



DIGNITY | CHALLENGE | RESPECT

SUMMER 2026



MISERICORDIA NEWSLETTER

Family Fest 2026

Celebrate with Misericordia on September 13!

Join thousands of friends and supporters of the Misericordia community on September 13, 2026, when we open our campus for Family Fest!

As our campus grows, we have been able to welcome new families from our applicant pool and have much to celebrate!

Our promise to our residents and their families is to continue to work tirelessly to maintain the programs, excellent care and environment that we joyfully provide.



Bring your family and friends to take in a fantastic day of delicious food, live entertainment, games, and community spirit—all while making a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Free parking is provided courtesy of our great friends at S&C Electric, with convenient shuttle buses running to and from Family Fest throughout the day.

We can't wait to see you there!

11AM - 6PM
RAIN or SHINE!

CASH/CAR RAFFLE

**You could win
\$50,000 CASH!**

**or a
2026 KIA SORENTO
(OR \$15,000)
FIND RAFFLE INFO
ON PAGE 3**

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO HELP:

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP
CONTACT THERESA:
fest_corporate@misericordia.com
or call 773-273-4195

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
CONTACT PAUL:
pauls@misericordia.com

PARTICIPATE IN OUR
CASH & CAR RAFFLE:
EVERY TICKET MAKES
A DIFFERENCE!

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION
VISIT
www.misericordia.com



A message from Fr. Jack Clair

Our Dear Friends,

I sit here in early July writing this letter to thank all of you who make our life here at Misericordia possible. Without you, we could not do it!

We face new challenges daily, notably the effect of rising costs on our budget. Like everyone, we're paying more for food, utilities and fuel. Picture your grocery bill, and then imagine how much we pay to provide our residents with thousands of meals every week. Then consider the cost of electricity for our many buildings and gasoline for our vehicles. We don't get many discounts, and prices keep going up.

Thank you for all you do to help us meet these growing demands. The goodness of people continues to amaze me and fills my heart with gratitude.

Work continues on our gift shop and restaurant kitchen. We're building or renovating six new group homes, to enhance the lives of our residents and to welcome more. Thanks to everyone who is making all of this possible.

In fall we will break ground for our new Community Center with the generous support of the Mazzolin family. We will also begin work on a new maintenance facility to help us get ready for upcoming changes on our campus. We hope in the winter to begin work on the Administration Center at the former St. Henry's site (a great naming opportunity for a gener-

ous donor). The movement of the human resources, finance and development departments into the Administration Center will free up classroom space on the campus for our many new residents' programming. The final stretch of phase one will include two new parking garages, which are badly needed. These will also help to make the campus more pedestrian-friendly for our residents.

I pray that you and your family are blessed with a wonderful summer. I pray also that we will all be renewed during this time. Remember our Family Fest on September 13th. It is one of the great days each year at Misericordia.

God Bless You All!



Fr. Jack Clair
President/Executive Director
Misericordia Home



Thank you for visiting!

Our team at Misericordia would like to thank Sameer Vohra, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, for taking the time out of his busy schedule to tour Misericordia and learn about our programs. It was an honor to introduce him to members of our community and share our mission with him.



Fr. Jack Clair with Sameer Vohra, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health

MEMORIALS

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 C. Anthony; Joseph M. Beck; William A. Buescher; Catherine Connaughton; Gary Cooper; Betty DeCarlo; Mariella Dorn; Thomas R. Donovan; Hugh O. Doyle; Holly A. Freund; James Fruin; Janina Galica; Adrian Gartner; Sheila B. Greene; Timothy J. Harvey; Arthur P. Hurter; Robert E. Jurewicz; Linda J. Kammert; Edward J. Kelly; Mary Kirwan; George T. Lagios; Edward Lunkes; Robert McGowan; James McKinney; Charles G. McLaughlin; Molly McNabola; Mary Mertze; Kathleen K. Moore; Kristine L. Moore; John P. O'Brien; J. Kevin O'Donoghue; Marilyn O'Dowd; Kevin E. O'Keefe; Catherine O'Keefe; Laurence Pasquesi; Conrad A. Plimpton; Helen A. Portiera; Patrick Rafferty; Karen Richards; Eric Rickert; Catherine A. Savino; Ann Schulze; John J. Smith; Mary Snyder; Michael J. Sullivan; Cynthia Toback; William D. Traynor; Emil J. Wahlund; Anthony Winters; Harold Wright; Robert P. Yaksich; Marybeth Young; Joseph M. Zucco

You could win \$50,000 in the
PAULINE GRECO FEST CASH RAFFLE!

Win a **2026 KIA SORENTO**
(or \$15,000)

CASH RAFFLE TICKETS \$100

Only 3,000 tickets will be sold!

Purchase Cash & Car Raffle Tickets and Mis Wear!
Visit www.misericordia.com

(You will receive an email receipt.)



- Adult t-shirt
- Youth/Toddler t-shirt
- Full-zip hooded sweatshirt (Adult only)

- Onesies
- Adult and youth hooded sweatshirt



**To order
raffle tickets
or Mis Wear
by mail, see
enclosed
insert.**

CAR RAFFLE TICKETS \$50 each or 3 for \$100



www.evergreenkia.com

Generously donated by
Andy Francis of **Evergreen KIA**

**For further information on RAFFLES,
please contact Samantha at
srichter@misericordia.com
or call 773-273-4533**

A day of advocacy in Springfield ♥ Residents connect with state lawmakers



State Sen. Julie Morrison (**second from R**) with representatives from Misericordia



State Rep. Mike Kelly with Nora Turgeon from Misericordia



State Rep. Suzanne Ness

The Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) is Illinois' leading association of community-based providers serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Misericordia joined providers from across Illinois in Springfield last May for IARF Advocacy Day. The activities of the day focused on advocating for community providers of I/DD and behavioral health services. Many thanks to State Sen. Julie Morrison, State Rep. Mike Kelly and State Rep. Suzanne Ness for stopping by to speak with our resident and staff representatives.

Your direct impact ♥ Donor support makes all the difference

At Misericordia, we give residents the opportunity to be productive members of their community every day. Thank you to the staff, volunteers and donors that rise to provide the highest quality of life possible for our residents. YOU can help make all the difference!



SUPPORT OUR RESIDENT BUSINESSES

MISERICORDIA'S HEARTS & FLOUR BAKERY

While working at our on-campus bakery, residents work alongside staff and volunteers to build valuable job skills. Enjoy their baked goods or send a bakery gift box to anyone nationwide.

Order online:
www.misericordia.com

MISERICORDIA HEARTS & FLOUR BAKERY AND CAFÉ

Freshly baked, community-driven, and served with heart every day. Come for coffee and a pastry at our bakery, featuring a drive-thru and indoor seating.

Mon - Fri: 6am – 4pm
Sat - 7am – 4pm
Sun - 7am – 4pm
Call: 773-564-8403
6130 N. Ravenswood Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660

MISERICORDIA SWEET♥SHOPPE

Browse beautiful resident-made artwork, Mis Wear, clothing, jewelry, gift items and mouth-watering bakery and sandwich options. Indoor and outdoor seating with parking in back.

Tues - Sat: 9am – 4pm
Call: 847-730-3124
989 Waukegan Road
Glenview, IL 60025

THE GREENHOUSE INN RESTAURANT

Treat yourself to a fantastic Sunday brunch or a tasty weekday lunch. We are currently located in the Lois Gates Courtyard Inn while our restaurant is being renovated. We are ready to serve you!

Tues-Fri: 11am - 2:30pm
Sun: 9:30am - 2:30pm
Call: 773-273-4182 for reservations
6300 N. Ridge Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660

HEARTSTRINGS GIFT SHOP

Our beautiful gift shop is being renovated. In the meantime find us in the Lois Gates Courtyard Inn. We are stocked with boutique clothing, giftware, jewelry and gorgeous resident artwork.

Tues-Fri: 11am - 2:30pm
Sun: 9:30am - 2:30pm
Call: 773-273-4183
6300 N. Ridge Ave.
Chicago, IL 60660

SWEETS ON WHEELS BAKERY TRUCK

Serving our community handmade baked goods made with love and care, our bakery truck will bring breakfast and dessert treats straight to your gathering!

Call: 773-273-4759 to book for your event today.

A LASTING GIFT

♥ McAuley Residence Katie Figliulo Peace Garden Dedication

JUNE 7, 2026 - The McAuley Residence Katie Figliulo Peace Garden stands as a beautiful honor to our deeply cherished McAuley residents/angels. Through the devoted support of the Figliulo family, the McAuley community and the vision of Melissa Little, residents can now gather to share in Day Training classes, live entertainment, recreational activities or to simply enjoy a peaceful moment.



L to R: Melissa Little, who spearheaded the campaign for the garden and oversaw the concept and design; the Katie Figliulo family; donor and volunteer Muffie Dondlinger, who read the poem, "Remember" by Joy Harjo at the garden's dedication on June 7.

“My device is important” ♥ Mark has a lot to say!

Imagine having thoughts, feelings, and needs to share — but no reliable way to express them. Without a voice, it can be difficult to engage in conversation, make choices, or advocate for yourself, sometimes leading to frustration and misunderstanding. That’s why providing meaningful communication support for our residents is so essential.

Misericordia’s Communication Department helps residents overcome speech and language barriers through life-changing Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) technologies. From picture-based communication systems to eye-gaze technology — which allows individuals with limited mobility to select words simply by looking at a screen — and speech-generating devices that transform thoughts into spoken words, these innovative tools empower residents to express themselves, build relationships, make choices, and participate more fully in everyday life.

THE POWER TO START A CONVERSATION

Alaina Cody, a Speech and Language Pathologist in Misericordia’s Therapy Department, has been working closely with non-verbal and semi-verbal residents to integrate these tools into their daily routines. Since introducing residents to this technology, their reactions have been phenomenally positive!

Mark O., a friendly and familiar face who lives at the McGowan Home on Misericordia’s campus, has generously shared his success story. When Alaina began working with Mark in 2025, he was using an outdated device that crashed frequently, had a failing battery and recurring software issues. This would leave Mark without a way to clearly communicate. Mark does have the ability to produce some verbal speech but can be hard to understand, even with staff who have known him for years. This is where his new communication device offers a huge advantage.

Realizing that there was a need for an upgrade, Alaina secured a temporary device for Mark to try. Through careful data collection and analysis, by the end of 2025 a new, highly personalized AAC device had been approved for Mark.

Mark’s new “voice” was built through a team effort with the Communication Department, who customized his device to include frequently used vocabulary, names of staff, friends, and instructors, and common phrases. As an example, Mark’s schedule is very important to him, and he is now able to remind his staff of his routine and share his preferences.

Using his new device has transformed Mark’s daily routine. He can now also direct his personal care — such as specifically reminding staff not to put his socks in the dryer during laundry time! Mark can now call his friends and staff by name. Most importantly, he has the power to start a conversation and not only ask questions, but also bring up his concerns and talk about his favorite subjects.



Above: Mark O. of the McGowan Home loves using his personalized AAC device to talk with friends, direct his daily routine, and tell his staff how he likes things done!

R: Alaina Cody, MA, CCC-SLP, ATP, Speech-Language Pathologist, Misericordia Home Therapy Department



Recently, Mark proudly utilized his device at a staffing meeting to present his thoughts about his accomplishments, goals and schedule over the past year. As Mark enthusiastically sums it up, “My device is important!”

EMPOWERING EVERY VOICE

The Communication Department’s ultimate goal is to provide an Augmentative and Alternative Communication device for every Misericordia resident who could benefit from one.

If you would like to learn how to support Misericordia’s Therapy Department, including AAC communication, please contact Caroline Su, VP of Advancement at csu@misericordia.com

Mark your calendar ♥ Upcoming events



Please join the Misericordia Women's Board for the Heart of Mercy Ball, on October 17, 2026 at the Hilton Chicago. It will be a night to sparkle!

Together, we will raise needed funds to benefit Misericordia's residents and celebrate our esteemed 2026 honorees: *The Villers Family*, The Heart of Mercy Award; *Sharon and Tom Taylor*, The Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion; and *All of the devoted past and present volunteers of Misericordia's retail businesses*, The Pillars of the Community Award.

We are immensely grateful for the Women's Board's tireless fundraising efforts over many decades! Their passion and generosity have directly enriched the lives of those in our care. Proceeds from this year's gala will assist with furnishing some of the building projects that will be in progress over the fall and winter.

"Sparkle," is co-chaired by Joanna Horsnail and Cathy Cahill with the guidance of our president Janet Keller and our devoted membership.

We look forward to welcoming you!

For sponsorship or ticket information please visit
www.misericordia.com

AUGUST 10 | HEART LINKS

Shoreacres Country Club

www.misericordia.com

SEPTEMBER 3 | SUMMER CONCERT AT THEATER ON THE LAKE

www.misericordia.com

SEPTEMBER 13 | FAMILY FEST

www.misericordia.com

SEPTEMBER 21 | WOMEN'S GOLF OUTING

Oak Park Country Club

dorief@misericordia.com

OCTOBER 11 | CHICAGO MARATHON

misericordia.com

OCTOBER 17 | HEART OF MERCY BALL

www.misericordia.com

DECEMBER 6 | DECEMBER 13

Misericordia Christmas Brunches

for reservations contact:

christmasbrunches@misericordia.com

Official Charity Partner with Magellan to cheer on the Chicago Sky!



Every year, the Magellan Corporation selects a nonprofit partner to receive valuable marketing resources showcased during Chicago Sky games at Wintrust Arena.

This year, we're thrilled that Misericordia was chosen as the recipient of this incredible opportunity! Increasing public awareness of our mission, a 30-second commercial for Misericordia is played during the games.

And a Misericordia resident will be a Magellan Corporation Player of the Day on August 1st!

Be sure to head to a game and check it out — Misericordia residents are excited to cheer them on all season long!

Wrap-ups and thank you ♥ Your help keeps Misericordia thriving!

Women's Auxiliary celebrates their fundraising year



The Women's Auxiliary celebrated their fundraising year total with a check for \$1,002,000 presented to the Misericordia Foundation last May. Many thanks go out to the entire Auxiliary, with special gratitude to the outgoing president, Michaela Shaw.

The Auxiliary is active throughout the year, with their signature holiday event, Merry Mingle; the First Look for Charity event at the Chicago Auto Show; volunteering in the Hearts & Flour Bakery; and special activity days with residents. Congratulations to the incoming leadership team, who are busy with plans for 2026-2027!

L to R: Misericordia Foundation Director of Events and Public Relations, Julie O'Sullivan; Foundation Liaison Tim Young; Foundation Vice President of Advancement Caroline Su; and Women's Auxiliary Incoming co-presidents Laura Tillotson and Victoria Collado.

Misericordia Women's League and thirty years of heart

The Misericordia Women's League celebrated its 30th year as an organization with their annual Heart of Gold Benefit on March 7 at the Westin in Lombard.

The "Cheers to 30 Years" theme honored Diane and Tom Campion with The Sister Rosemary Connelly

Heart of Gold Award for their many years of dedication and service to the residents of Misericordia.

The annual benefit featured live and silent auctions; a paddle raise and raffle; live entertainment; delicious food and loads of fun!

Co-Chairs Irene Costello, Tina Dillon, and Jeanne Furlong guided fundraising

efforts to help support the more than 650 residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities at Misericordia.

The League has been an absolute powerhouse of philanthropy over the years with this fabulous event. Congratulations are due all around for another simply fantastic effort!



L to R: MWL Vice President (Incoming President) Kelly Coyne; 2026 Heart of Gold Benefit Co-chair (and Incoming Vice President) Irene Costello; 2026 Heart of Gold Benefit Co-chair Tina Dillon; MWL President Diane Fritz; Misericordia Foundation Director of Events and Public Relations Julie O'Sullivan; Misericordia Foundation Liaison Tim Young; 2026 Heart of Gold Benefit Co-chair Jeanne Furlong



Fr. Jack Clair with The Sister Rosemary Connelly Heart of Gold Award honorees Diane and Tom Campion.

The Bums Golf Outing ❤️ 52 years on the links with the Bums



Congratulations to Bum of the Year John Dyer, pictured with our amazing Bums' committee.



Cassin family and friends enjoying the day at Olympia Fields.

A little rain was no match to prevent the bums from having a great time on the links at the 52nd Annual Misericordia Bums Golf Outing. Many thanks to our generous sponsors, 675 golfers and everyone who supported the auction to make the Bums Outing an incredible success. Special thanks to our tireless Bums' committee and congratulations to John Dyer, the 2026 Bum of the Year. Congratulations also to Tom Finnegan, who made the first hole-in-one in Bums history! Hope to see everyone again next year on June 14.

Invest in the Heart ❤️ Shared purpose brings new partners

What a night for Misericordia's new fundraiser! On May 7, many of the city's most respected leaders from the financial and legal communities came together for the inaugural Invest in the Heart — an evening dedicated to generosity, connection and making a lasting difference for Misericordia.



L to R: Co-chairs, Joe Gaffigan, Vanja St.Clair and Lori Igleski

This inspiring new event brought together more than 80 corporate sponsors and 550 guests who joined us for a beautiful evening at the Wintrust Grand Banking Hall. \$1.2M was raised in honor and support of our residents.

With hearts united around a shared mission, Invest in the Heart proved to be a memorable celebration of hope, impact and the power of giving.

**Please join us again for next year's event on May 6th, 2027.
See you next year!**



Candy Days 2026 raised the roof!



Our Candy Days efforts raised an amazing \$2.89M for 2026! Many thanks to everyone who supported our Misericordia Candy Days during the months of March and April. We want to thank the wonderful foundations who provided us with matching gifts for online donations and to Jewel-Osco for the opportunity for friends to donate at the registers of their stores in Chicagoland. We continue to be inspired by the generosity of our friends.

10th Annual MYPC Red Heart Bash



Last February the Misericordia Young Professionals Council (MYPC) honored their Red Heart Award Honorees along with the original officers from MYPC, which began in 2015.

Above, L to R: Francesca Maddock, Elizabeth Kearney, Lois Gates, Jenny Graziano, Red Heart Award Recipients Becky and Conor Gee, Tom Halleran and JR Snyder

**For more information please contact
Samantha at srichter@misericordia.com**

Misericordia Siblings and The Artist in All Event ♥ A joyous night at the museum!



The Mis Siblings Artist in All committee

PRESENTING SPONSOR

The Mead Family

FOUNDER LOIS GATES SPONSORS

Cathy & Chris Cassin Family

Irish Woods Foundation

The Villers Family

On behalf of the artists who call Misericordia "home," we send our deepest gratitude to our staff, volunteers, and sponsors for your passion and support! Thanks to you, our annual auction at the Art Institute of Chicago raised \$1.1M for our programs at Misericordia! With 1,300 enthusiastic guests, 230 pieces of artwork at auction, and our resident artists so proud, it was an unforgettable and joyous night.



The Mead Family



Maxwell C. with his father Dave



Julie O'Sullivan and Lois Gates



Proud artists/siblings

66th Misericordia Family Association Benefit ♥ Rockin' Soldier Field

The 66th Annual MFA Benefit rocked the United Club at Soldier Field on June 25. Thanks to an incredible group of volunteers and generous donors, this year's party was an absolute blast!

The "Legacy of Love" award honored Madge and the late Bob Erlenbaugh. This beloved couple worked for many years to bring recognition to Misericordia while creating performance opportunities for the Heartzingers choir.

The MFA's massive success was made possible by the tireless work of com-

mittees and volunteers, the dedicated leadership of Benefit Chairs Lisa Masucci



and John Butler, MFA Chairs Scott and Deborah Early, and all members of the Misericordia Family Association.

The generous donation of a 2026 Jeep Compass Latitude by Bret Matthews and Jim Spellman of DuPage Chrysler Dodge Jeep RAM made our car raffle possible. We cannot express enough gratitude to our sponsors for their steadfast support, and we are thankful for their generous donations this year!



Fourth from L: Honoree Madge Erlenbaugh with her family.





TRIBUTOSAURUS

**performs Motown's
GREATEST HITS!**

Sept. 3rd, 2026
Theater on the Lake
(Fullerton & Lake Shore Drive)

Doors open 6:00 p.m.
Concert at 7:00 p.m.

**\$125 (includes Smoque BBQ,
Cocktails & Concert)**

**Get ready for some
Summer Fun!**

Summer celebration! On Sept. 3, the lakefront will come alive with great music, dancing, and food as tribute band TributosaurUS takes the stage with Motown hits.

Enjoy an evening by the lake while making a meaningful difference for the residents of Misericordia.



Federal employees
nationwide can
pledge
donations
to Misericordia

Our CFC code is 43851

PLANNED GIVING

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.

Misericordia, a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, is a residential community serving children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities from diverse ethnic, religious, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. Misericordia is located at 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-273-6300. You can find Misericordia online at misericordia.com. Please send any comments about the newsletter to kathyw@misericordia.com. 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