



Misericordia

HEART OF MERCY

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2025

SPREADING THE SWEET NEWS OF OUR MISSION
ACROSS CHICAGOLAND AND BEYOND!

40th

CANDY DAYS

APRIL 25-26, 2025

SPECIAL CHICAGO LOOP COLLECTION

WED AND THURS, APRIL 23 - 24

From Wed. and Thurs. April 23-24 (Chicago Loop only) and Fri.-Sat. April 25-26 (Chicagoland) Misericordia is counting on you to help spread the word about our mission to provide a "life worth living" for the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our care. To volunteer, contact: vstclair@misericordia.com



Sincere thanks also go to our dear friends from Jewel-Osco, President Mark Laryea and Mary Frances Trucco, Director of Public Affairs.

During the month of March, shoppers can donate to Candy Days at the registers of Jewel-Osco stores across Chicagoland.



BILL KELLEY



MARK LARYEA



MARY FRANCES TRUCCO

On behalf of Misericordia Home President and Executive Director Fr. Jack Clair, Misericordia Foundation Chairman Sr. Rosemary Connelly, and Misericordia Foundation Executive Director Lois Gates, we thank you for your friendship and support.



ONLINE: Set up a "Personal Giving Page" at www.misericordia.com. or scan to donate directly on our website.

For help setting up a Giving Page, contact: annemills@misericordia.com

MAIL: Return your donation in the envelope provided in this newsletter.

IN PERSON! The Jelly Belly Candy Company has generously donated their delicious candy to be distributed at select locations in Chicagoland – and we need volunteers to help with this effort to raise awareness and reach new donors!

A very special thanks goes to former President and CEO Bill Kelley for sustaining the tradition for so many years.

(pictured right) Thanks to our friend and supporter actor David Eigenberg, for taking a break from NBC's hit TV show *Chicago Fire* to help us get ready for Candy days 2025!



MAKE YOUR CANDY DAYS GIVING PAGE TODAY! www.misericordia.com

A MESSAGE

*from Sister Rosemary Connelly
and Lois Gates*

Dear Friends,

Approaching the Spring of 2025, how time flies when living fruitful and fulfilling days of purpose. From our meager beginnings at Misericordia South to our beautiful 37-acre campus of Misericordia North, for over a half a century we have been privileged to be an active participant in God's Work in action. With the right people at the right time, just look at all we have been able to accomplish! Our beautiful campus and CILAs; our caring, compassionate and competent staff; our full continuum of care; our Family Association; and the thousands of friends who make up our Misericordia Family are our greatest gifts. We would like to thank each one of you for the gift of your friendship. We all play our part in working to create good lives for our children and adults.

With this letter, we would like to recognize a person dear to our hearts who has been instrumental in bringing Misericordia to where we are today. Over 44 years ago, a bright and caring young woman began her Misericordia journey. There was always work to be done, and, in some cases, battles to be fought to make sure our residents got what they needed. Mary Pat O'Brien, in her loving and graceful way, proved to be made of steel and tenacity. She became an expert in all areas of Social Service, including government affairs. She became friend and confidant to our families and served as the Misericordia Family Association (MFA) liaison for many years. She nurtured friendships and mentored colleagues all throughout her career at Misericordia. Besides her many work accomplishments, Mary Pat became our dear friend.

We are truly honored to walk this journey with Mary Pat. As she enters her retirement, we wish her every happiness. We know she has a full and beautiful life planned ahead. She is a gift and a blessing to us all!

Please read through the newsletter to catch up on the exciting happenings here on campus and at our most recent events. Our social calendar has been full! And we have more to come. Look for information on Candy Days (be sure to get your giving page up), the SIBS' Artist in All in May, and, of course, the Bums Golf Outing in June. From cover to cover, this newsletter is packed with all things Misericordia.

Lastly, please keep our dear friend, Bob Erlenbaugh, his wife Madge, and their beautiful family in your prayers. For those who do not know, Bob and Madge were always the most giving and unique couple. Bob recently returned home to God and took a piece of our hearts with him. It will never be the same without him. The Heartzingers join us in thanking this wonderful human being for the gifts of his beautiful guitar music and forever smile. He was a mentor in song and life for all.

Again, thank you for your generosity and support. We feel blessed with your friendship. Know you are in our prayers. Your belief in Misericordia will keep #MisericordiaStrong well into the future.

Lovingly,

Sister Rosemary

Sister Rosemary Connelly
Misericordia Foundation

Lois C. Bates

Lois Gates
Misericordia Foundation



FROM THE DESK OF *Father Jack Clair*

Dear Friends and Supporters of Misericordia,

I begin my letter with a heart full of gratitude to a woman who has helped to build Misericordia to what it is today. She has retired and we owe a debt of gratitude to her. Mary Pat O'Brien most recently served as the Executive Vice President for Residential Services and Programs. We now have four Vice Presidents covering for all she did. Mary Pat started on the South Side and came up here with a small group. She watched our population grow to over 600. By next year with the new homes, we will be over 750. It has been a period of remarkable growth. Thanks Mary Pat, we miss you!

Congratulations to Kevin Connelly, whom the Foundation Board has appointed as the Foundation's Executive Director. Our future is in good hands, thank God! First on his agenda will be a great Candy Days. We hope you all will support us in whatever way you can. We ask our families to do giving pages on the computer, but we would be grateful for anyone who would do that for us. Our Foundation staff and volunteers would be glad to assist you in making this happen.

We continue to plan for our future. The Matthew and Joyce Walsh School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame has developed a planned study for our property. We are in the process of beginning that study as we look to our west and St. Henry's parish, which we acquired. There is always a lot going on here and we are anxious to keep things moving.

Thank you to all of you who help to make our dreams a reality. I can honestly say no one here gets anything out of this except the chance to continue to build a community for those folks who cannot do it for themselves. We are so honored to be a part of Misericordia and know that we look to the future with great confidence because of you.

God Bless You All,

Father Jack Clair
President and Executive Director
Misericordia Home



FITNESS CENTER | *update*

Thanks to the backing of a very generous donor, construction is now underway on further development of the Misericordia Fitness Center. The expansion adds 5,000 square feet to the pool house, bringing new facilities and opportunities for Misericordia residents.



CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE HEART OF MISERICORDIA *to our own MaryPat O'Brien*

Congratulations to Mary Pat O'Brien, Executive Vice President for Residential Services and Programs, on her well-deserved retirement after many years of dedicated service to Misericordia.

Although she is humble about her achievements, Mary Pat's unwavering love for the residents of Misericordia and her invaluable expertise in all aspects of her job over the years have played a pivotal role in transforming Misericordia into the remarkable community that it is today.

We will miss your kind and wise leadership, but know you will always remain a part of the Misericordia family. The staff and residents of Misericordia have been fortunate to have you with them for the past 47 years. May this new road for you be filled with joy, peace, love and fulfillment.

With love from the staff, residents and families of your Misericordia community!



(above) Anne and Brian, with their supervisor for Community Day Services, Barbara Rush, enjoy working as servers at Misericordia's Greenhouse Inn Restaurant. Situated on Misericordia's campus, the Greenhouse Inn operates throughout the year. Treat yourself to a scrumptious meal prepared by the chef and indulge in freshly made desserts, all while supporting meaningful employment opportunities for Misericordia's residents!

Greenhouse Inn

TUESDAY - FRIDAY
10:30 AM - 2:30 PM



SUNDAY BRUNCH
9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

FOR RESERVATIONS CALL 773-273-4182

LEADERSHIP | *meet our new vice presidents!*



STEVE ACHILLES
Vice President of
Business
Operations



LAURIE DAUGHERTY
Vice President of
Residential
Services



HAYES KENNEDY
Executive
Vice President
of Human
Resources

As our campus grows to meet the needs of current and future residents, Misericordia's leadership is dedicated to maintaining the exceptional care and service that define us. Three talented individuals have joined our

team in recent months. A warm welcome to Steve Achilles, Laurie Daugherty and Hayes Kennedy. Thank you for sharing your talents to help provide a bright future for Misericordia Home.

MISERICORDIA WOMEN'S BOARD

Heart of Mercy Ball 2024

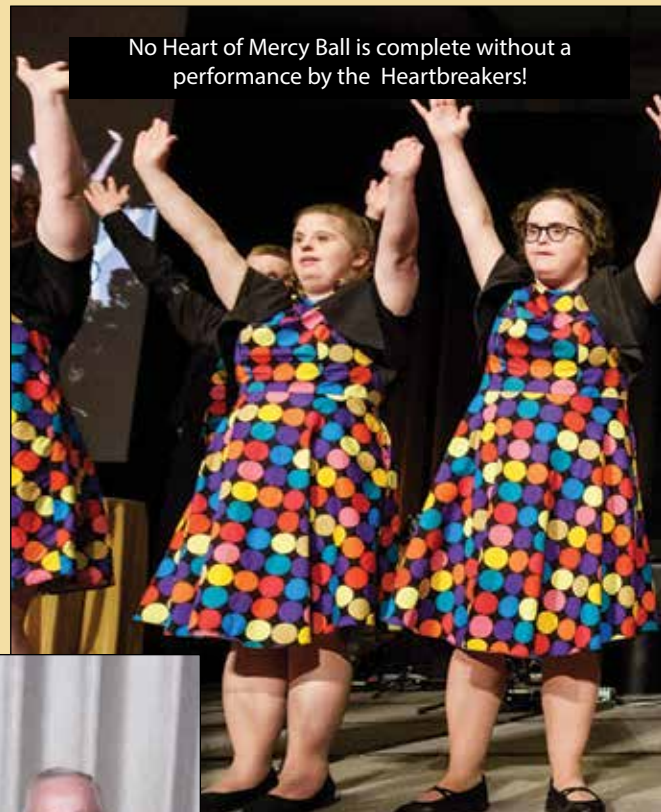


Heart of Mercy Ball Co-Chairs Diane O'Brien and Diann Sheridan with Women's Board President Meg Fiorenza

On November 2, 2024, the Women's Board of Misericordia warmly welcomed hundreds of guests to the Hilton Chicago for the Heart of Mercy Ball. The Ball brought Misericordia's community and friends together to support the residents of Misericordia and commemorate our 2024 honorees. In 2024, the Women's Board focused their fundraising efforts on furnishing the new 16-home complex located on Thome Avenue. Sister Rosemary Park is now ready to welcome residents to beautifully furnished, comfortable houses thanks to their generosity, forethought and hard work! The homes of Rosemary Park will begin to welcome residents in the upcoming months.

Congratulations to our distinguished honorees: *Anne Marie and Michael McGee*, The Heart of Mercy Award; *Mary Frances and Tom Trucco*, The Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion; and *Bill Napleton and Paul Napleton*, *Napleton Automotive Group*, Pillars of the Community Award.

Much gratitude goes to the sponsors, underwriters, volunteers and donors from near and far who contributed to this fantastic event!



(back row) Mary Frances and Tom Trucco, Anne Marie and Michael McGee, Mary and Bill Napleton. (front row) Paul Napleton, Foundation Chairman Sister Rosemary Connelly, and Kathy Napleton.

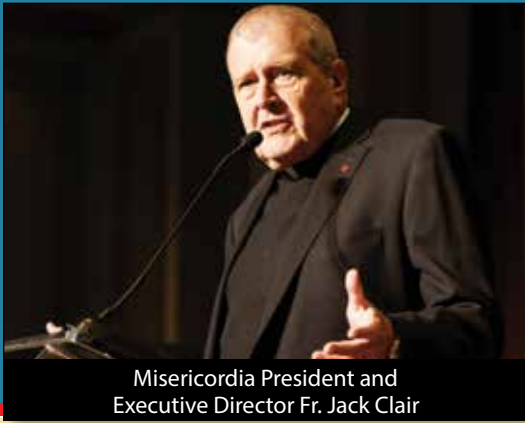
We are so Grateful to our Sponsors

Gold Sponsors

Virginia L. Eck
Barbara and Paul Hills
Napleton Auto Group
Anonymous
In honor of Sister Rosemary

Platinum Sponsors

Foglia Family Foundation
Dorothy and Jack Jiganti
Anne Marie
and Michael McGee



Misericordia President and Executive Director Fr. Jack Clair



Misericordia Foundation Executive Director Lois Gates and Dr. Dennis Gates (center) and friends



Kelly Burgess Mayer with her brother Sean



Charlie and his mom, Julie Carpenter



Julie O'Sullivan, Kevin Connelly and Anne Mills



Many thanks to our great friend, Lou Manfredini, who served as emcee for the night

SISTER ROSEMARY PARK | *an update*



The finishing touches for 16 homes of Sister Rosemary Park are complete as we begin to welcome residents to their new "Second Home." We are forever thankful for the generosity of our groups, individual donors and to Walsh Construction for making this dream come true.

The leadership team for the Misericordia Women's Board gratefully displays its check to Sister Rosemary and the Misericordia Foundation in January. The Board has worked tirelessly to help fund and furnish Sister Rosemary Park. Pictured at left: Board President Meg Fiorenza, Misericordia Foundation Executive Director Lois Gates, Incoming President Janet Keller, Misericordia Development Liaison Anne Mills, Heart of Mercy Ball co-chairs Diann Sheridan and Diane O'Brien, and Misericordia Director of Events and PR Julie O'Sullivan.

WINTER *Fundraising*

The Misericordia Women's Auxiliary celebrated the holidays, and their guests came to MINGLE and raise their glasses to honor Lois Gates with the *All Heart Award* at the North Shore Country Club in December.



(left to right) Megan Banas, Meg Smith, Lois Gates, Ashley Danis and Ann Dronen

First Look for Charity MISERICORDIA WOMEN'S AUXILIARY



(left to right) Suzanne Finkel, Megan Banas, Fr. Jack Clair, Lois Gates, Kate Gilroy and Andrea Johnson

On February 7, 2025, the Misericordia Women's Auxiliary celebrated a superb night of giving at the Chicago Auto Show's First Look for Charity annual black tie event. We would especially like to thank this year's sponsors, donors, underwriters and silent auction winners. We would like to express our gratitude to our emcees Lou Manfredini and Alex Maragos. Hats off to Auxiliary President Megan Banas, and First Look for Charity Co-Chairs Kate Gilroy, Andrea Johnson and Suzanne Finkel for a wonderful night dedicated to advancing our mission!

 MISERICORDIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

RED HEART FEBRUARY 28

BASH



Honoring our very own Rose Martin for her continued support of Misericordia and the MYPC

Misericordia fundraising groups have been busy this winter! Look for full recaps of the Red Heart Bash, the Heart of Gold event and the St. Patrick's post-parade party in our next newsletter.

MISERICORDIA WOMEN'S LEAGUE



FRIDAY MARCH 7, 2025
THE WESTIN, LOMBARD

Honoring Lois and Dr. Dennis Gates
2025 Heart of Gold Award Recipients



The Heart of Gold Leadership, (left to right) Diane Fritz, Irene Costello, Tina Dillon, Kelly Coyne and Stephanie Clark.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY POST-PARADE PARTY

1-5pm Saturday, March 15

Memorial Hall • IBEW

2722 S. Martin Luther King Dr., Chicago, 60616

\$75 PER PERSON | \$10 KIDS 6-12 | KIDS 5 and UNDER ARE FREE



GIBSONS RESTAURANT GROUP
IS PROUD TO SPONSOR THIS EVENT
www.misericordia.com

100% OF PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE CHILDREN AND ADULTS OF MISERICORDIA

In Memorium



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.

Marilyn Aman; Emo Amidei; Martin Appel; Mary Ann Ashlaw; Sean E. Blakely; Barbara J. Bourke; Virginia "Bella" Braasch; Mary Catherine Brady; Ellen T. Brannigan; Alfred E. Brennan; Louis J. Briody; Phyllis A. Brown; Jonathon "Jack" Brunk; Carter Castorena; Eileen Cocco; Lawrence M. Cohen; Thomas J. Corbett; Timothy J. Curtis; Joan E. Daley; Nicholas DePaul; Lou Etta Dore; Robert Erlenbaugh; Kathleen Fallon; John P. Finnegan; Michael M. Gannon; Marie L. Given; Eileen Graziano; Patrick J. Griffin; Jerry E. Hanlon; Brian L. Hickey; John D. Hinkamp; Loretta C. Hogan; Brian Horner; Rita Kappel; Mary Ann Kearns; Paul W. Kelly; Henry J. Kielbowicz; Kevin Lally; Fred P. Lanzafame; Glenn C. Lawrence; Timothy J. Leahy; John Madden; Gerard J. Mahoney; Paul E. Malm; Winifred Mannion; John P. Marren; Michael Marrese; Joseph Marsillo; Lawrence M. McCarthy; Frank McDermott; John G. McSharry; Norma Messaglia; Thomas J. O'Brien; John J. O'Connell; Annabell O'Malley; Diana J. Pasquinelli; Albert A. Pearson; John S. Pflaumer; Stephen L. Polacek; James A. Rabbitt; Kevin F. Reynolds; Terrence B. Rice; Vincent J. Romano; Marie A. Roti; Marilyn Rzeppa; Rochelle Schpak; Eva M. Sheehan; Robert Shimko; Marie Slowik; Patrick Stanton; Bridget Sullivan; Robert Sylvester; Joseph W. Tully; Therese F. Tylus; Mary Carol Vanecko; Terrence M. Wall; Lawrence Walsh; Kathleen A. Ward; Kathleen Yaksich; Michael E. Yaksich

The Misericordia Siblings Association Proudly Presents Our 28th Annual

THE ARTIST IN ALL

Empowerment through Art

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

Modern Wing | Art Institute of Chicago

Corporate sponsorship packages provide the opportunity to become involved in Misericordia's most resident-centered event! For sponsorship information and general questions, please contact **Anne Mills at annemills@misericordia.com 773-273-2730. Check on our website for ticket information.**



In Loving Memory of Bob Erlenbaugh



With much love and respect, Misericordia Home pays tribute to our dear friend Bob Erlenbaugh.

Misericordia was very lucky to be among Bob's many friends in the Catholic, civic, music and education community, where he was a volleyball coach and teacher with CPS for 40 years. Bob generously shared these and other talents with us, and together with his beloved wife Madge, served as Misericordia's Hertzingers choir

director for over 22 years. The choir performed at countless fundraising, sporting, city and private events, providing everyone involved with treasured memories.

We are so grateful for Bob and Madge's kindness, connection and advocacy with the residents of Misericordia, their families and their staff. Bob will always be remembered in the joyful voices of the Hertzingers.



Employee Service Awards

Each year the Misericordia staff nominates five of their co-workers who go above and beyond the spirit and mission of Misericordia. These individuals live the core values of:

Quality of Life, Connection, Responsibility, Spirituality, and Diversity and Inclusion.

Congratulations to this year's honorees!

(pictured left to right) Alecia Young (Mercy Glen), Olivia Nielson (DT), Richard Smith (Bakery), Danijela Velkovic (Therapy) and Andreaa Cosma (Quinlan Terrace).

Misericordia is a residential community serving children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities from diverse ethnic, religious, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. A not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, Misericordia is operated by the Sisters of Mercy 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. The Misericordia Newsletter is published quarterly. Please send any comments about the newsletter to 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



Fr. Jack Clair and Misericordia residents welcomed members of the Illinois State Wireless Association to our campus last November. We are truly grateful for the check they presented after a great visit to the Greenhouse Inn Restaurant.



Members of the Columbian Club of Chicago Foundation with Fr. Jack Clair and Lois Gates. The Columbian Club of Chicago Foundation and its members have raised and donated \$20,000 for Misericordia. Thank you, we are very grateful for your support!



Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas holidays so joyful this year!



*A Special
Thank you to our
Secret Santas*
Thank you for so generously
sharing the spirit of Christmas
and for your loving friendship,
support and prayers!
*From the residents
of Misericordia!*

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:

PETE CULLEN CONWAY
(773) 273-4145
petec@misericordia.com

You can also learn more by visiting
the Planned Giving page at
www.misericordia.com.

FAMILY FEST

September 7, 2025



CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!!

The Creations from the Heart booth would appreciate your donation of handcrafted items to sell at this year's Family Fest.

Please email: creations@m-f-a.org



65th Annual Benefit Misericordia Family Association

THURSDAY, JUNE 26TH, 2025 | 5:30 PM
THE UNITED CLUB AT SOLDIER FIELD

EMAIL: SPONSORSHIP@M-F-A.ORG OR 847-651-7818.

BUMS GOLF OUTING ON JUNE 9, 2025

CELEBRATING 51 YEARS

For foursome/sponsorship information
please contact: dorief@misericordia.com



The Bums Committee, sponsors and golfers have generously supported Misericordia throughout the years. In 2025 we are celebrating 51 years! More than 600 golfers will meet Monday, June 9, at beautiful Olympia Fields, Edgewood Valley and Flossmoor Country Clubs to benefit Misericordia. The Bums have raised millions of dollars over many years to support Misericordia's innovative programs and expansion efforts!

MARCH 15 | ST. PAT'S PARTY
at IBEW Union Hall
www.misericordia.com

APRIL 23-24 (DOWNTOWN ONLY)
APRIL 25-26 | CANDY DAYS
www.misericordia.com

MAY 20 | THE ARTIST IN ALL
Art Institute of Chicago
www.misericordia.com

JUNE 9 | BUMS GOLF OUTING
Olympia Fields
www.misericordia.com

**JUNE 26 | MISERICORDIA FAMILY
ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BENEFIT**
Soldier Field
www.misericordia.com

**AUGUST 11 | HEART LINKS
GOLF OUTING**

SEPTEMBER 7 | FAMILY FEST
www.misericordia.com

**SEPTEMBER 22 | WOMEN'S
GOLF OUTING**
Oak Park CC | www.misericordia.com

**OCTOBER 8 | CHICAGO
MARATHON**
(registration is full!)

**OCTOBER 25 | HEART OF
MERCY BALL**
Hilton, Chicago
www.misericordia.com