



Heart of Mercy

# Misericordia

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017



# FAMILY FEST

**Sunday, September 10, 2017** Save the date and spend a day of live entertainment, great food and fun for everyone! Family Fest is our largest fundraising event, when the Misericordia family joins the larger community to celebrate and support our programs and mission.

◆ **Order your tickets early!** Discount tickets are available through Aug. 20. Purchase online at [www.misericordia.org](http://www.misericordia.org), or use the enclosed ticket order form.

◆ **Free parking** is generously provided by S&C Electric Company, accessed on Devon Avenue, just east of Ridge. Buses to the Fest will be available.

### Cash/Car Raffle Tickets are Available

Top prize is \$50,000, with additional prizes between \$15,000 and \$500. Tickets: \$100 (3,000 tickets available).

**Take a chance on winning a fabulous Kia Optima LX compliments of Andy Francis of Evergreen KIA – and cash prizes, too!**

**Tickets: \$50, or 3/\$100. Purchase before July 20 for an extra chance in the Early Bird Cash Drawing!**

**To enter, please call (773) 273-4147 or mail your check to: Misericordia**

**Attn: Cash/Car Raffle  
6300 N. Ridge  
Chicago, IL 60660.**



**Volunteer!** Check online under the volunteer tab (after July 4) or contact Theresa Rooney at (773) 273-4134, [theresar@misericordia.com](mailto:theresar@misericordia.com) to learn how you can contribute!

## Sponsorship Opportunities

**Corporate Sponsorship** accounts for the majority of funds raised at the Fest. Excellent visibility, ad space in the program book and complimentary tickets are just a few of the benefits of corporate sponsorship.

**Contact Father Jack Clair at: [frjack@misericordia.com](mailto:frjack@misericordia.com) or (773) 273-4165 to learn how you or your company can become involved.**

Dear Family and Friends,

As many of you know, one of the most effective ways of telling the Misericordia story is by giving a tour. This “tour” can be as short as 30 minutes, but if you have the time, two hours would be necessary to cover the entire campus.

The comment we generally receive after a tour is that people truly experience “God’s love in action.” They feel the “true joy of happy people.” This is true even though Misericordia is needed in our world today because suffering is a reality. Humanly speaking, few people would ever choose to have a child with developmental disabilities and/or physical challenges. But in the mystery of God’s love, it happens and it happens to faithful people.

In spite of this, visitors are truly impressed by the happiness of our loving children and adults, our generous and dedicated staff at every level of service, our many wonderful volunteers and donors, and our amazing families. Why are they happy? Each day are they not surrounded by “wounded” people!?

“Compassion” is the virtue that dominates the “spirit of Misericordia!” In the past, compassion is defined as a loving and caring relationship between the healer and the wounded. Of course, we would be the healers and our children and adults are the wounded. Recently, a dear friend gave me a book by Father Greg Boyle, S.J., Tattoos on the Heart. There I found a new definition of “Compassion.” And in that definition, I have discovered what truly makes Misericordia so special.

Compassion is defined as a loving relationship between “equals.” All of us who have found lifetime work here at Misericordia know we receive from our gifted residents more than we give. Since it is demanding work, we recognize how blessed we are to share life with persons who accept life on God’s terms; who know how to live with mystery, never asking, “Why me, Lord?”, and who are free to love and be loved. Their spontaneity brings daily humor to sometimes difficult situations. They don’t need answers, but they do need answering people who are the Presence of God’s love for them. We know we are all “wounded” people, but our wounds are not as obvious as those of our residents.

Although it is important for us to give fair wages to our staff, at every level of service, no one will ever become materially rich working at Misericordia. Sharing life here at Misericordia is never “a job,” it is “a calling.” Some people remain a lifetime; others are called for a “period of time.” But, with very few exceptions, all feel blessed to be able to make a more loving and compassionate home in our world, for God’s most trusting and gifted people. Every day we can make a difference! How blessed we are to be given this opportunity.

Although we thank God daily for our blessings, Misericordia is still a human organization.

Thus, we must accept our limitations no matter how painful this may be. What is most difficult is when we must refuse a family admission either because we have no room or because our admission team’s conclusion was that we could not appropriately serve the person. We don’t want to set the person up for failure, and the reality is that we are a “Community,” and thus, persons admitted must be able to live with others. We truly know how difficult it is for some families to find service because of the severe behavioral demands of their family member. Accepting our limitations, when we see the great need, is challenging. But as many of you are aware, we do try to reach out to meet more unmet needs without losing quality life for all.

We do this because we trust and have confidence in you, our volunteers and donors. When I drive around our campus, I’m in awe of how God has blessed us through you, His people, our friends. The only reason we can provide quality life for our 600 children and adults, and the 200 children and adults who attend our outreach and day programs, is because of YOU! If we were not successful raising the private dollar, we could never be or do what the Misericordia of today accomplishes. You are all co-ministers of our mission. Together, we surely make a difference – in spite of our limitations! Words are inadequate to express our gratitude.

May the Risen Lord bring peace to our world, our country, our state, our homes, and in our hearts. Thank you for believing in us.

Lovingly,



Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM  
Executive Director



**Thank you** to the legislators and friends in the business and sports community who toured Misericordia or attended a sponsored event recently to learn more about our network of programs and services.



It was a very big day when our dear friend George McCaskey, chairman of the Chicago Bears, and former Chicago Bears right tackle, Big Cat Williams, came to visit with the residents of Misericordia!



Pictured above with Sister Rosemary Connelly and Fr. Jack Clair are, from left: Illinois State Senator Tom Cullerton and Misericordia parent Jim Varey.



Illinois State Representative Allen Skillicorn (second from left) pictured with Sister Rosemary Connelly and the Aussin family during a visit and tour of Misericordia.

## Misericordia's Outreach Program Celebrated Spring

with an annual luncheon and mass in April. Misericordia's Outreach Program is dedicated to providing support and activities to children, teens and adults who are living at home with their families. Programs include play groups, a tweens group, summer camp and adult outreach through our Developmental Training Department.



Families of the Misericordia Outreach program enjoy the annual luncheon and mass.



For additional information on Misericordia's Outreach Program, please contact Anne Maddock at 773-273-3064 or [annem@misericordia.com](mailto:annem@misericordia.com).



**The Artist in All Preview** event, hosted once again by our friends at Jenner & Block, provided a sneak peak at what is in store for this years 20th anniversary event. Thank you to the Artist in All leadership, to Misericordia sibling Mark Miller and Jenner & Block, who graciously hosted the evening!



Above: Paul P. and Judd M. display the Artist in All Signature Piece, "Chicago Rhythm," at the preview event.

Inset: Misericordia Siblings and Artist in All event chairs, from left, Jackie Miller and Lisa Paradis.



Join more than 600 golfers  
at the 43rd Annual  
**MISERICORDIA  
BUMS GOLF OUTING**

**Olympia Fields North & South  
and Flossmoor Country Clubs**  
**Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner,  
Live Auction - Raffle**  
**18 holes of golf and more!**  
**\$750 per golfer or \$3,000 per foursome**

Register online at [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com),  
or contact Dorie Finnegan  
at [dorief@misericordia.com](mailto:dorief@misericordia.com),  
773-273-4178 to purchase raffle  
tickets/reservations.

## First Look for Charity: An Elegant night of fast cars and fun!

Misericordia Women's Auxiliary welcomed over 900 guests to the reception for First Look for Charity at McCormick Place on Friday, February 10, 2017. A night of live and silent auctions, great food and drink and live entertainment was enjoyed by so many generous friends of Misericordia. The event, which is held the night before the Chicago Auto Show opens to the public, raised over \$350,000 to benefit the children and adults served by Misericordia. Many thanks to event chairs Mary Carter and Cindy Bickel alongside President Cathy Popp for a fabulous event!



Thanks to our good friend Norton Shapiro, Misericordia is raffling off a 2004 Porsche (with under 10,000 miles) to benefit our medical & therapy programs. Only 600 tickets will be sold and the drawing will take place on the evening of June 12 at the Misericordia Bums Golf Outing.

Tickets are \$100. If you are interested, please contact Dorie Finnegan at [dorief@misericordia.com](mailto:dorief@misericordia.com), or 773-273-4178.



Above, from left: Father Jack Clair, Mary Pat O'Brien, Lou Manfredini, Lois Gates, Lin Brehmer, Teresa Puente and Kevin Connolly.



From left: Co-chair Mary Carter, Women's Auxiliary President Cathy Popp and co-chair Cindy Bickel.



Many thanks to our generous donors of the 2017 Jeep Cherokee, Bret Matthews and Jim Spellman! Pictured, from left, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Kate V., Debbie Villers, Mary Piemonte, Jim Spellman, Mary Pat O'Brien, Tracie Platt, Lois Gates and Jim Spellman.

## Gather around the table at the MFA Dinner Dance

Please join the Misericordia Family Association at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on Saturday, June 24, 2017 for the annual Dinner Dance. Enjoy an evening that features cocktails, sit-down dinner, live and silent auctions, and dancing. Take part in "The Giving Tree," where donors can choose from a wish list of items requested to enhance the quality of our Developmental Training Programs. Don't miss the chance to win a 2017 Jeep Cherokee generously donated by DuPage Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram dealership in Glendale Heights. Only 3000 tickets will be sold at \$50 per chance.

*Tickets are available at Misericordia at Thome Reception. Drawing will be held the evening of the Dinner Dance. Winner need not be present.*

*Dinner Dance tickets are available by contacting:*

*MFAReservations@gmail.com*



Misericordia residents had the opportunity visit the Chicago Bears Walter Payton Center in Lake Forest and participate in a flag football tournament!

## 16th Annual Heart Links Open

Tuesday, July 18, 2017 Shoreacres, Lake Bluff, IL

18 Holes of Golf | Fore-caddie  
with each foursome

Carts | Luncheon Buffet

Tee Prize | Beverages/Snacks on course

Awards Reception | Cocktail Party

\$4,000 per foursome; \$1,000 per golfer

Lunch: 11 am | Shotgun Start: 1 pm

Awards Reception/Cocktail Party: 6 pm

For information,  
contact Hugh Connolly at  
hughc@misericordia.com

773-273-3036

### *In loving memory*



**Edmund C. Boyle**  
1930 - 2017

*Our dear friend Edmund was part of our Misericordia family for over three decades. He was a caring and loving volunteer, dedicated to helping Misericordia residents in so many ways. For his outstanding generosity and service, Edmund received the Heart of Mercy Award in 2012.*



**Joe Madden**  
1932 - 2017

*Joe Madden was a member of the Misericordia Advisory Board since 1976 and Misericordia Board of Directors. He was also a committed member of the BUMS golf outing group. Throughout the years Joe consistently shared his time, generosity, and friends. Joe was devoted to the mission of Misericordia and received the Heart of Mercy Award in 1992.*



**Robert S. Walsh**  
1929 - 2017

*Bob Walsh was a founding member of the first Misericordia Parent Group, a member of the Advisory Board, and the BUMS golf outing group. He was a true friend, caring, kind, and a compassionate person. He had a great sense of humor and will be truly missed by his Misericordia family. Bob received the first Heart of Mercy Award in 1983 for his ability to spread the mission of Misericordia through his work at NBC New York and NBC Chicago.*

# The Lucky Days of March Madness



## The Misericordia Women's League celebrated St. Patrick's Day in style

this year, and welcomed over 450 guests to their annual March Madness event held at the Oak Brook Hills Hilton. The lucky guests enjoyed a night full of basketball, live and silent auctions, delicious food and an appearance by the one and only Jim Cornelison! Special

thanks to CBS 2 Anchor Rob Johnson, who once again graciously served as the MC for the night. Many thanks also to our dedicated and talented event chairs, Lee Wilson and Liz Sheehan, as well as President Patty Burke for all of their hard work to make March Madness 2017 a complete success!



Above: Sister Rosemary Connelly and Lois Gates with March Madness co-chairs, from left, Liz Sheehan and Lee Wilson.

Above left: The Misericordia Women's League honored the Shannon Family for their dedication to Misericordia and the Women's League. Pictured, from left, Brian and Kitty Shannon, along with Kate and Mark Boyle.



Left: Residents and friends celebrated Saint Patrick's Day on the Misericordia float during the downtown parade.

Below: Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel stopped by to visit with Misericordia residents at the Montgomery Club after the parade.

**Misericordia loves St. Patrick's Day in Chicago**, and our friends and supporters celebrated to the fullest. Mis residents marched proudly with the Misericordia banner in the Southside Irish and "downtown" parades. The Montgomery Club was the place to gather downtown for a post parade-party. Even the Mayor stopped by! Thank you to Gibsons Restaurant Group and The Montgomery Club, Steve and Peggy Lombardo and all of our supporters for a great weekend!





*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.*

Mary Ann Anderson; Marla R. Andrews; Tyrone T. Andrews; Elsie Antognoli; Leonard W. Bazan; Mariellyn B. Bianco; David P. Biasco; Mary Blaschke; August J. "Jerry" Boehm; Magdalena Bohn; Helen E. Bowler; Edmund C. Boyle; Donald J. Bradley; Patricia L. Breen; Sheilann Brosnahan; Angeline J. Buffa; Joseph A. Buffa; John J. Caulfield; John J. Chiappetta; Thomas F. Clucas; Andrew B. Connolly; Mae M. Connor; John J. Conway; Jeanne A. Carroll Cooney; Paul G. Coughlin; Bridget T. Coyle; Dolores J. Creighton; Kelly Creighton; Ulisse P. Cucco; Mary R. Cuniff; Donald R. Cusack; Yvonne M. Damien; Margaret "Peggy" Devine; Margaret M. Dooling; Thomas E. O'Driscoll; James W. Farrell; Constance M. Fitzgerald; William J. Frapolly; James F. Futrell; Edward S. Gall; Michael Joseph Garrity; Melvyn J. Gilson; Elizabeth P. Griffin; William D. Hagerty; Jonathon Hawkins; Ada Fox Hickey; Cynthia O. Hutchinson; Marilyn E. Huth; Barbara C. Ius; Beverly B. Janke; Patricia A. Karr; Thomas F. Kilcoyne; Margaret D. Klepitsch; William R. Klueg; Thomas J. Kolavo; Shirley A. Kudla; Patricia Kunka; Philip Lally; Rose Lamb; Geraldine G. "Tiki" Lambrecht; Joseph M. Madden; Mary C. Mahoney; Marion A. Maier; Marie Makowski; Michael J. "Sean" McCarthy; Cecilia J. McEnerney; Frank P. McGovern; Mary E. McKinney; Jimmy McNeely; Joan B. Meyer; Albert J. Miklausch; Patrick J. Minogue; Ann Mithoug; William J. Moore; Therese M. Moran; Sheila J. Morgano; Leo R. Murphy; Charles "Charlie" Nash; June Obradovich; Brian H. O'Connell; John Joseph O'Connor; Jeffrey R. Ofenloch; Florence "Barbara" O'Grady; Robert O'Keefe; Barbara Olsen; Frances M. Oppliger; Steven J. Oprondek; Vincent J. Pellettieri; Jerilyn A. Petrelli; Helen M. Quaid; Robert J. Rafferty; Leonard Reiffel; Natalie M. Reis; Doris H. Ringstrom; Thomas F. Rochford; Rosemary Rockelmann; Catherine "Cathy" Rollings; Josephine Ruffini; Jean M. Schmit; Catherine A. Schulz; Helen Slotkus; Jean Martin Stokes; William G. Stortz; James B. Sullivan; Ronald Timko; Brian E. Turry; Juanita Uezen; Robert S. Walsh; Thomas P. Walsh; Richard Ward; Dorothy R. Williams; Rosemary B. Wolf



## Junior Board presents the 4th Annual Spring Shuffle

The Misericordia Junior Board welcomed over 250 volunteers and residents for a day of fun and fitness at the 4th Annual Springtime Shuffle on April 9. The event has grown substantially in 4 short years, our many thanks to the amazing volunteers and dedicated Junior Board

Advisor, Anne Mills! After months of hard work, the Junior Board raised over \$12,000 for Misericordia. Congratulations and thanks for your belief in Misericordia's mission.

**For more information on joining or supporting the Misericordia Junior Board, please contact Teresa Puente at [teresap@misericordia.com](mailto:teresap@misericordia.com).**



## Misericordia Heartracers Gear Up for 2017 Bank of America Chicago Marathon

A team of 54 runners will represent Misericordia this year at the 40th Anniversary of the Bank of America Chicago Marathon on Sunday, October 8. From seasoned runners to first-time marathoners, each member of this year's team must raise between \$1,000 and \$1,500 to support Misericordia's programs and services that benefit our 600 residents and more than 100 outreach participants.

Last year, the 2016 Heartracers team raised \$85,000! And year after year, the Bank of America Chicago Marathon Charity Program continues to grow as one of Misericordia's major fundraising events. The last day to register as a charity runner is June 30, 2017.

**If you would like to join the 2017 Heartracers team, or need additional information, please contact Martha Floberg, Development Officer, at 773-273-4125, [marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com)**

**To donate to the 2017 Heartracers, please visit [www.firstgiving.com/misericordia](http://www.firstgiving.com/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 and are interested in joining the Sister Rosemary Connelly Society, please call or email:

**Bob Bourke at 773-273-4173  
[robertb@misericordia.com](mailto:robertb@misericordia.com).**

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



## The 2017 Ragnar Team training for their Michigan run this September

The 2017 Misericordia Heartsquad Ragnar team is training for their race, on September 29-30, when they will run 200 miles from Muskegon to Traverse City, MI. A team of 12 dedicated staff and volunteers will pile into two vans and begin tag-team running throughout the day and night, each running 3 different legs of the journey. The Ragnar team is currently raising funds to support Misericordia and its wonderful residents. Best of luck in all your efforts this year!

*Offer your support at [www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/misericordiaheartsquad-for-ragnar-relay](http://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/misericordiaheartsquad-for-ragnar-relay) or be a Corporate Sponsor! Contact Joe Ferrara at [joef@misericordia.com](mailto:joef@misericordia.com).*



**Misericordia's Special Olympics team** works year round to achieve their fitness goals. The cold spring weather this year was no match for the enthusiasm of our athletes! Congratulations to all competitors and their coaches and best of luck to those who will attend the state competition this summer!

Misericordia is a residential facility 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](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 Peter Behle at 773-273-2768 or [peterb@misericordia.com](mailto:peterb@misericordia.com).

## Save the Date

### Farmers Market

Tuesdays, May - October | Federal Plaza

Thursdays, May - October | Daley Plaza

773-273-4759

June 12 | BUMS Golf Outing

[dorief@misericordia.com](mailto:dorief@misericordia.com)

June 24 | MFA Dinner Dance

[MFAReservations@gmail.com](mailto:MFAReservations@gmail.com)

July 18 | Heartlinks Open

[hughc@misericordia.com](mailto:hughc@misericordia.com)

September 10 | Family Fest

[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

October 8 | Bank of America Chicago Marathon

[marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com)

October 14 | MYPC Red Heart Bash

[julieo@misericordia.com](mailto:julieo@misericordia.com)



# Candy Days 2017



In spite of the weather, God continues to bless us through His people, our families and friends. In 2017, Candy Days for Misericordia were as successful as past years. Throughout the city, suburbs and down-state over 10,000 Misericordia volunteers put on their Candy Days aprons and flooded streets, store fronts and train

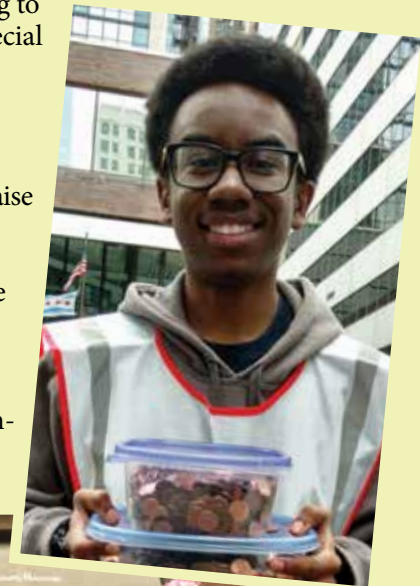
stations asking for donations. The total dollar amount received is not yet available, but according to reports from all "corners" of our world, everyone was pleased with the results. Once again, a special thanks to the Jelly Belly Company and its president Bill Kelley (himself a volunteer with me at Union Station). For 14 years, their generous gift of candy has made this all possible.

The discovery of a new and very wonderful way of raising money without standing out in inclement weather has been very successful and encouraging for future Candy Days. Five years ago, Gregg Hartemayer, our full-time volunteer, introduced Misericordia to a new web-based way to raise donations online: FirstGiving.

This year, FirstGiving pages for our 2017 Candy Days are at an all-time high. To date, 297 pages created by families and friends have raised \$897,250. Is this not unbelievable? The range of success varied greatly, but we want everyone who made the effort to know that whatever their gift was, it added up and contributed greatly to the total success of this effort. Everyone involved deserves special thanks for their participation in this event

Special thanks also, to all who participated: especially you who weren't daunted by the weather and were such wonderful public relations ambassadors for Misericordia by your very presence.

How blessed we are! We wish God's blessings on all who responded positively to our efforts. Whether you were a volunteer or donor, God surely blesses us through His people.



Gratefully,  
*Sister Rosemary*  
Sister Rosemary



# Candy Days 2017

Thank you to the thousands of people who supported Misericordia's Candy Days effort. We appreciate each and every one of you!

