisa's DT Classroom

Lisa's gals and I have been reusing soda cans and turning them into ornaments.



### Teresa's DT Classroom

Teresa's classes have been working on restoring old picture frames into colorful, fun theme frames that we will gift to other neighborhoods.



### Ryan's DT Classroom

Ryan's classes made cards for Q Appreciation Day and enjoying their yoga sessions.





# OUTREACH



## *Outreach Has Enjoyed A Fun-Filled Spring*

August 2023

Report prepared by Anne Maddock,  
Supervisor of Outreach Center 2023



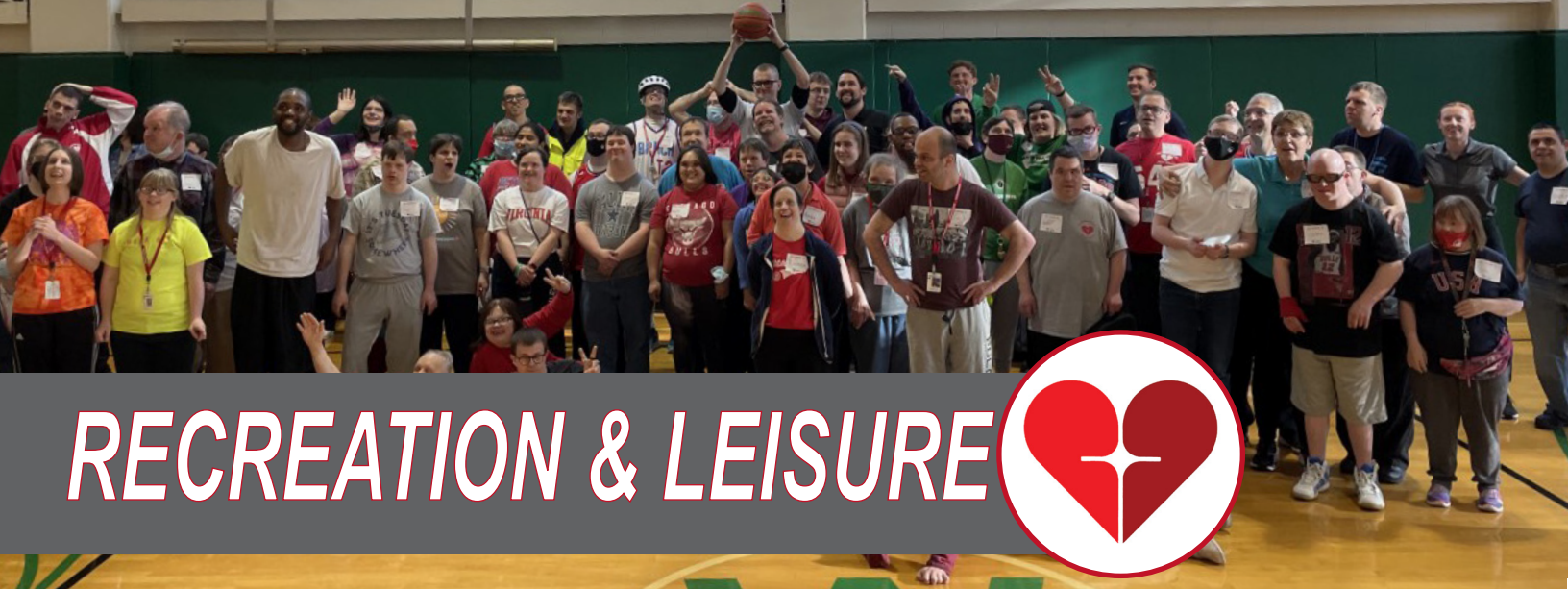
Tina's Playgroup (0-7) had a great time at our Easter Egg Hunt in April. May was card making for Mother's Day with support from our Loyola University volunteers. June was a beautiful day to enjoy McGee Park with sidewalk chalk and bubbles. The swings are always a big hit!

MaryAnn and Jeanna lead Saturday morning parents/tot swim lessons in the Moore Aquatics Center.



The 8-18 and 19-30 year-old groups enjoyed the Moore Aquatics Center in April. They exercised in the gym while doing basketball skills with high school volunteers in May. June was a beautiful day in the Greco Gardens with Sharon. Sharon taught the participants how to prune zucchini. She taught them about soil and how to plant succulents. The participants loved learning about the "pups." Sharon also gave a tour of the beautiful gardens on campus.

April 23rd we celebrated our annual Outreach Mass and Lunch with Father Jack. It was fabulous to have so many families together on campus.



# RECREATION & LEISURE



## Highlights From Recreation and Leisure - Part 1

August 2023

Report prepared by Gail Wojciechowski, Director

### Activities added to weekly Recreation programs

Coffee Club, Photography, Chair Yoga @ Quinlan, Movie nights at the Social Center every other Sunday and theme-based Bingo sessions every Friday night!

### April 18th Walsh Construction Basketball scrimmage

Our annual visit to Walsh Construction took place April 18th. The event consists of a Basketball scrimmage with our residents and employees of Walsh playing alongside each other. It's always a fun time for all! Afterwards all are treated to one of their favorite meals - PIZZA!

### April 20th

A group of athletes from Marian Center, Quinlan and McGowan participated in the annual Special Olympics MATP (Motor Activities Training Program) at De LaSalle High School. Sports stations included bowling, football toss, basketball, golf, Bean bag toss and more! At MATP everyone is a winner! Medals for everyone!

### May/June - Special Olympics Spring Games - Track & Field

Opening Ceremonies! About 80 Misericordia athletes braved the rainy day and attended the Annual Spring games Opening Ceremonies at Soldier Field. Approximately 120 athletes participated in the Special Olympics athletic competition May 9-12th. Events included 50 meter, 100 meter, 200 meter and 800 meter runs, as well as 100 and 400 meter walk races and Softball Throw. The Mis Track & Field Team consisted of resident athletes across campus who practiced for almost 12 weeks. Their hard work paid off by all the Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and ribbons!

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# RECREATION & LEISURE



## Highlights From Recreation and Leisure - Part 2

August 2023

Report prepared by Gail Wojciechowski, Director

### June 9-11 Special Olympics Summer Games

Approximately 32 Gold medal winners from local competitions in Swim, Powerlifting and Track & Field headed to Illinois State University for a weekend of competition! Many returned with more Gold, Silver and Bronze medals and great memories!

### May 20th! Bowling is back!

We returned to the Bowling alley (after a few years) and had approximately 60 fabulous bowlers. Regional Bowling competition took place at Habetler Bowl on May 20th. After several months of practicing, they all showed much-improved skill, focus and great sportsmanship. Many medals and ribbons were awarded. Several of the Mis competitors received Gold and will be heading to Addison, Illinois for the Sectionals in October.

### June 21st: Hip Replacement Band Concert/Dance Party

### May 30th Belmont UMC Choir Concert

A 40-Member choir visiting from Brentwood, Tennessee entertained a large group of residents from across campus. All had a great time not only listening to this inspiring choir, but also singing along.

### April - June: Heartbreakers

The Heartbreakers have been busy preparing for a variety of off-campus performances as well as Family Fest! We added some new faces to join our Showtime crew for Fest. One of their favorite experiences was their visit to the Meadows School to not only perform but also have a question/answer session afterwards. Students and performers both learned a lot about each other. Heartbreakers also performed at the Red Heart Bash for the Misericordia Young Professionals.





# CONWAY / HOLBROOK



## Highlights From Conway / Holbrook DT - Part 1

August 2023

Report prepared by Mary-Frances Schultz and Dan Wallace, Directors

### April

- Staley the Bear and Bears players came and did an art project with residents.
- Market Days in April was a huge success, with over \$600.00 in sales. All proceeds go back into the program so residents budget for their next small business plans.
- Mercy Glen residents helped plant the planter beds outside the Greco Gardens.
- McGowan worked on a tie dye project.
- Mercy Glen in the Music major room made records of their favorite artist/song.
- McAuley did a leaf rubbing art project.
- Residents from all areas helped open up the Holbrook Garden.
- Rosemary residents did a mural for Earth Day outside their room.
- Connelly residents had a bags tournament.
- Marian Center residents began to cultivate Vegwater, our local community garden.
- McAuley residents worked on their Artist in All paintings.
- Marian Center residents returned to their jobs at the Farmer's Market downtown.
- Residents from across campus went back to their job at Campus Crew.
- Quinlan residents participated in an obstacle course in Holbrook.
- Quinlan residents participated in a baseball game simulation at tables.
- Quinlan residents began participating at the Greco Gardens.
- Residents from the Marian Center started working again at the Farmers Market.
- Residents from the Marian Center continue to get paid employment cleaning.
- Residents have been going out in the community and practicing money skills.



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# CONWAY / HOLBROOK



## Highlights From Conway / Holbrook DT - Part 2

August 2023

Report prepared by Mary-Frances Schultz and Dan Wallace, Directors

### May (Continued from page 8)

- Mercy Glen residents had a dance party outside of Holbrook.
- Residents from all areas helped make cards, signs and posters for Nurse's Week.
- Mercy Glen residents celebrated Cinco de Mayo.
- McAuley residents started planting in the Wellness Garden.
- Residents from Mercy Glen, McGowan & Connelly returned to work in the Laundry.
- McAuley residents created hand-made shirts to sell at Market Days and Family Fest.
- McAuley residents started working on a butterfly project.
- The Greco Gardens grew 600 seedlings in preparation for planting in June.
- Residents from the Village dropped off handmade mats to Wellness of Mercy.
- Our local First Responders hosted a fair on campus.
- Residents participated in an Under the Sea art project.
- Residents participated in a Spring Parade, with Max as the guest marshall.
- Quinlan started working with 2 garden boxes near Holbrook. Denise is lead on this.
- Quinlan residents worked on a Submarine project, which included under the sea themes.
- Quinlan residents spent time outside doing Tai Chi, Victoria took lead on this.
- Residents from the Marian Center took over a plot in the Founders Garden along with helping at Vegwater/Wellness gardens.
- Residents from the Marian Center started working on campus grounds crew to keep the campus beautiful and free of trash.

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# CONWAY / HOLBROOK



## Highlights From Conway / Holbrook DT - Part 3

August 2023

Report prepared by Mary-Frances Schultz and Dan Wallace, Directors

### June (Continued from page 9)

- Residents from across campus began to mix cohorts. Residents attending Conway and Holbrook began to join their peers in diverse programming.
- Mercy Glen residents started to learn how to play the drums and electric guitar.
- Connelly and McGowan hosted open houses to showcase their programs to QIDPs.
- Connelly residents started back at Vegwater, our local community garden.
- The all-time favorite, Music in the Gym, came back with Ken as the host.
- Connelly residents hosted a drum circle in the gym.
- Village residents harvested lettuce, zucchini and basil for the Hearts & Flour Bakery.
- Connelly and McAuley had a hot air balloon competition, both were declared winners.
- Marian residents went to Lincoln Park Zoo to watch the accessible Seal Installation.
- Village residents began to volunteer at Berger Park.
- Chicago Connects was launched. Residents went out on community explorations.
- Village residents went to Palmissano Park for a Special Olympics Fishing event.
- Quinlan residents created a mural for Juneteenth.
- Quinlan residents participated in a Jamboree at Holbrook.
- Residents from McAuley and Marian Center hosted volunteers from the White Sox in our Wellness Garden and participated in a bags tournament.
- Residents from the Marian Center took many trips to the Lincoln Park and Brookfield Zoos.





# ACCESS & EMPLOYMENT



## Community Day Services Update - Part 1

August 2023

Report prepared by Charles Carper, Supervisor

### On-Site work:

70 individuals working in 116 shifts (38 CLF, 18 CILA, 14 ICF/DD).

### DT lends a hand:

The DT Horticulture Program has been growing zucchini, which they send to the bakery, where CDS participants turn it into bread.

CDS lends a hand: CDS Bakery employees make it and DT employees sell it at the Daley Plaza Farmers Market.

### Working in the bakery:

Residents worked very hard on helping to put together bakery goods and decorate in the bakery. They include preparing the Mother's Day gift box with baked goods and coffee, working with volunteers from Northern Trust, and preparing cookies to honor the Armed Services.

### DT and CDS Art Programs:

DT and CDS Art Programs worked on over 200 pieces for the Artist in All.

Thank you to our corporate volunteers: KPMG and Northern Trust volunteered in our campus work and art areas.





# ACCESS & EMPLOYMENT



## Community Day Services Update - Part 2

August 2023

Report prepared by Jason Reis and Nora Turgeon, Supervisors

Here are more updates for CIE from the 2nd quarter:

- Increased total number of participants with community employment from 73 to 75.
  - This includes 36 participants from the CILAs and 39 from ICF/CLF.
- 42% of individuals in CDS have obtained CIE or supported employment.
- We have 4 new participants who came to us with existing jobs at:
  - Faith, Hope & Charity School
  - Mommy's Cafe
  - R.E.I.
  - Trader Joes (Oak Park)
- Implemented an employee review process & time-off request process for participants working at the Drive-Thru Cafe.
- Resumed seasonal work at Clesen Wholesale and Loyola Grounds & Fields, and added 1 new participant to Loyola Fields crew.
- Resumed CIE Safety Review sessions for participants with CIE.
- Began to utilize Employment Section of AWARDS, adding all existing employers and participants jobs into the system, and creating forms for employment events (reviews, raises, etc.).
- Revised and added a separate Employment Discovery interview to AWARDS to assist with developing participant employment profiles.
- The Nature Talks at West Ridge Nature Park as a new volunteer opportunity. 4 resident volunteers will be hosting Nature Talk series at the West Ridge Nature Park. They will be teaching the young guests of the park about topics including pollinators, decomposers and hibernation through mid-fall.



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**SEE YOU  
NEXT QUARTER!**

