



# Misericordia

## HEART OF MERCY

NEWSLETTER



FALL 2024



## THOUSANDS GATHER TO SUPPORT FAMILY FEST

A big shout out goes to Alex Vlastic, the ice hockey defenseman for the Chicago Blackhawks, and Katie Hielscher for organizing an enjoyable hockey clinic during Family Fest!

Together, we can secure a safe, joyful and productive future for our much-loved residents.

Thousands of friends and family members gathered to joyfully support the Misericordia community on a bright and beautiful day for Family Fest 2024. Filled with great food and entertainment for everyone — Family Fest is also a successful fundraising event due to the meticulous preparation and labor-intensive efforts of hundreds of donors, volunteers and staff. These people are the day’s much-appreciated heroes!

Thank you to S&C Electric Company for providing daytime parking and to John Tortorello and his grounds crew for running the preparation, set-up and clean-up of such a significant celebration on our growing campus.



We are grateful to the Greco family for chairing the Pauline Greco Fest Cash Raffle and Andy Francis of Evergreen KIA for donating a 2024 KIA Sportage LX, AWD for the car raffle.

We honor our corporate sponsors that have continued to support the programs

that will benefit Misericordia.

The Misericordia family gives thanks to Sister Rosemary Connelly, Father Jack Clair, Lois Gates and the entire administration for their unwavering commitment to providing the “life worth living” that our residents enjoy!

## A MESSAGE

*from Sister Rosemary Connelly  
and Lois Gates*

Dear Family and Friends,

As we write this letter, we have been enjoying a beautiful autumn. After a busy summer, we are now full speed ahead into fall. The Women's Golf Outing was a great success, and this year Misericordia had 83 Chicago Marathon runners. Following that, the SIBS Halloween Party was one not to be missed. Everyone had a great time. We want to thank all the chairmen and women and their committees, as well as the volunteers who made our summer and fall events so special and so successful!

Now we are on to the Women's Board Heart of Mercy Ball and our Holiday season events that bring thousands of new and old friends here to Misericordia and the Glenview Sweet♥Heart Shoppe to eat, shop and share some Holiday cheer with friends and family. We are truly blessed! It takes many people to bring these events to fruition. If you have time to share, please look into Volunteer Opportunities on our website or email our volunteer coordinator, Paul Schwartz, at pauls@misericordia.com. Our Bakery is already buzzing with Holiday orders, and we can use the help both in our Bakery and with our upcoming Holiday luncheons and evening events.

It is business as usual here on campus. Our children and adults live their best lives under the care and guidance of our most dedicated and loving staff. Each enjoys a full schedule of engaging programs and a busy social calendar. Our campus is a happy place to be.

Soon our latest development, Sister Rosemary Park on Thome Avenue, will be completed. The 16 homes are beautiful and are a major expansion of our campus footprint.

We are so thankful for your friendship! Please know you are always in our prayers.

In loving gratitude,

*Sister Rosemary*

Sister Rosemary Connelly  
Chairman  
Misericordia Foundation

*Lois C. Gates*

Lois Gates  
Executive Director  
Misericordia Foundation



The University of St. Mary of the Lake has honored Sister Rosemary with **The 2024 Cardinal Joseph Bernardin In Service of One Another Catholic Humanitarian Award**. Sister Rosemary is pictured above with staff, residents and friends at a celebratory lunch in her honor.

## FROM THE DESK OF Father Jack Clair

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Another Fall is upon us. Where do the years go? I am so blessed to be surrounded by so many wonderful people. The residents of Misericordia bring joy to my heart almost every time I see them. Their simple and beautiful ways are a reminder of the Gospel when Jesus calls all of us to be like little children so that we can enter the Kingdom of God. The staff here at Misericordia, as a whole, do a wonderful job of bringing God's love to our residents. We need many more as we prepare to open Rosemary Park next February. Our donors and volunteers make our lives here possible. Through the generous gifts of their time and treasures we are able to sustain and grow our mission.

It is with genuine gratitude to God, who makes all of this possible, that each day begins and ends. We are a community of Faith, believing that God is at the center of our lives here. We are so blessed by this faith. Let us continue to pray for one another so that our faith may grow.

In these times it is so easy to get caught up in the negative of life. I currently have two cousins visiting from Ireland. They keep telling me how wonderful Chicago is. Sometimes it takes a stranger's eyes to remind us of what we have right in our midst. I am so grateful for their reminders.

We do have problems in our City, who doesn't. I also know this is the City that continues to reach out to so many charities and so many good causes. We are so grateful for all who believe in us here at Misericordia.

As I pause I am grateful to be a part of this community. I am grateful for the blessings I receive each day. I am also reminded of how I must do my part to make this part of the world a better place. It is our faith-filled duty to help build a better world. I am grateful that I am where I am, in this faith, in Misericordia, in Chicago surrounded by all of you.

God Bless You All!

*F. Jack*

Father Jack Clair  
President and Executive Director  
Misericordia Home



Congratulations to Father Jack Clair who was honored by the Shannon Rovers. A sold-out crowd of over 600 people enjoyed a beautiful evening at Soldier Field celebrating Father Jack and the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band. Thank you Shannon Rovers for your friendship throughout the years and for honoring Father Jack at your 98th Anniversary Dinner Dance!

# GIVING TUESDAY



December 3, 2024



MISERICORDIA HEART OF MERCY

6300 N. RIDGE AVENUE CHICAGO, IL 60660 WWW.MISERICORDIA.ORG



Every gift we receive will make a positive difference in the lives of Misericordia residents. THANK YOU!

## December 3

## PLANNED GIVING

### HAVE YOU REMEMBERED MISERICORDIA IN YOUR ESTATE PLAN?

Bequests and other planned gifts are an important source of funds to assure the continuation and growth of Misericordia. If you want to learn more about ways to include Misericordia in your estate plan, please call or email:

**BOB BOURKE (773) 273-4173**  
**robertb@misericordia.com**

You can also learn more by visiting **the Planned Giving page at [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com).**



The Special Olympics Golden Games were a huge success for Misericordia this year! Participants had a fabulous time and returned home with great memories and lots of medals! The Golden Games are for athletes who are 45 years old and above and have proved to be an enjoyable and healthy outlet for our older residents. Congratulations!



## STATE OF THE STATE ANNUAL MEETING

*October 14, 2024*



The Annual State of the State report was held on October 14 for our staff. Geana Connelly, VP of Strategy, People and Culture (left) presided over sessions of the meeting that were held throughout the day, ensuring that any employee who wished could attend. An address from Fr. Jack Clair and a video from Sr. Rosemary gave an added sense of inspiration to all who attended. Presentations on employee initiatives that are available provided our staff with important updates on their workplace. Thank you to Geana and all of the presenters.



We are grateful to the Masonic Family Health Foundation and their dedication to promoting health and wellness for Misericordia's residents. Our residents love the renovation you provided for our Bowling Alley in our Recreation Center at Shannon Apartments.



**GRAND SPONSORS**  
**\$25,000+**

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Connie & Bob Soudan  
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**\$10,000 + SPONSORS**

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Tom Byrne (\$15,000)  
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Misericordia Family Association  
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**\$5,000 + SPONSORS**

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Ronald & Patricia Ramirez  
The Slattery Family  
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Shoreline Sightseeing  
Teamsters Joint Council #25

In Memory of Phil and Philip.  
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Danny Vega  
Vienna Sausage



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The Early Family  
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Dr. David L. Hegg  
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Home Run Inn Pizza (\$7,100)

Scott & Paula Tomasik (\$7,500)  
Chester & Heidi Trocha  
Underpass Restaurant Group  
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Wilkin Insulation  
**\$2,500+ SPONSORS**  
Amina Grace Memorial Fund  
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Dana Beaty Family  
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Columbus Vegetable Oil  
Corfu Foods



The Wilson Family  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Winslow  
The Wortel Family

**\$1,000+ SPONSORS**

In Honor of the Misericordia Administration  
J B Alberto  
AMTC & Associates  
Ancient Order of Hibernians  
Anonymous  
Anonymous (\$2,000)  
Bakemark USA  
Reb & Megan Banas  
June & Marvin Bloom  
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Byline Bank  
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C&K Trucking  
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Five Keys Yoga LLC  
Bridget Flanagan  
Bill & Mary Jo Gallaher  
Gibson's Steakhouse  
Law Offices of Howard E. Gilbert  
In Loving Memory of Gino Giovannetti (\$2,000)  
Mary & Jack Glynn  
Tim & Wendy Grano  
Great Lakes Advisors  
Haribo

In Memory of Florence Hurter  
Insperity Services (\$1,500)  
Beth & Ken Karmin Family Foundation  
Kiltimagh Capital &  
Land Management/ Martin Mersch  
Joe & Sally Koebel (\$2,000)  
La Preferida



40th Ward Alderman Andre Vasquez and his daughter with Fr. Jack.

Land O Frost  
Legacy International/ Ristau Family  
Patrick & Cecilia Loftus  
The Lombard Company  
Steve & Peg Lombardo  
Lunkes Family



The Heartzingers tuning up with Bob Erlenbaugh

Mahoney, Crowe, Goldrick & Cannon, PC

Lou Manfredini  
Laura & Luigi Mazzenga  
Mazzetta Company  
McMahon Dairy  
Eileen McNamara  
Scott & Liz Mendel  
The Merlo Family (\$2,000)  
Joseph Messer MD  
MFM Chicago 1 Church  
Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council  
Midwest Lighting  
Craig Miller Family  
In Memory of Jack & Peg Moriarty  
Mullen Law Offices  
Multiple Concrete Accessories  
My Food Guy  
Timothy O'Leary  
Carl T. Olson & Son (\$2,000)  
Ornuva Foods North America  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Panozzo (\$1,500)  
Premier Produce  
Projex Inc/ Jack & Judy Althoff  
Randolph Packing  
Richards Building Supply  
In Loving Memory of Sweet Megan Rooney  
Specialized Staffing Solutions (\$1,500)  
Standard Provision  
Brad Stephens, State Rep. 20th District  
Tina Stiefel  
Sudekum, Cassidy and Shulruff  
Sysco Foods  
In Honor of Wayne Taveggia—Peter and Regina Murany  
TR and Uma Viswanathan  
Suzan Wells  
Katherine Wetoska (\$2,000)  
Steve & Cindy Wetoska  
Wolniak Family Fund  
J Nelson Wood  
Carly Zieseimer's Family



MISERICORDIA WOMEN'S LEAGUE  
SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2025  
The Westin - Lombard



➤ TURNING ◀

GREEN TO GOLD

CELEBRATING LOVE, FRIENDSHIP & LOYALTY



The Heart of Gold Award for 2025 will be presented to Dr. Dennis and Lois Gates celebrating their love and dedication to the residents of Misericordia for so many years!

FOR TICKET AND SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES VISIT:  
[heartofgoldbenefit.org](http://heartofgoldbenefit.org)

FIRST *for charity*  
LOOK

MISERICORDIA  
WOMEN'S  
AUXILIARY

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025

View the Chicago Auto Show before the public opening while supporting Misericordia! Your ticket will gain entrance to the Misericordia reception and Auto Show Gala.



Women's Auxiliary leadership, (left to right:) President Elect Michaela Shaw; President Megan Banas; Misericordia Foundation Executive Director Lois Gates; and FLFC Co-Chairs Kate Gilroy, Andrea Johnson and Suzanne Finkel

To purchase tickets, visit [www.misericordia womensauxiliary.org](http://www.misericordia womensauxiliary.org)

For corporate package information,  
please contact Vanja St. Clair [vstclair@misericordia.com](mailto:vstclair@misericordia.com) (312) 213-7999

MYPC  
RED  
HEART  
BASH

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025

THE WALDEN

2145 W. WALNUT ST.

7PM-11PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND SPONSORSHIP  
OPPORTUNITIES CONTACT:

JULIE O'SULLIVAN  
[JULIEO@MISERICORDIA.COM](mailto:JULIEO@MISERICORDIA.COM)

MISERICORDIA YOUNG  
PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL



The Misericordia Women's Golf Outing returned to beautiful Oak Park Country Club on September 23, for a fun-filled day of golf and a delectable lunch with entertainment by Misericordia's Heartbreakers. The honoree for 2024 was our own Sister Rosemary! Many thanks to the Women's Golf Committee's efforts to raise funds and awareness for Misericordia.

Pictured above with Sister Rosemary are (from left), Erin Buddig, Margaret Buddig, Jennifer Buddig Sizer, and Sarah Buddig Swanson.



Sister Rosemary and her sister Kathryn Connolly



Long-time Misericordia supporters Meaghan White and Kurt Strickler

This year's annual Heart Links Invitational on August 19 at Shoreacres Golf Club was a day to celebrate golf and giving.

The Heart Links Committee again hosted a group of golfers and friends for a day to benefit the residents of Misericordia.

We thank our dedicated sponsors and our Grand Sponsor R.J. O'Brien for their generosity over the years.



HEART  
LINKS  
OPEN

We also give special thanks to event chairs Hugh and Carrie Connolly, Greg and Linda Fahrenbach, Dave and Sue Moore, Jeff and Cari Mory, and Rick and Janice Price. We look forward to seeing everyone again next summer!

Above: Heart Links salutes our Grand Sponsor - R.J. O'Brien & Associates.

Right: Hugh and Carrie Connolly



## LET'S HEAR IT for our Marathon Heroes!



FIRST WAVE



SECOND WAVE

All runners who represented Misericordia at the 2024 Bank of America Chicago Marathon so deserve our gratitude and congratulations! The Heartracers had an amazing day thanks to their months of training, countless miles of running, and a wonderful charity to support. We are so proud of everyone who contributed to this enormous endeavor. Congrats and many thank yous to Martha Floberg for her leadership and hard work on this annual fundraiser.



For more information, please contact Martha Floberg, Development Officer [marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com) 773-273-4125.



Our great friends and longtime supporters Ann and Rich Carr (pictured above) stopped by Misericordia's **Sweets on Wheels Bakery Truck** recently. Did you know our Bakery Truck can come to you? To find out more please contact: **[misbakerytruck@misericordia.com](mailto:misbakerytruck@misericordia.com) or call 773.273.4759**



Thank you to the Pioneer Club on their 15th Gridiron Golf Classic supporting the residents of Misericordia! Also, big thanks to Carl Sandburg High School for hosting our residents at a football game and check presentation.



Please help us reach our **Challenge Grant!**

**We have an Anonymous, end-of year Challenge Grant.** A generous benefactor has challenged Misericordia's friends and supporters with an end-of year Challenge Grant. Every gift we receive by the end of this year will be matched dollar for dollar up to a specified amount. **By sending your gift today, you can double its value! Be sure to spread the word to family and friends who would like to support Misericordia. Start the season of giving with a gift to Misericordia Heart of Mercy. Thank You!**



**Matching Gifts**

**You may be able to double or triple your impact with a gift to Misericordia!**

Many companies provide a matching gift when an employee contributes to a favorite charity.

To see if your company will match your gift to Misericordia, visit **[misericordia.com/donate/matching-gifts/](http://misericordia.com/donate/matching-gifts/)** or contact your company's Human Resources Department.

SAVE THE DATE

December 8, 15, 22 | Christmas Brunches  
[christmasbrunches@misericordia.com](mailto:christmasbrunches@misericordia.com)  
773-273-4738

February 7 | First Look for Charity  
[www.misericordiawomensauxiliary.org](http://www.misericordiawomensauxiliary.org)

February 28 | Red Heart Bash  
[julieo@misericordia.com](mailto:julieo@misericordia.com)

March 7 | Heart of Gold  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

April 25-26 | Candy Days  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)



Federal employees Nationwide can pledge donations to Misericordia.

**Our CFC code is 43851**

# Misericordia 2024 Christmas & Holiday Cards

\$14 Package: 10 Cards with envelopes. 5x7 inches with printed message inside.

Order cards online at [www.misericordia.org/store](http://www.misericordia.org/store) from Oct. 25 - Dec. 16. Additional selections are available online. Imprinting is available – All orders must be placed by December 16.



## Amaryllis Kits \$30 each

Residents employed in Misericordia's Community Day Services Program pack, paint and decorate each pot with decals of their art.



Available while supplies last at Heartstrings Giftshop, Sweet♥Shoppe, and Misericordia Holiday Event sales tables. (Ribbon and flower color may vary).

## Holiday Shopping with Misericordia



Visit our **CHRISTMAS COTTAGE** and **HEARTSTRINGS GIFTSHOP** for a beautiful selection of clothing, accessories, baby and children's items, Mis Wear, and gifts created by Misericordia residents.

Have lunch at the **GREENHOUSE INN RESTAURANT** and make a day of it!

MISERICORDIA

## Sweet♥Shoppe

BAKERY AND GIFTS

### HOLIDAY HOURS

**SUNDAY 10 AM - 4 PM**

**MONDAY - CLOSED**

**T, W, F, SAT - 9 AM - 4 PM**

**THURSDAY 9 AM - 8 PM**

989 WAUKEGAN ROAD, GLENVIEW IL



**MONDAY - FRIDAY: 6 AM - 4 PM**

**SATURDAY: 7 AM - 4 PM**

**SUNDAY: 7 AM - 2 PM**

6130 N. Ravenswood in Chicago



♥ Heart of Mercy Ball  
Chairs Diane O'Brien  
and Diann Sheridan

**The Misericordia Women's Board Autumnal Mass and Luncheon** in September kicked off an exciting season. **The Heart of Mercy Ball - November 2**, at the Hilton Chicago is the Women's Board major event that has raised millions of dollars for Misericordia. President Meg Fiorenza, and Ball Chairs Diane O'Brien and Diann Sheridan provided updates on the upcoming gala. (The Ball will be covered in-depth in our Winter newsletter.) Thank you to Marcia Desmond and her team at Misericordia for a wonderful day, which was enjoyed by Honorary, Sustaining, and Active Members of the Board. Felice Madda was given special recognition with an Honorary Membership for her outstanding contributions.

### *In Loving Memory*

*The practice of asking for donations to a favorite charity to commemorate the death of a loved one is very thoughtful. In the past few months, such requests have resulted in donations that benefit Misericordia. We thank those benefactors and their families, and respectfully ask that you remember them in your thoughts and prayers.*

Eileen M. Barrett; Margaret T. Barrett; Michael F. Bayer; Edward M. Becht; Timothy S. Benson; Catherine "Peach" Berry; Ann T. Braasch; Marion Bray; Patricia Bunkenburg; Roland H. Burman; Warren I. Chadwick; Sarah Cline; Karen A. Crotty; Rosemary DeMore; Stacy Donnelly; Mary Duffy; James J. Each; William E. Fagan; Anna M. Farrell; Jack Felke; Deborah A. Fields; Katie Figliulo; Adeline Gall; Carol Halling; John J. Halpin; Warren D. Hanssen; Kathleen Hastings; Marianne Hester; Catherine Hill; Irene M. Hinkamp; Annie Holub; Madeline Hughes; Carlo Interrante; Michael Kappos; John R. Kelly; Patricia Krause; Michael J. LaChapelle; Eileen Lattal; Beata J. Leary; Robert A. Long; Stephen G. Loverde; Joseph A. May; Austin McGing; Suzanne W. McKee; Clark F. McKeown; James McLaughlin; Scott Mead; Ruth Anne Miner; Jean M. Mulkerin; Therese B. Mulvihill; Margaret Murphy; Robert A. Nordland; Mary Helen O'Connor; Wendy A. Pazdra; Mary Margaret Pritchard; Gavin Quinn; John P. Reilly; Jack Reinhardt; Mary Kay Russell; Laura Schindler; Dolores A. Spoden; Allen A. Stone; Diane Tardif; Rosemary L. Tye; Kevin Tyrrell; Mick Vendafreddo; Mary Kay Veselka; Florence Walaszek; Thomas A. Walsh; Geraldine Ward; Matthew G. Wilson; Robert W. Woods Jr.; Walter H. Zegers



A sold-out concert benefiting Misericordia was a fantastic way to say goodbye to summer at the beautiful *Theater on the Lake Restaurant* on August 22. The band *Tributosaurus* and mouth-watering cuisine from our pals at *Smoque BBQ* were additional highlights of the evening. We especially want to thank Theater On The Lake, Maggie and John Wrenn, our kind sponsors, R.J. O'Brien, the Corcoran Family Foundation, Smoque BBQ, committee members, and all guests who attended!

Above, center: John Wrenn at the live auction.

*Theater*  
ON THE  
**LAKE**

THANK YOU  
JOHN AND  
MAGGIE WRENN



Misericordia is a residential community serving children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities from diverse ethnic, religious, racial and socio-economic backgrounds. A not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, Misericordia is operated under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Misericordia is located at 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-973-6300. You can find Misericordia on the Internet at [misericordia.com](http://misericordia.com). The Misericordia Newsletter is published quarterly. Please send any comments about the newsletter to [kathyw@misericordia.com](mailto:kathyw@misericordia.com) or to 6300 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago, IL 60660. If you would like to add, remove or change your contact information on the newsletter mailing list, please contact Jack Mayer at 773-273-2768 or [jmayer@misericordia.com](mailto:jmayer@misericordia.com).