



# Misericordia

SPRING 2024

HEART OF MERCY | NEWSLETTER

## APRIL 26-27, 2024

## CANDY DAYS *is back!*



### MISERICORDIA HEART OF MERCY



# CANDY DAYS



On April 26-27, the Misericordia community returns to raise funds and promote our mission: **To provide a "life worth living" for the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in our care.** We are counting on you to help us spread the word, make new friends and reach new donors!

**Online:** Set up a "Personal Giving Page" at [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com).

**Mail:** Return your donation in the envelope provided in this newsletter.

**In person! Jelly Belly Candy Company** has generously donated their delicious candy to be distributed at select locations in Chicagoland! **We need volunteers to help with this effort!** A special thanks to President and CEO Jeff Brown for sustaining the tradition started by former CEO Bill Kelley.

Sincere thanks to our dear friends from Jewel-Osco, President Mike Withers and Mary Frances Trucco, Director of Public Affairs. During the month of



March, shoppers donated to Candy Days at the registers of Jewel-Osco stores in Chicagoland!

This year, an anonymous foundation will once again match Candy Days donations up to an unspecified amount!

On behalf of Misericordia Foundation Chairman Sister Rosemary Connelly, Misericordia President and Executive Director Father Jack Clair, and Misericordia Foundation Executive Director Lois Gates, we thank you for your friendship and support!



Bill Kelley

Jeff Brown



Mike Withers

Mary Frances Trucco

**For help setting up a Personal Giving Page, contact:**  
[annemills@misericordia.com](mailto:annemills@misericordia.com)

**Can you spare 2 or more hours April 26-27?**

**To volunteer, contact Paul Schwartz:**  
[pauls@misericordia.com](mailto:pauls@misericordia.com)

*A letter from Sr. Rosemary Connelly and Lois Gates*

Dear Families and Friends,  
 From the first Candy Days in 1986, one of the greatest gifts we received was the exposure throughout Chicago and its surrounding areas. It was a time when we put on our aprons, grabbed our “cans,” and hit the sidewalks and storefronts to give witness to the importance of Misericordia’s mission. Now, Candy Days is coming back from a long, four-year Covid nap, so mark your calendars for April 26th and 27th! Once again, we need you. Your presence and testimony for Misericordia was powerful as it still is to this day. We are excited to get back out there.

There have been some major changes on campus since Christmas. Both Nancy Turry and Robert Noga have retired. There are not words to express the gratitude we have for these two very special people.

Robert was with us for almost 50 years. He ran our food services and set an exceptional standard of hospitality that has anchored Misericordia’s reputation for excellence. Nancy has been with us for 37 years. She helped establish and oversaw our boutique. The popularity of our gift shops and Holiday Shopping events can all be attributed to Nancy, her dedicated Gift Shop volunteers and, of course, her exquisite eye for all things fashion. She and Bob worked closely to make sure the Greenhouse Inn ran smoothly and always looked perfect. Along the way they made beautiful and lifelong friendships, which is what makes this tribute hard for us to write. They will be missed by many. We wish them both a wonderful retirement. They have certainly earned it and so have their families.

On a sad note, saying goodbye to those we love is most difficult, especially when they are our family members and loving friends. Joe Connelly was both. Joe was part of Misericordia for many decades. He always greeted you with a joyful and friendly smile and a kind heart. He was respected and loved by all, and his gentle spirit was a gift in our lives. Please keep our Connelly family in your prayers. Joe is now resting in God’s love with his beloved wife, Pat.

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge all the wonderful events, activities and company we so enjoyed over the Christmas Holidays. Our season of Thanksgiving and Christmas was filled to overflowing. We are very grateful for the gifts of generosity and spirit we received, always and most beautifully tied with compassion and wrapped in love.

How blessed we are with your friendship! God’s blessings on you and yours.

Lovingly,

*Sister Rosemary*

Sister Rosemary Connelly  
 Chairman  
 Misericordia Foundation

Blessings and gratitude,

*Lois C. Gates*

Lois Gates  
 Executive Director  
 Misericordia Foundation



*A message from the desk of Fr. Jack Clair*

Dear Friends and Supporters,  
 My heart is filled with gratitude for the wonderful Christmas Season in which we welcomed thousands of our friends to our campus. If you were one of our guests, I hope it was a great experience. Our thanks go out to all who volunteered to make all of the events possible. Whether it was on our campus or at the Sweet♥Shoppe, we are so grateful. We could not have accomplished all we did without your help.

Though I had a little set back with broken ribs over Christmas, the New Year started with great hope. We still need a number of staff, so if you know of anyone who might be interested, please send them our way. We are currently short, and with the new CILAs and the future opening of Rosemary Park, we will need many more staff to begin to welcome some of those who are waiting for services from us.

We are very grateful to Matt Walsh who has helped us arrange a study of our campus to meet our future needs. He has enlisted the University of Notre Dame’s School of Architecture to perform this study. We will work with them over the next six months or so to see where we are headed in the years to come.

This Season of Lent always reminds us to take stock of our lives. We need to do that as the Misericordia Community as well. Are we doing everything in the best way possible? Are we treating everyone with the respect they deserve? Are we grateful to God for the many blessings we have in our lives?

I pause to say thank you to our staff who work so hard. A special thanks to Bob Noga who has retired as our Food Service and Banquet Director. We wish Bob the very best and thank him for his decades of service. God Bless You Bob and enjoy your retirement!

Candy Days is around the corner, and we hope many of you will help us spread the good news of Misericordia in front of stores, at train stations or wherever people are gathered. We will not allow people out on the streets anymore, but we hope to be in as many places as possible, wearing our Misericordia vests and shaking our collection cans.

Until we meet again may our Good Lord watch over you,

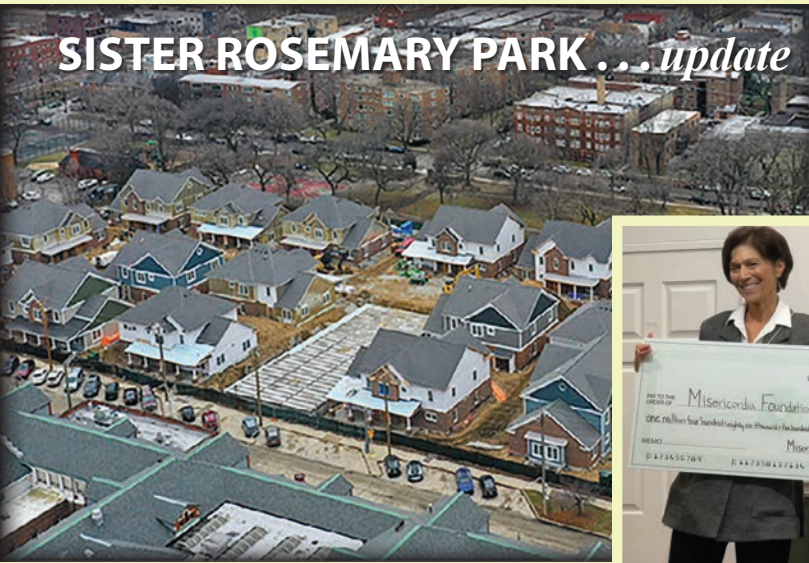
*Fr. Jack*

Father Jack Clair  
 President and  
 Executive Director  
 Misericordia Home



**Pictured left:** Robert Noga and Nancy Turry with Sister Rosemary.

## SISTER ROSEMARY PARK . . . *update*



As construction continues on the new three-acre residential development on Thome Avenue, we are thankful for the generosity of our groups, individual donors and to Walsh Construction. The 16 new homes are a major expansion of our campus grounds that will accommodate some of the more than 600 families in our applicant pool. There is still work to be done! For information about supporting this effort, please contact: **Lois Gates:** [loisg@misericordia.com](mailto:loisg@misericordia.com)



**Pictured left:** Misericordia Women's Board President Meg Fiorenza and Heart of Mercy Ball Co-Chair Colleen Healy presented a check to Sister Rosemary and the Misericordia Foundation in January. The Board works tirelessly to raise funds that benefit our residents! The focus of the annual Heart of Mercy Ball 2023 was to support Sister Rosemary Park. Thank you for your amazing efforts!

## A MEETING OF THE MAYORS

*Misericordia Mayor Terry M. meets Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson!*

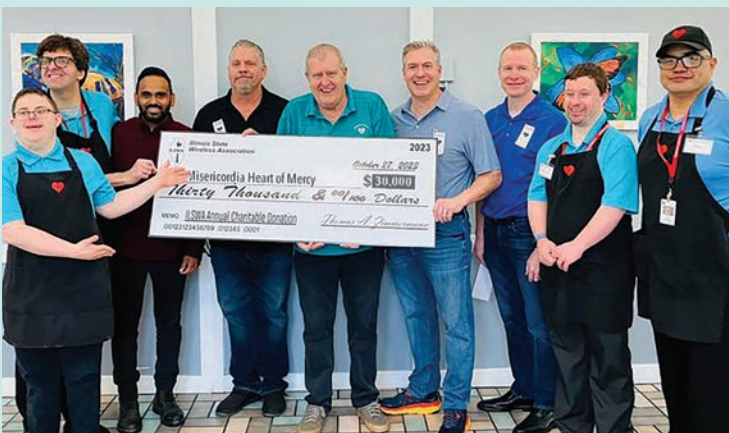
Thank you to Mayor Johnson and his team and 40th Ward Alderperson Andre Vasquez for taking the time to see Misericordia's campus, meet our mayor and speak with our Administration.



## GETTING DOWN TO BUSINESS with Harvard!

Through Misericordia sibling Joe Higgins – who is also a Harvard Business School Executive Fellow – Misericordia was featured as part of a case study with Harvard Business School on employing people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). With large numbers of people with I/DD unemployed, Misericordia, the Chicago Cubs and Walgreens have taken steps to solve this problem through people-focused, public-focused and productivity-focused hiring approaches.

The case study was launched in November at Harvard Business School with Julie O'Sullivan, Marketing Manager, in attendance representing Misericordia. Thank you for including Misericordia in this important study!



A huge thank you goes out to our friends at Illinois Wireless Association for their generosity and continued support of the residents of Misericordia!



**Pictured above:** Misericordia Marketing Manager Julie O'Sullivan with Harvard Business School Executive Fellow and Misericordia sibling Joe Higgins.



**MISERICORDIA SIBLINGS ASSOCIATION**

The beloved annual event, presented by the Misericordia Siblings Association, returns to the Modern Wing of the Chicago Art Institute on Tuesday, May 21, for the 27th year. The benefit for Misericordia features artwork created by our talented Misericordia artists assisted by our art instructors, staff and volunteers. Watch our website for ticket information. Corporate sponsorship packages provide the opportunity to become

involved in Misericordia's most resident-centered event!

**For sponsorship information please contact: Lois Gates at [loisg@misericordia.com](mailto:loisg@misericordia.com)**

**For general questions, please contact Jimmy Lee at [jimmyolee@gmail.com](mailto:jimmyolee@gmail.com)**

**Scan to become a sponsor or purchase tickets**



**JOIN THE HEARTRACERS**

**OCT. 13 FOR THE 2024**

**MARATHON** *Choose Misericordia as your charity and be part of the Heartracers!*

*The last day to register as a charity runner is May 31.*

To find out more about joining the 2024 Chicago Marathon Misericordia Heartracers, contact: Martha Floberg, Development Officer at 773-273-4125 or [marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com).



**AUGUST  
19, 2024**



**HEART  
LINKS  
OPEN**

**SHOREACRES  
COUNTY CLUB  
Lake Bluff, IL**



**BUMS TO CELEBRATE 50 YEARS**  
*mark your calendars for June 10!*

Our devoted Bums Committee, sponsors and loyal golfers have generously supported Misericordia throughout the years and this year is special as we celebrate 50 incredible years! Please join more than 600 golfers on Monday, June 10, at beautiful Olympia Fields, Edgewood Valley and Flossmoor Country Clubs to benefit Misericordia. The Bums

have raised millions of dollars since 1974 to support Misericordia's innovative programs and expansion efforts for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Their contribution to the success of our mission has been amazing!

**For sponsorship information please contact: [dorief@misericordia.com](mailto:dorief@misericordia.com)**

**64th Annual**  
**Benefit**  
Misericordia Family Association

*The Misericordia Family Association will return to the Donald Stevens Convention Center in Rosemont, IL, to present their Annual Benefit for 2024!*

Benefit co-chairs: from left: Ellen Malone and Kay Lunkes



**SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2024**

**CAR AND CASH RAFFLES • BENEFIT BOOK  
LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION • DINNER**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

For more information, please visit [mfa-sibs.org](http://mfa-sibs.org) or scan here





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*With the*  
**MISERICORDIA**  
**WOMEN'S**  
**AUXILIARY at First**  
*Look for Charity*

Maragos who did an amazing job as our auctioneers. Thanks also to the very talented Heartbreakers who brought the crowd to their feet!

To all of our sponsors, friends and those who attended, thank you for an incredible evening supporting Misericordia!

- 1. FLFC Raffle Drawing
- 2. from left: Alex Maragos, Mary Doug Brown, Lois Gates and Lou Manfredini
- 3. Tracy Winslow with her daughter Kate
- 4. from left: Event Co-Chairs Christine Moran, Megan Banas and Jennifer Fritzche
- 5. Oh what a night!

Congratulations to the Misericordia Women's Auxiliary on a fabulous First Look for Charity event. The annual black-tie affair at McCormick Place was a huge success — providing attendees with a "first look" at the nation's largest auto show before it opened to the public, while supporting Misericordia and 17 other Chicagoland charities.

Gratitude to everyone on the FLFC committees and to the leadership of President Mary Doug Brown and Event Chairs Christine Moran, Megan Banas and Jennifer Fritzche. A very special thanks to Lou Manfredini and Alex

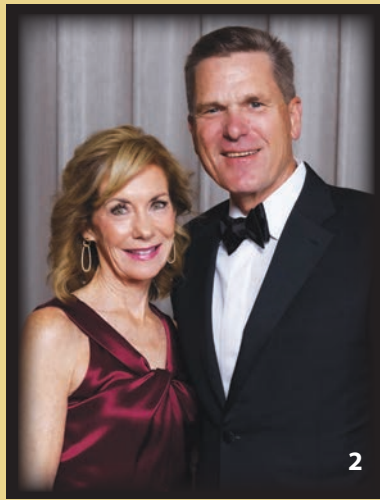


**Congratulations to Gail Wojciechowski, Jacob Green and all of the Misericordia Heartbreakers for receiving the "All Heart Award" at the Misericordia Women's Auxiliary Home for the Holidays Event!**

**Pictured left:**  
Misericordia Heartbreakers Directors Jacob Green and Gail Wojciechowski



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1. **Denise & Ivo Cozzini**, Heart of Mercy Award
2. **Lisa and David Miniati**, The Pillars of the Community Award - Miniati Holdings LLC
3. **Sister Rosemary Connelly**
4. **Lois Gates**, Women's Board President **Meg Fiorenza**, Event Co-Chairs **Kelly Burgess Mayer and Colleen Healy**, Event Committee members **Marcia Desmond and Janet Keller**, Development Liason **Anne Mills** and Misericordia Marketing Manager **Julie O'Sullivan**.
5. **John Scully Jr.** (pictured with his wife Cathy and family), Sister Rosemary Connelly Service Medallion
6. **Patrick!**
7. Heartbreakers Director **Gail Wojciechowski** and friends **Matt, Megan and Christopher**
8. **The Executive Team of Misericordia**: Foundation Executive Director and Chief Development Officer **Lois Gates**, Executive Vice President of Residences and Programs **Mary Pat O'Brien**, Foundation Chairperson **Sr. Rosemary Connelly**, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer **Kevin Connelly**, President and Executive Director of Misericordia Home **Fr. Jack Clair**
9. Emcee **Rob Johnson**



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Save the date for next year, "Follow Your Heart to Mis" Nov. 2, 2024.

## Heart of Mercy Ball 2024

An Evening in Sister Rosemary Park

### MISERICORDIA WOMEN'S BOARD

The elegance and honors of the Misericordia Heart of Mercy Ball were matched by the fundraising super-powers of the Women's Board as they welcomed guests to the Hilton Chicago on October 21. The Ball brought the community together to recognize and thank our 2023 honorees and to support the 600 residents at Misericordia. The Women's Board fundraising focus again this year was the new 16-home development on Thome Avenue. *Sister Rosemary Park* will enable us to reach out to families on our waiting list.



**Congratulations to our distinguished honorees: Denise & Ivo Cozzini - *The Heart of Mercy Award*; John Scully Jr. - *The Sister Rosemary Service Medallion*; and Miniati Holdings LLC - *The Pillars of the Community Award*.** Much gratitude goes to the sponsors, underwriters, volunteers and donors from near and far who contributed to this fantastic event. Special thanks to **Rob Johnson**, our emcee for the evening, and to the **Misericordia Heartbreakers** for an exciting performance. Congratulations to Women's Board President Meg Fiorenza, Event Co-Chairs Kelly Burgess Mayer and Colleen Healy, past leadership, committees, and all who attended this beautiful event!

**Platinum Sponsors**

Denise and Ivo Cozzini  
The Family of Tricia McGee

**Gold Sponsors**

Miniati Holdings (David Miniati)  
Virginia L. Eck

**Silver Sponsors**

Anonymous  
Chris Columbus  
& Monica Devereux

John Scully

Midwest Mechanical

Rackos and Romas Families  
In honor of John Basil Rackos

The Family of Mackenzie Moore

The Santacrose Family

Sharon and Tom Taylor


*In Loving Memory*

*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.*

Sheila Ahern; Gunter Alberts; Marlene Becker; Mary Kathryn Benson; Florence Bingham; Mary Blake; James T. Bohlman; Joan M. Bolotin; Mary Frances Brennan; George W. Brooks; Karen M. Brown; Daniel Burke; James A. Burke; Mary E. Burke; Patrick Cahill; Ellen Callahan; John R. Carroll; Mary Catherine Clifford; James G. Condon; Joseph Connelly, Barbara L. Corcoran; Patricia Deppert; James E. Devine; Lindsay DiOrio; Jerome F. Dixon; James A. Doppke; William R. Eldridge; Brian E. Eshaghy; Gregory J. Fahey; Sally C. Fenlon; Therese Finn; Elizabeth M. Finzer; David "Jim" Fitzpatrick; Angeline Gallo; Patrick J. Gamboney; Robert P. Gamboney; Mary Anne Gaynor; Raymond Goedert; Ruth K. Gordon; Richard J. Griffin; Ralph R. Gromala; Ann Guarino; Clay A. Halston; Ria B. Hartigan; Gerald W. Heiting; Joanne E. Hemmerling; Patricia A. Hill; Amanda Hulseman; Richard A. Hultberg; Marion R. Hurley; Helen M. Jascoviak; Dianna T. Kanne; William E. Kearns; Genevieve LaFranco; Lawrence J. Lenz; Josephine T. Losch; Mildred Loyet; Robert W. Luebke; Erika Lursky; Marc Marchini; George Martino; Ruth F. McCarthy; Theresa McCord; Emmett J. McDermott; Claire Sagurton McGuire; Ann C. McKenna; Robert E. Miller; Bridget A. Mitchell; Judith A. Motley; Mary C. Mulcrone; Freda M. Murphy; Joyce S. Nelson; Mary Newell; Marie O'Boyle; Kevin J. O'Connor; Jeffrey C. Olson; Maribeth Omastiak; Daniel A. Orth; Mary Kay Oswald; Pat Owens; Nicholas Panice; Mark Perkovich; Christine B. Perri; Margaret K. Potocki; Richard C. Puls; Reginald Rabjohns; Theresa M. Ranieri; Anna Reedy; Judi Regan Gorman; Benjamin J. Reilly; Raymond P. Renehan; Elaine C. Rosser; Robin Russell; Nicholas R. Scarpelli; Andrew J. Schumi; Michael Signa; Brian A. Snediker; Conrad J. Sparkowski; Celanne M. Spitkovsky; Stephen A. Stefan; Sharon Stella; Bonna Jo Tersch; Jeanette R. Thelan; Sylvia J. Thurm; Robert M. Vanecko; Carol Vargo; Herbert W. Volker; Marylou C. Wall; Patrick J. Walsh; Janet A. Weber; James A. Wees; John S. Witt; Michael Wolf; Mark E. Zuro

# RED HEART BASH

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024  
NEW VENUE!  
WALDEN CHICAGO



MISERICORDIA YOUNG PROFESSIONALS COUNCIL

CONTACT: [julieo@miser cordia.com](mailto:julieo@miser cordia.com)



**Pictured left center:** Austin had the opportunity to work with students in Northwestern University's Engineering Program – assisting with the design of an adaptive device for residents with special dietary needs. We so appreciate the Northwestern students for taking on this important project!



**Pictured left:** A group from Rotary International spent a day volunteering with our residents in their work opportunities programs. Thank you so much for your friendship and support!



Father Jack Clair (pictured above with State Representative Diane Blair-Sherlock) traveled to Springfield last November to deliver a thoughtful and inspirational invocation to the Illinois House!

The Misericordia Women's League hosted their fabulous "As Gold as it Gets" benefit for Misericordia on Feb. 24. Look for a full recap of this and other early Spring events in our next newsletter!

**Pictured with Fr. Jack Clair and Lois Gates** are: (from left) League President Catie Lee, Event co-chair Jennifer Coffey, Heart of Gold recipients Jo Marie Ferro and Cathy Hofmann, and Event co-chair Kelly Coyne.



**Pictured above: Center:** Sister Jean, BVM, chaplain for the Loyola Ramblers Men's Basketball Team of Loyola University Chicago with Misericordia residents, the Ramblers and Father Jack Clair (far right). Many thanks to the Loyola Ramblers for hosting our residents for Misericordia Night at Loyola! We are so grateful for your friendship.



**Joseph P. Connelly**  
Born March 19, 1935  
Born into eternal life  
February 16, 2024

## We Remember

Joe Connelly was a man of faith and family. He spent many decades devoting his time to the mission of Misericordia. Joe was one of the initial coordinators of Family Fest in 1981 and also of Candy Days from its inception in 1986.

Joe served as the Building Manager of Conway for many years and also enjoyed running the Devon Cafe.

He was known for his warm smile and his friendly and quiet demeanor. Joe was dearly loved by his family and many friends. Please remember Sister Rosemary in the loss of her beloved brother, and Kevin Connelly and family in the loss of his loving father.





Slam dunk for the DePaul Women's Hoops Basketball Team! Thank you to Doug Bruno and his team for volunteering in the Misericordia's Hearts & Flour Bakery. We are so grateful for your continued support of our residents.



Thank you to the Misericordia Heartzingers choir who brought their beautiful music to Misericordia's many Holiday gatherings.



The Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School A Cappella Choir had a great visit to Misericordia to spread Christmas Cheer to our residents!



A big thanks to so many of our friends in the community for taking time out of their day to volunteer in Misericordia's Hearts & Flour Bakery during the Holiday season.

**Pictured above:** Volunteers from Northern Trust Bank.

**Pictured left:** Friends from WTTW - Chicago

## *A Special Thanks to our Secret Santas*

Thank you for so generously sharing the spirit of Christmas and for your loving friendship, support and prayers! ,



## 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 Foundation in your estate plan, 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)



# FAMILY FEST

## September 8, 2024

Please plan to join us as we gather with friends and family for our largest fundraising event. Car and Cash Raffles, great food, entertainment, kids games and more will be waiting for you! Rain or shine it will be a day to celebrate the residents that are the heart of our mission.

Corporate sponsorships account for the majority of money that is raised at Family Fest. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor this year, please contact Lois Gates at: [loisg@misericordia.com](mailto:loisg@misericordia.com) or (773) 273-4160 to learn how you or your company can become involved.



Visit our website at [www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**APRIL 12 | RED HEART BASH**  
Walden Chicago

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

**APRIL 26-27 | CANDY DAYS**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**MAY 21 | THE ARTIST IN ALL**  
Art Institute of Chicago  
(773) 273-4160

**JUNE 10 | BUMS GOLF OUTING**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**JUNE 22 | MFA ANNUAL BENEFIT**  
Donald Stephens Convention Center  
Rosemont  
[mfabenefit.m-f-a.org](http://mfabenefit.m-f-a.org)

**AUGUST 19 | HEART LINKS OPEN**  
Shore Acres Country Club

**SEPTEMBER 8 | FAMILY FEST**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**SEPTEMBER 18 | WOMEN'S GOLF OUTING**  
Oak Park Country Club  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)

**OCTOBER 13 | CHICAGO MARATHON**  
[marthaf@misericordia.com](mailto:marthaf@misericordia.com)  
**(last day to register is May 31!)**

**NOV 2 | HEART OF MERCY BALL**  
[www.misericordia.com](http://www.misericordia.com)



Vanessa Zuniga



Nicole Williams



Elisabeth Devik



Emily Hansen



Regina Moore



## EMPLOYEE SERVICE AWARDS

All of Misericordia's staff is amazing and each year five of our employees are honored with the Employee Service Award. Nominated by their co-workers, these individuals embody the spirit of Misericordia and live the core values of

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

This year's winners of the 2023 Annual Employee Service Award are:

- Vanessa Zuniga (Village Nurse)***
- Nicole Williams (Marian Center DSP/ OJT Trainer)***
- Elisabeth Devik (HR Coordinator)***
- Emily Hansen (Village Lead QIDP)***
- Regina Moore (McAuley CNA)***

Misericordia is a residential community serving children and adults with intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities from diverse ethnic, religious, racial and socioeconomic backgrounds. A not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization, Misericordia is operated by the Sisters of Mercy under the auspices of the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago. Misericordia is located at 6300 N. Ridge, Chicago, IL 60660, 773-973-6300. You can find Misericordia on the Internet at [misericordia.com](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 Jack Mayer at 773-273-2768 or [jmayer@misericordia.com](mailto:jmayer@misericordia.com)