



HEART OF MERCY

# Misericordia

## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2014



## Misericordia's 34th annual Family Festival is ready to roll!

Looking for a day of sunshine, smiles, great food and entertainment? You don't have to search too far. Join us for Misericordia's annual Family Fest on September 7, 2014!

Between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. our campus at 6300 N. Ridge Avenue will host the best party in town! Misericordia's largest fundraising event of the year brings our families, friends and neighbors together for a day of celebration that has something for everyone — you don't want to miss it!

**Entertainment!** WGN's "Mr. Fix-It" Lou Manfredini; Live auction with Lin Brehmer of WXRT 93.1 FM; Misericordia Heartbreakers and Heartzingers; The Jesse White Tumblers, the Shannon Rovers and games for the kids!

**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 [frjack@misericordia.com](mailto:frjack@misericordia.com) or (773) 273-4165 to learn how your family or company can be involved.

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

**Donate!** All of the delicious food for the fest is donated — enough to keep over 18,000 people happy! Please contact **Jim Ahlfeld at 773-273-4199** or [jima@misericordia.com](mailto:jima@misericordia.com) if you are able to help with food donations.



**Tickets! Fest Wear!** Order Early — Entry is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children and seniors. Discounted tickets are available through Aug. 20. Buy tickets and shirts online at [misericordia.org](http://misericordia.org), use the enclosed order form, or call **773-273-2768** for more information. Tickets also available at Misericordia; stop by at **1850 W. Thome Avenue Reception.**

**S&C Electric** generously provides free parking for fest-goers, which can be accessed off Devon Avenue, just east of Ridge. A bus to the fairgrounds will be available.

### Cash & Car Raffles

Organized by Pauline Greco and her fabulous committee, the cash raffle offers a top prize of \$50,000 and additional prizes between \$15,000 and \$500.

#### Tickets:

\$100 (3,000 tickets available). Purchase before July 24 for an extra chance in the Early Bird Drawing!

Take a chance on winning a car and additional cash prizes compliments of **Andy Francis of Evergreen KIA.** Tickets: \$50, or 3/\$100.



**Smokey Blue 2015 KIA Optima**  
(or \$10,000)

**To enter, call (773) 273-4147**

or mail your check to:

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

## *Dear Friends,*

I'm happy to report it has been a relatively quiet summer but now preparations for our September Family Festival (always the Sunday after Labor Day) are in motion. It is truly a "miracle" how every committee responsible for the day knows what is needed, accomplishes those demanding tasks, and makes it all look effortless. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you. It is always great fun!

God surely blesses us through the wonderful people whom we are privileged to claim as members of the Misericordia Family – friends who believe our children and adults deserve the best and believe enough to become involved. We would never be what we are today if we did not enjoy your loving friendship and generous support.

In 1997 when we opened our first "CILA" home in the neighborhood across from St. Gertrude Church, we pledged that we would have as a goal at least 10 CILA homes. Although it took us seventeen years to accomplish this goal, we have just purchased our tenth home in the neighborhood. The adults living in these homes love their residences. But even though this is so, they would be isolated if they did not have the resources of our Campus to complement their lives.

In the 17 years we have been operating CILAs we have had to bring four of those residents back to Campus. One went to our McAuley Skilled Nursing home and three to our Holbrook Residence which provides more nursing care than some of our other residences.

It was because we have the full continuum of care that the above residents were able to return to Misericordia Campus for more intense care. Since these changes occurred over seventeen years and coincided with space becoming available in either McAuley Skilled Nursing Home or Holbrook Residence, it was possible to continue caring for these four residents. After returning to our campus, they lived comfortable and dignified lives for five to six years and then God called them "home." We felt blessed and privileged we could walk this final journey with them and their families.

It is our hope with the building of our Quinlan Terrace, which will provide four lovely homes for our aging population, that we will be able to provide more families with the comfort of end-of-life care. With the projection of 200 residents either aging into their sixties or already in their sixties by 2020, we can't promise that every person now living at Misericordia will be able to be given end-of-life care. These homes will surely help make this a reality for many adults who are now living at Misericordia but it's a "promise" which involves factors that are not in our control. But without a doubt, after the Quinlan Terrace homes are available this will greatly increase our ability to provide comfort to more families! What a gift this will be!

Words are inadequate to express how grateful we are to all involved in so many of our "extra" events. God surely has touched the hearts of many, many good and generous people who believe in us enough to work tirelessly for us. Misericordia could never be the "home" it is without your generous support. Together we are all making the world more compassionate and loving.

Thank you for believing in us. God's blessings on you and yours.



Sister Rosemary pictured with some of the Misericordia Heartbreakers.



Quinlan Terrace under construction.

Gratefully,

*Sister Rosemary*

Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM  
Executive Director

**THANK YOU** to all of the legislators who took time out of their busy schedules to visit Misericordia and learn more about our programs.



Fr. Jack, Barbara Goldman, Sr. Rosemary, U.S. Representative Brad Schneider, and Louis Goldman.



IL State Senator Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant with Joel Vargo, Lois Gates, and Cynthia Primar, co-director of the McCauley residence.



Beverly Hood, Sr. Rosemary, US Representative Robin Kelly, and Fr. Jack.



Mr. & Mrs. Aussin, IL State Senator Karen McConnaughay, IL State Representative Michael Tryon and Mary Pat O'Brien, Assist. Exec. Director at Misericordia.



IL State Representative Robyn Gabel



IL State Representative David McSweeney



IL State Representative Charles Meier, IL State Representative Tom Morrison, Sr. Rosemary, IL State Representative Jeanne Ives, IL State Senator Michael Connelly, IL State Representative Michael McAuliffe, and Fr. Jack.

### New CILA home is open!

The Lauren Rafferty Family Home in Lincolnwood opened in April and is now home to 8 ladies. The dedication party on June 8 with Lauren and the Rafferty family & friends was filled with warmth and laughter!

Thank you to the Rafferty family for their generous support!



Above: Sister Rosemary Connelly and Father Jack Clair with Jim & Cheri Rafferty and the Rafferty Home's new residents.

### Misericordia Welcomes the President of Ireland

Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabina honored Misericordia with a visit last May! President Higgins graciously signed resident artist Brenden's painting which was auctioned at our Artist in All fundraiser in May. Thank you to Roseanne LeFevour from the American Ireland Fund for inviting President Higgins to visit Misericordia.



Above: Father Jack Clair, Sabina Coyne, President Michael D. Higgins, Sister Rosemary Connelly and Lois Gates pose with Brenden's painting.



Right: The Lauren Rafferty Home.



Federal employees everywhere please note, Misericordia's CFC code is 43851.



**Pictured from left:** Diana Ditka, Bob Marzoli, Sister Rosemary Connelly; John Mastrantoni and Mike Ditka.

## Bums turn 40!!

Our good friends Mike and Diana Ditka and more than 600 golfers gathered at Olympia Fields, Flossmoor and Idlewild Country Clubs for the 40th annual Bums Golf outing on June 9. A beautiful day on the links was followed by cocktails, dinner and a fabulous silent & live auction at Olympia Fields. Congratulations to the 2014 BUMS of the Year, John Mastrantoni and Bob Marzoli, who were presented with the Brian O. Shannon "BUM of the Year" Award for their commitment to the Outing and Misericordia. Our sincere thanks to our volunteers and the devoted members of the BUMS committee for their efforts to make the 40th anniversary of the BUMS Outing a great success.



## Around the table with the MFA dinner dance

Family and friends of Misericordia celebrated at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont on Saturday, June 21, 2014 for the Misericordia Family Association Dinner Dance! A little rain didn't dampen spirits at all as more than 2,000 people enjoyed a wonderful evening featuring a sit-down dinner, live and silent auctions, entertainment by the Heartbreakers, and lots of dancing!

Bill Koehler was the lucky winner of a 2014 Jeep Cherokee generously donated by John Kay's DuPage Dodge, Chrysler & Jeep dealership in Glendale

Heights.

A highlight of the evening came during the paddle raise when a good friend anonymously contributed the start up funding for an on-site dental clinic on Misericordia's campus!

Special thank-yous and congratulations go out to co-chairs Susan Hackett and Marilyn Babjak for their hard work on this wonderful event!

**Pictured above:** Gay and Debbie Villers, MFA chaircouple; Mary Pat O'Brien, Assistant Director of Misericordia; Susan Hackett, Sr. Rosemary, Marilyn Babjak, and Pat and Patrick Durkin, fundraising chairs.

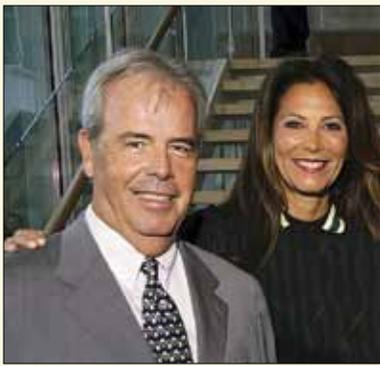
Save the date Thursday September 25, when golfers will flock to beautiful Evanston Golf Club in Skokie for the 5th Annual Fall Festival Golf Outing organized by the Corcoran Family Foundation.

A contribution of \$500/single golfer or \$2,000/foursome covers 18 holes of golf on beautiful Donald J. Ross course at Evanston Golf Club in Skokie, cart, lunch, cocktails, and dinner.

The silent auction, live auction and raffle, \$100/ticket gives you a chance to win \$5,000 1st prize, Mini iPad 2nd & 3rd prizes! Only 300 tickets will be sold. Join us for lunch \$50 and/or dinner \$100.

To get involved as a golfer, sponsor, purchase raffle tickets or join us for lunch/dinner, please contact:

**Lulu Wirtz at 312-373-5030 or [lwirtz@rjobrien.com](mailto:lwirtz@rjobrien.com).**



Honorary Chairs and Grand Sponsors Charles and Rebecca Besser.

## THE ARTIST IN ALL 2014



The atmosphere at the Modern wing of the Art Institute of Chicago was electric with excitement as 1700 guests bid on over 300 pieces of resident artwork and enjoyed an evening of creativity, delicious food and community spirit last May 21st. The Artist in

**Right:** Misericordia's art instructors.

All is hosted by the Misericordia Siblings Association (brothers and sisters of Misericordia residents) and raised over \$500,000 through event sponsorship and art sales for Misericordia Home.



Our gratitude to artist Gabriel Specter who contributed two collaborative paintings with Misericordia's resident artists. Special thanks to our Honorary Chairs and Grand Sponsors Charles and Rebecca Besser and family and to the Northern Trust Company and Office Max for their generous support of Misericordia.

Congratulations to co-chairs Rebecca Pasquesi and Jen Surma and the Artist in All Committee for their exceptional leadership!



The Misericordia Siblings Association Artist in All Committee.



***misericordia*** women's golf outing



**TIME: 8:30 am**  
**Shotgun**  
**COST: \$350**  
**per person**  
*(includes continental breakfast, lunch and golf)*

**Monday, September 29, 2014**  
**Oak Park Country Club, River Grove, IL**

*Please join us! Sponsorship opportunities are available.*

**Contact: Therese Loftus at [tloftus@misericordia.com](mailto:tloftus@misericordia.com)**  
**or call 773-273-4163**



### The Heart of Mercy Ball 2014 Honorees

were announced by the Misericordia Women's Board at an elegant kick off event at Misericordia on June 26.

Save the date of November 14 when the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel will be the destination for an evening benefiting Misericordia. This year Bernadette and Edmund Boyle will be honored with the Heart of Mercy Award. The Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion will be awarded to Peggy and Bob Bourke, and the inaugural Pillars of the Community Award will be given to Walsh Construction; Dan Walsh and Matt Walsh.

*Questions? Contact Mary Doherty 773.273.4177  
www.heartofmercyball.org*

**Pictured top left:** Patty, Amy, and Dan Walsh (not pictured, Matt Walsh). **Pictured top right:** Joe, Bernadette, and Edmund Boyle. **Pictured bottom left:** Bob, Molly, and Peggy Bourke.

### Join the Heartracers! Run the Bank of America Marathon

The 2014 Chicago Marathon is Sunday, October 12 and this year there are 71 Heartracers who have pledged to raise \$1000/1500 each, and run 26.2 miles while doing it!

So far over \$16,000 has been raised! Join the Heartracers or be a part of our team's fundraising efforts for the coming year; we would love to hear from you!

**Contact Therese Loftus at  
(773) 273-4163  
or tloftus@misericordia.com.**



### Hearts & Flour Bakery Farmers Markets

#### Daley Plaza

Thursdays 7am-3pm  
May 15 through October  
50 W. Washington (& Dearborn)

#### Devon Market

Wednesdays, 4-8pm  
July 9 through Sept. 10  
2720 W. Devon Street  
(Republic Bank Parking Lot)

#### Federal Plaza

Tuesdays, 7am-3pm  
May 19 through October  
50 W. Adams (& Dearborn)

**Stop by and  
see us!**

## Misericordia rocks the Special Olympics

This year's 42 athletes who qualified and attended the Summer Games at Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL had a great weekend of track & field, aquatics and soccer. One of our soccer teams came home with a 2nd place medal! Other highlights included the soccer performances of Jake and Molly, who were selected to try out for the 2015 World competition Illinois soccer team! Many thanks to all of our chaperones which included

staff, parents, cousins, a brother-in-law and many volunteers! A very special thank you to the Special Olympics coaches: Jennifer Lunz, Soccer & Track & Field; and Mary Ann Zielke, Aquatics.





*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.*

Richard S. Babjak, Sr.; Kenneth James "Ken" Bauman; Robert T. Brennan; Matthew J. Brennock; John A. Brucato; Thomas Byrne; Patrick Casey; Binnie Choslovsky; Josephine Z. Cleff; Laura A. Cortesi; Myrtle P. Cullnan; Janice Mary Dalton; David D. Di Paolo; William E. Dooling; Sr. Helen F. Doremus, OSM; Catherine L. Fiedler; Margaret Beth Funk; Mary Eileen Gerber; Leslie R. Janecek; Gerda Lydia Jensen; Estelle Kahn; Kathleen Lydon Kane; Thaddeus "Ted" Kocal; Leonard A. Kunka; Lillian Martinez; Elaine June McCraw; Kathryn Frayne McGuinn; Joyce J. McKernan; Jonas Montvilas; Robert John Murray; Geraldine O'Connor; Mary Margaret O'Malley; Thomas L. Pottie; Emilia "Emily" Rossi; Donald P. Rutz; Mary Schumacher; Amely H. Silver; Dorothy L. Svec; Eileen D. Travers; Adelina Vena; Maureen Walsh; Eugene H. "Gene" Zahn



## The Heartsquad celebrates success in the 200 mile Ragnar relay

The Ragnar Race is a running relay from Madison to Chicago, where each participant runs three times, for 3-8 miles. The relay goes on day and night, and all for charity! This year Misericordia's Heartsquad came from all across campus to run for our team! So far they have raised 14K for Misericordia! If you would like to donate towards next year's run, visit [www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/team-heartsquad](http://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia/team-heartsquad) or contact **Joe Ferrara at: [joef@miseriordia.com](mailto:joef@miseriordia.com) or call 773-273-3054.**

## Congratulations to the Heartsquad and all Misericordia staff led by Joe Ferrara!

Beth Muckler – Therapy  
 Briget Buffington – Shannon Apts.  
 Carly Svenstrup; Dan Rempert; Rachel Michels; Marina Middleton– Village  
 Dan Ostrozovich – Therapy Aide  
 Isaac Reichman – PEP program  
 Jennifer Vetter; Scott Donovan – CILA  
 Sharon Keane – HR  
 Volunteers: Mr. and Mrs. Rickerson  
 Bike Riders: Denise Tigges; Chris Hegg; Alisa Jordan  
 Van Drivers: Jeff and Mary-Frances Schultz

## Mis takes a seat for Wrigley's 100th birthday

On May 30th several Misericordia resident artists were on hand along with Lois Gates and Julie O'Sullivan outside the Wrigley Building to unveil



a set of stadium chairs in honor of Wrigley Field's 100th Birthday!

Misericordia's chairs are among 50 custom-made pairs of ballpark seats designed by Chicago non-profit agencies and artists to represent Wrigley Field's history. Misericordia resident artists that worked on the project were very proud to be a part of the celebration. The Centennial Seats will be sold in an online auction where participants can place bids to purchase the seats, with proceeds split between Cubs Charities and the non-profit! To place a bid, (until Aug. 10) go to [www.cubs.com/chairs](http://www.cubs.com/chairs).

**Left:** Julie O'Sullivan, Kristine H., Paul P. and Lois Gates stand behind the stadium seats painted by residents in Misericordia's art studio.

## Bequests and Annuities

To those friends who wish to help assure the continuation and growth of Misericordia by mentioning Misericordia in your will, the following general form is suggested: "I give, devise, bequeath to Misericordia Home, an Illinois not-for-profit organization located at 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago Illinois, the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (or percentage, or specifically described property)." Contact Kevin Connelly at 773-273-4167 / [kevin@miseriordia.com](mailto:kevin@miseriordia.com) or visit the planned giving page at [miseriordia.org](http://miseriordia.org). Additionally, gift annuities will give you an opportunity to receive an annual fixed income for the rest of your life, as well as possible tax deduction in the year the gift is made. Gift annuities require a gift of \$5,000 or more and the donor must be at least 60 years of age.

Make the switch to an electronic version of this newsletter and save postage AND the environment! Please email your request to [newsletter@miseriordia.com](mailto:newsletter@miseriordia.com). Include your name, address, and zip code or the 5 or 6 digit ID number located to the right of your address on this newsletter.

## Save the Date

**Misericordia Family Fest – September 7**

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

**Fall Festival Golf Outing  
September 25**

Lulu Wirtz at 312-373-5030 or  
[lwirtz@rjobrien.com](mailto:lwirtz@rjobrien.com).

**Women's Golf Outing – September 29**

[tloftus@misericordia.com](mailto:tloftus@misericordia.com)  
or call 773-273-4163

**Bank of America Chicago Marathon  
October 12**

[tloftus@misericordia.com](mailto:tloftus@misericordia.com)  
or call 773-273-4163

**Heart of Mercy Ball – November 14**

tickets available mid-September  
call 773.273.4177 or visit  
[www.heartofmercyball.org](http://www.heartofmercyball.org)

**Holiday Brunches  
Dec. 7 & 14**

773-273-4738 or email  
[christmasbrunches@misericordia.com](mailto:christmasbrunches@misericordia.com)

## Play video games while supporting Misericordia!

Misericordia was selected as a charity partner for *The Adventures of Ai*, a new book, video game and music about a courageous eleven-year-old

girl from 16th century Japan. New York Times best selling author Craig Bouchard chose Misericordia as a beneficiary because it "is a place where miracles are a daily event." Craig recently stated that he looks up to Sister Rosemary and thinks Misericordia is the most important home in the world for children and adults with developmental disabilities.

As part of the video game's release, there will be a global competition



involving millions of kids around the world to raise money for charities benefiting kids! Players will compete in Ai's Adventure on behalf of their country, and 20% of the competition revenue will be donated to the participating charities.

**Here's how to help:**  
download the game, play for USA, and earn game points to raise money.  
**One World, One Team!**

**Go to [misericordia.com](http://misericordia.com) for more information and login address.**

**Please visit *The Adventures of Ai* tent at Family Fest on September 7 for kids of ALL ages!**

## THIS AND THAT...



Paul and the Misericordia Heartzingers celebrated mass with Father Tom Hurley and the children of the Frances Xavier Warde School at Old St. Pat's church in Chicago.

**THANK YOU** to our WONDERFUL, early rising volunteers who staffed the Mis water station and charity tent at the North Shore Classic in June.

Misericordia was again the beneficiary of the race that was organized by RAM Racing.



Thank You! Matthew Connor and the brothers of ATO fraternity at Indiana University held their second annual Walk for Autism, raising over \$21,000 for Misericordia.

### Family Fest Help needed!

The **Gentle Touch Booth** at Family Fest has a donation of yarn and needs knitters to create scarves sweaters, baby booties, etc. to sell in the booth. Please contact **Sue Spire at 847-299-6993** to pick up the yarn. Items will need to be completed before Family Fest on September 7, 2014.

**Looking for experienced balloon animal creators** to volunteer at Family Fest on September 7, 2014. Please contact **Theresa Rooney in our volunteer office at 773-273-4161.**

## The record breaking totals are in!

With the generosity of Bill Kelley and the Jelly Belly Candy Company, Candy Days 2014 raised 1.7 million dollars for Misericordia! We thank the thousands of donors, volunteers and those who set up First Giving Pages across Chicagoland and beyond!

**Together we made it happen!**

