



Heart of Mercy

# Misericordia

## NEWSLETTER



Winter 2015

### Archbishop Blase Cupich receives a warm welcome to the Misericordia Family

Misericordia was blessed with a very special holiday visitor on December 18 when Archbishop Blase Cupich spent part of his busy day touring the campus!

The newly installed Archbishop of Chicago became acquainted with some of the residents, staff and volunteers of Misericordia during a day filled with smiles, laughter and discussion.

Archbishop Cupich enjoyed speaking directly with individuals throughout the day—stopping to visit, ask questions and learn about the many programs that benefit the residents in Misericordia's care.

We thank Archbishop Cupich for his interest and support, and welcome him to our Community of Believers!



**The Misericordia Administrative Team with Archbishop Cupich**

pictured above, I to r: Denise Tigges, Mary Pat O'Brien, Kay Golden, Kevin Connelly, Lois Gates, Joe Ferrara, Archbishop Blase Cupich, Michael Diaz, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Chris Hegg Krackenberger, Geana Connelly and Father Jack Clair.

**right:** Members of the Misericordia "Heartzingers" thank Archbishop Cupich for a great day and visit.



### Chicago Magazine honors Sister Rosemary Connelly

—A 2014 Chicagoan of the Year



Photograph by Bob Steffko

*Chicago Magazine* has named Sister Rosemary Connelly one of its *Chicagoans of the Year* for 2014! Citing the many extraordinary achievements over the past 45 years of her remarkable career, the article includes a link to a video that tells Misericordia's story.

Sister Rosemary shared the philosophy and mission of Misericordia with the magazine: "Our children and adults have a right to a good life, and they deserve to be engaged in that life. Here, they know they are loved and challenged and respected."

The honor included a luncheon and reception for honorees and their guests held at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Chicago. Many in attendance were moved by Sister Rosemary's comments in accepting the award.

Congratulations, Sister Rosemary, on a tribute so richly deserved!

Dear Family,

Thank you, one and all, for making 2014 such a successful and life-giving year. God continues to walk this journey with us, blessing our efforts. This has been true ever since my Community, the Sisters of Mercy, appointed me Administrator of Misericordia South in 1969. The right people have always been in the right place at the right time. And they make me look so good.

As you will read, I received another award in December. If your reaction to this news is – “When is enough, enough” – I absolutely agree with you! I’ve become embarrassed by these recognitions because I know how many “unsung heroes” are here at Misericordia – now and in the past – who were and are essential to the continuous success of our mission. This is true not only within the walls of Misericordia, but also for the thousands of individuals, groups, organizations and friends who work sacrificially to support our efforts.

In accepting these awards, I always do so in the names of our loving and loved children and adults who traditionally were treated poorly by our society. At Misericordia, we all are aware of how gifted we are by their loving, spontaneous and honest presence among us. They call us forth to be better people, for they show us how to live life on God’s terms.

I also receive these awards in the name of our competent and passionate executive team, administrators and staff, all of whom are responsible for the excellent quality of life our residents enjoy. They are creative, passionate about our mission, and always thinking of how we can improve and meet more unmet needs.

Our grateful and involved families belong in this group. They are always there for us in every way possible. They are ordinary people who didn’t ask to have a child/sibling with disabilities. For some, it was the first time they felt completely out of control. Their child, their sibling taught them that from suffering can come a new life, different from what they planned, but where true happiness can be found.

Finally, the thousands of volunteers who are truly co-ministers of our ministry are always included in these awards. They know the only way God’s work will be done is through their efforts. Misericordia would never be the beautiful home it is today, nor could we accomplish all that we do, without their unselfish giving of themselves.

I do believe God is using Misericordia as a witness to the truth that in spite of what you read and hear in the media, there are still many good, generous and compassionate people who want to reach out beyond their own personal needs. They know that they have been blessed and through their involvement God’s work will be done. We are so grateful that many have found their way to our Misericordia Home. Here is living proof that whoever gives much, receives back even more. For God is never outdone in generosity.

Because of you, we face 2015 with strong faith and great courage. We have some exciting plans that we’ll share with you in our next newsletter. There are still so many families who want a Misericordia, need a Misericordia, and we have no room. We are planning creative ways of reaching out to some of these families.

Thank you for believing in us. May this New Year be filled with God’s good gifts for you and yours.

Lovingly,



Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM

Executive Director



Sister Rosemary Connelly pictured with (left) members of The Heartbreakers, and (above, right) members of The Heartzingers before their performance at a Misericordia Holiday Brunch.



Misericordia has enjoyed a relationship with our friends at Brookfield Zoo for several years, collaborating with them on several projects. Dr. Stewart Strahl, CEO, and Matthew Mayer, Vice President of Public Affairs for Brookfield Zoo, toured Misericordia's campus in December to discuss future opportunities for Misericordia's residents.



**Above:** Misericordia residents display ornaments made in the developmental training art program to decorate a tree at Brookfield Zoo. **Above, right:** Sister Rosemary and Matthew Mayer.

## Misericordia Speakers Series

### A conversation with David Axelrod

Please join Sister Rosemary Connolly for a special event to benefit the children and adults of Misericordia Heart of Mercy with our guest speaker, David Axelrod, author of "BELIEVER: My Forty Years in Politics."

**March 31, 2015 - 8:00 a.m.**

**Tickets: \$100**

**Contact Dorie Finnegan 773-273-4178  
or dorief@misericordia.com  
for tickets and information about  
sponsorship opportunities.**

**Misericordia Home  
6300 North Ridge Avenue  
Chicago 60660  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)**



**above: Many thanks** to State Senator Heather Steans, Alderman Pat O'Connor, State Representative Greg Harris, AT&T Illinois President Paul La Schiazza, Eileen Mitchell and the group of AT&T volunteers who helped out in our holiday bakery! Also, thank you to our AT&T friends, who presented a generous donation and also raised \$60,000 for Misericordia at their annual outing.



John Fritchey, Cook  
County Commissioner



Pete Silvestri, Cook  
County Commissioner



IL State Representative Camille Y. Lilly visits with Paul during her tour of Misericordia.



Sara Feigenholtz, IL  
State Representative



Gregg Goslin, Cook  
County Commissioner

## Glitz and Glam at the Heart of Mercy Ball

November 14 was an evening of glitz, glamour and grace as more than 680 people enjoyed a beautiful evening at the Heart of Mercy Ball. Held at the Radisson Blu Aqua Hotel in Chicago, the sold-out benefit raised over \$680,000 for the 600 children and adults with developmental disabilities that call Misericordia their home. This year's worthy honorees were: Bernadette and Edmund Boyle: *The Heart of Mercy Award*; Peggy and Bob Bourke: *The Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion*; and the inaugural *Pillars of the Community Award* was given to Walsh Construction - Dan Walsh and Matt Walsh.

Special thanks to Women's Board President Holly Jennings, and Ball co-chairs Beth Merlo and Eileen Sethna, for their tireless efforts towards this event!

**pictured left to right:** Bernadette and Edmund Boyle, Peggy and Bob Bourke, and Dan Walsh and Matt Walsh.



**pictured above, left to right:** Eileen Sethna, Holly Jennings, Lois Gates, Sister Rosemary Connelly, Beth Merlo and Father Jack Clair.



We thank our ComEd friends from the Northern Region for raising \$60,021 for Misericordia through their United Way employee giving program.

## Congratulations to our Marathon Champs!



**above:** The Heartracers Squad together before the big race!

65 runners from the Heartracers took on the Chicago Marathon this year to raise an amazing \$156,000 for Misericordia. This was an increase of more than \$60,000 from 2013!

Thanks and congratulations to all of the runners and others involved in this worthy effort! Interested in running next year? Registration for next year's race will begin soon! Be a part of the Heartracers!

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

### Please help us reach our Challenge Grant Goal!

A kind donor continues to challenge Misericordia's friends and supporters. If we receive \$50,000 in new or increased contributions this year, the donor will match those gifts dollar for dollar, for a total of \$100,000.

If you are donating to us for the first time, the entire amount will be matched. If you have made donations in either of the last two years and are able to increase that amount in 2015, the increased amount will be eligible for matching. Thank you for your generous support!

Make the switch to an electronic version of this newsletter and save postage AND the environment! Please email your request to [newsletter@misericordia.com](mailto:newsletter@misericordia.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.



## THE ARTIST IN ALL 2015

Mark your calendar for the 18th annual Misericordia Siblings Association Artist in All event on May 20, 2015 in the Modern Wing of the Art Institute

of Chicago. This is a resident-centered event where more than 1,300 guests bid on 150 pieces of resident-created artwork, enjoy an evening of delicious

food and drink, and share in the community spirit at a beautiful venue.

Misericordia's resident artists are already hard at work with their instructors, art therapists and volunteers to ensure a great art showcase. Tickets are \$135/person and are available online beginning in April at [misericordia.org](http://misericordia.org). Purchase your tickets early for this annual sell-out event!

*See you on May 20th!*

*Special thanks go out to Siblings President Bill Meyer and event chairpersons Jen Surma and Megan Biggam for their leadership.*

### Be a Part of Candy Days!

Set up an account at [www.firstgiving.com/misericordia\\_candy\\_days](http://www.firstgiving.com/misericordia_candy_days) where your friends and family can donate to Misericordia. Post it on your [Facebook](#) page and ask your friends to become a FAN of Misericordia!

Many companies will offer a corporate match for your charitable contribution.

#### Please Volunteer!

Contact Tessa at  
773-273-2768

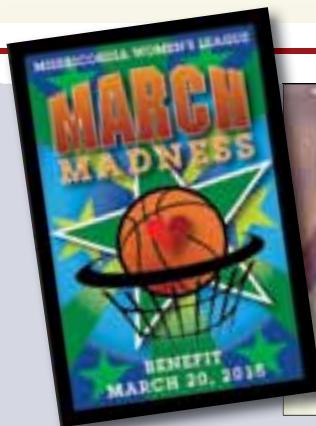
or email  
[candydays@misericordia.com](mailto:candydays@misericordia.com)  
or visit [misericordia.org](http://misericordia.org)  
to sign up!

### Candy Days Tradition continues April 24-25

Have dessert first on April 24-25 and join thousands of volunteers from every walk of life as they fan out across Chicagoland — distributing Jelly Belly jelly beans in exchange for donations that support the programs so important to the 600 children and adults in our care! Bill Kelley and the Jelly Belly Candy Company have generously donated 1.2 million sample bags of their delicious jelly beans in their signature flavors for Candy Days weekend!

Raising \$15 million in 2015 to cover the gap between the actual cost of oper-

ating Misericordia and those funds that are provided by the state of Illinois isn't easy! We hope that we can count on you to help Misericordia meet these challenges — come out and join the fun!



### It's March Madness!

The Misericordia Women's League invites you to join them at their spring benefit for a casual and fun evening featuring live and silent auctions, great food and entertainment! The theme this year is all things

basketball — there are plenty of great auction items to bid on. Don't miss it!

**March 20, 2015  
7:00-12:00 p.m.  
Tickets: \$175**

**Marriott Burr Ridge  
1200 Burr Ridge Pkwy.  
Burr Ridge , IL 60527**

For more information contact:  
**Sue Lasek at [sooples@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sooples@sbcglobal.net)**

**pictured, above:** Co-chairs Patti Burchett and Sue Lasek.

### Bequests and Annuities

To those friends who wish to help assure the continuation and growth of Misericordia by mentioning Misericordia in their 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@misericordia.org](mailto:kevin@misericordia.org) or visit the planned giving page at [misericordia.org](http://misericordia.org). Additionally, gift annuities will give you an opportunity to receive an annual fixed income for the rest of your life, as well as a 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.

## THIS AND THAT...



Thank you to The Telling Well team of John and Pat O'Brien for featuring the Molly/Misericordia story. Thanks also go to Mike Leonard, NBC-TV features correspondent and filmmaker, and Mary Kay Wall, director of The Telling Well and executive producer of Leonard Films. Way to go, Molly! See Molly's story at: <http://thetellingwell.org/misericordia/>



**left:** A few members of the St. Mary of the Woods Parish gathering with their Moore Home (Misericordia CILA) neighbors to provide them with an early Christmas gift...a new treadmill!! Thank you St. Mary of the Woods!!



## FIG & OLIVE

**Join us for a wonderful evening of food, wine and friends!**

**Sunday, February 8, 2015, 4-7 pm**

**\$150 per person**

**Jean Marie Ryan Center**

**Misericordia Heart of Mercy**

**6300 N. Ridge, Chicago 60660**

*Due to the generosity of Fig & Olive, 100% of the proceeds will benefit the children and adults of Misericordia.*



**FIG & OLIVE | 104 E. Oak, Chicago, 60611**

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

**Contact Kevin: 773.273.4167  
or [kevin@misericordia.com](mailto:kevin@misericordia.com)**



**Hope you will join us!**

Check our website for details at  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)



Join Sister Rosemary  
and Father Jack for a  
**St. Patrick's Day Celebration!**

Celebrate after the parade on  
**Saturday, March 14 - The Montgomery Club**  
**500 W. Superior in Chicago**

Corned beef and cabbage | live entertainment  
drink specials | face painting  
and more!

## In Memory



**Sister Mary Lou Hogan, RSM**

**6/6/1929 ~ 12/6/2014**

Sister Mary Lou joined the professional staff of Misericordia in 1982 as the director of building and design. Her vision for the campus captured the true beauty of Misericordia's mission. Mary Lou's spirit lives on in the hearts of all who knew her, and we are eternally grateful for her years of service to the children and adults at Misericordia.

# Employee Service Awards

The Employee Service Award is given to five of Misericordia's finest each year. Nominated by their co-workers, winners receive a financial bonus and have earned the respect and admiration of their peers. Congratulations to **MaryAnne Fallon**, DSP, Village; **Cyndi Baldwin**, DT Instructor; **Andy Witanek**, Auxiliary and non-residential staff; **Damone Wilson**, Nursing; and **Edenel Orillaza**, DSP, Marian Center.

## Living the Values of Misericordia

**Witanek**, Auxiliary and non-residential staff; **Damone Wilson**, Nursing; and **Edenel Orillaza**, DSP, Marian Center.

These five individuals embody the spirit of Misericordia and live the core values of Connection, Quality of Life, Responsibility and Spirituality. Congratulations!



pictured above, from left: MaryAnne Fallon, Cyndi Baldwin, Andy Witanek, Damone Wilson and Edenel Orillaza.

"Edenel brings love to her apartment with her smile, by singing, and the residents love when she is with them as she looks for the best in them."

"The residents connect to MaryAnne and know that she will show them respect and compassion, while bettering their lives every day."

"Andy takes responsibility for completing jobs promptly and cheerfully connects with all staff, as he responds to their requests with enthusiasm and energy."

"Cyndi shows the residents how important it is to be spiritual and live the Golden Rule lifestyle. Because she connects so easily, it's impossible to deny her powerful spirit."

"Damone brings joy to the residents and staff he meets every day....he is a beautiful soul. He treats everyone with empathy, dignity, and respect."



Meet the newest members of the Misericordia Development Team: (left) Martha Floberg and (right) Peter Cullen-Conway. Welcome to the family!

## Save the Date

St. Patrick's Day Celebration - March 14  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

Women's League Event

March Madness - March 20

Sue Lasek at [sopple@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sopple@sbcglobal.net)

Misericordia Speakers Series

David Axelrod - March 31

Dorie Finnegan 773-273-4178

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

Misericordia/Jelly Belly Candy Days  
April 24-25

Call 773-273-2768 to volunteer.

Women's Auxiliary

Spring Fashion Show - May 7

[kmdodd@ameritech.net](mailto:kmdodd@ameritech.net)

The Artist in All – May 20

773-273-4160

BUMS Golf Outing – June 8

Kevin Connelly at 773-273-4167

MFA Dinner Dance June 27

## Special Olympics winter fitness season



Winter doesn't stop Misericordia's athletes from keeping fit! They know the value of year-round fitness, and this winter resident athletes have a

wide variety of opportunities to exercise and have fun!

Throughout the winter season athletes train for spring events and participate in team activities. Ongoing winter sports include: Basketball teams for men and women, Developmental Swim, Powerlifting, and Aquatics.

Three athletes from our Floor Hockey team won medals at the State Tournament! Congratulations on your achievements!

pictured left: Peter Lock, 2nd place winner in Floor Hockey.



In loving memory  
**Marge Murphy**  
January 7, 1939 ~ December 26, 2014

Marge Murphy's life was one of giving. A child of Irish immigrants in Chicago, she earned her RN degree and worked in Chicago, California, and remote areas of Alaska before dedicating 30 years of service to Misericordia.

Marge volunteered at the initial Family Fest in 1981, joining the staff as co-director of development two years later. She remained a dedicated, passionate and faithful friend of Misericordia.

Her contributions to Misericordia were far-reaching, including grant writing, co-directing the Heart of Mercy Village, overseeing initial computer installations and coordinating Candy Days efforts. Marge maintained relationships with Chicago's business community and enlisted their help to spread the message of Misericordia to the greater community.

She was a hands-on leader, maintaining wonderful relationships with the residents and staff that knew her so well. Marge often remarked that working at Misericordia was the greatest gift of her life. Marge's love of Misericordia knew no limits. She will live on in all who had the privilege and joy of walking this journey with her. She will be missed greatly but we know she is resting in God's love.



Misericordia is a residential facility serving children and adults with 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.org](http://misericordia.org) or [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 Tessa Garcia at 773-273-2768 or [tessag@misericordia.com](mailto:tessag@misericordia.com).



*Due to a clerical error, several names were omitted from the original memorial list in this newsletter. Please know that we are deeply grateful to those who choose to remember their loved ones with a donation to Misericordia. We thank the following benefactors and their families and friends, and respectfully ask that you remember them in your thoughts and prayers.*

Amina Grace Cullen Ali	Terrance V. Hackett	Margaret "Maggie" Murphy
Eleanore K. Bahnaman	Eleanore M. Harris	Marge Murphy
Charlotte B. Brennan	Wayne E. Healy	Patrick D. Murphy
Glen G. Cain	Florence Higgins	Lucy Mulchrone
Gene W. Campeol	Joseph Francis Hinkamp, M.D.	Frank J. Murnane, Sr.
Mary C. "Mai" Carey	Sr. Mary Lou Hogan, RSM	Michael Terence Murray
Joseph B. Carini, Jr.	Geraldine F. Horner	Lola Marie Nerini
Rosemarie C. Newlon Corcoran	Donald "Teddy" Johnson	Joseph Nolan
Melsina A. Cullen	Charlotte A. Kalinowski	Leslie E. Novak
Mary Catherine Delahanty	Elsie Domke Keefer	Thomas Dennis Nyhan
Veronica Deutsch	Edward J. Kentra	Marion Patricia "Pat" O'Neill
Patrick J. Dillon	Ronald D. Klein	Robert A. Olson
Mary C. Dour	Dorothy Kloser	Ocie Mae Paul
Mary C. Dunne	Miguel Thomas Krauss	Paul F. Pearson
Thomas J. Durkin	June Audrey Lauter	Harry C. Piper
Steve J. Dzurek, Jr.	Mary Susan Loftus	Mary C. Quinn
Kathleen M. Eklund	Mary C. Lydon	Wilbert L. "Webb" Saathoff
Joan Enright	Thomas J. Lydon	Kelly Marie Schoenberger
Rosemary Farkas	Virginia Martinez	Phyllis Schuster
William J. Ference	Mary Ann Matysik	Frank J. Serio
Thomas William Ferrara	Joseph John Mayer, Sr.	Theodore J. Skowron, Sr.
Thomas Fitzgibbon	Doris G. McAuliffe	Donald C. Sodora
Mary Virginia "Ginny" Foran	Jerry "JR" McBride	Brian J. Sroka
Robert G. Gabalec	Pauline "Dolly" McDermott	Sue Starshak
Leroy F. Gerber	Patrick Scott McDonough	Annabelle Stegbauer
Janis R. Gleicher	Walter G. McGuire, Sr.	Mary Ann Straley
Sharon Lee Golz	Richard W. McKillip	Anne Terese Sweeney
Susan R. Gorecki	Richard A. Mierzwinski	Charles R. Tracy
Edward F. Gorski	Lucille Mora	R. Kevin Wallace
Robert A. Greenhill		Michael Francis Ward
Josephine E. Greswood		Lorraine M. Wier
Sara Jean Grinnan		Mary Caroline Wurglitz