

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

EMPLOYEE NEWSLETTER

Issue 5

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEART

"A single seed can turn into a forest. A single heart can transform a nation."

—Bryan Thao Worra



Pictured: Residents and staff participating in this month's events and activities (Manny Petty Acoustic Duo Concert on 5/4; Market Days on 5/23; Spring Fling Sale on 5/15 and 5/16; Gardening on 5/7; May Music Bingo on Thursdays).

MISERICORDIA AT THE CAPITAL



Pictured: Staff, administration, and residents with state officials in Springfield, IL.

Our Misericordia residents and staff had a great time in Springfield for the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities' Advocacy Day! Great seeing and speaking with Illinois State Representative Kevin Olickal and State Senator Julie Morrison! Big thanks to John Nicolay for taking the time to spend the day with Misericordia and show them the sites.



COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

MISERICORDIA'S 3RD ANNUAL FIRST RESPONDERS' DAY

Misericordia will host the 3rd Annual First Responders' Day. Members from the Chicago Fire Department and the Chicago Police Department will be present to display the different types of vehicles, tools, and gear that are used to keep all of us safe daily. Meet the Police officers and Firefighters who work hard keeping the Misericordia campus and all of us safe. Scheduled to appear from the Chicago Police Department will be the Police Bomb Squad, the Police Mounted Unit (horses), the Police SWAT Unit, the Police Canine Unit, the Police Marine/ Helicopter Unit, and the Police Solo Motor Unit (motorcycles). Scheduled to appear from the Chicago Fire Department will be Engine 59, Engine 70, Ladder Truck 47, and Ambulance 13.

THE ARTIST IN ALL



Pictured (L to R): "Mary the Artist," by Anna D, "One Love," by Jesse C, and "Good Luck Pond," by Kim D.

The Artist In All, one of Misericordia's biggest annual fundraisers, took place in the Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago on May 20. Organized by the Misericordia Siblings (SIBS), Artist In All strives to showcase and share the visual art produced by Misericordia residents in a world-class venue.

[Click here](#) to see more works exhibited and bid on this year.

Visit the [Misericordia Facebook page](#) to find more events that happened through the month.



HEART & SOIL COMPOSTING: JOIN OUR MISSION!

Heart & Soil, operated by Misericordia residents, is now launching our services to the Misericordia community!

Services Start at \$20 a Month for Bi-Weekly Pickups



"Enriching the soil, enriching the soul."

SIGN UP HERE



Heart & Soil, our new composting and employment opportunity program is operated by Misericordia residents alongside their dedicated staff. The composting team has launched their services to the Misericordia community.

Please note, the program is currently operating in a limited radius and participation eligibility is limited by how much ground they can cover per day. People can share their info on the initial sign-up form to help the program determine if they are within our operation radius. They plan to expand that radius as they grow and more sign-ups outside of their current radius will help determine potential expansion.

For more information or questions about composting services please email:

lsanchez@misericordia.com

To sign up: [Heart & Soil sign up](#)



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

FIT FOR SUCCESS: TIER 2 HAS STARTED

This month marked the start of the second tier of Fit For Success. The focus of this tier is essential skills for teamwork. Participants learn practical strategies that will further their growth as leaders and strong team players.

Fit for Success is open to staff from all departments who are in good standing and have been employed at Misericordia for at least six months. Applicants for Tier 2 of Fit For Success must have completed Tier 1: Self-Identity.

To learn more about Fit For Success, [click here](#).

SPRING FLING SALE



The Spring Fling sale was a great success. Over the course of two days, staff dropped in and purchased items from Misericordia's gift shop. We thank everyone who stopped by, and we especially thank members of the Misericordia Family Association who volunteered at the event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FIT FOR SUCCESS: TIER 1 GRADUATES



Back row (L to R): Kimberly Tyus (Mercy Glen); Jeremy Wyatt (DT); Matthew Schrotenboer (Quinlan); Christopher Duke (Village); Bridget McDermott (CILA); Will Bledsoe (Security); **middle row (L to R):** Patrick Kasonga (Village); Selina Head (Village); Amy Johnston (CDS); Jade Riedel (Village); Latanya Wallace (Marian Center); **front row (L to R):** Katie Lewis (McAuley); Rebecca Torres (Village); Carolyn Hanlan (Village); Affy Diouck (RCH); Jasmine Meredith (DT); Rosa Cervantes (Shannon)



Back row (L to R): Jesse Adams (Therapy); Thomas McManus (IT); Andrea LeVasseur (CDS); Leticia Delgado (DT); Lorrie Wilkins (RCH); Niecole Shipman Banks (Marian Center); Allyson Byrne (McAuley); **front row (L to R):** MAG, Jared Glaaser (Mercy Glen); Lina Catano Bedoya (Laundry); Mary Isho (Nursing); Megan Wortel (DT); Ryan Rio (DT - McAuley); Nick Cruz (Marian Center); Saul Hernandez (SD); Kristina Lipsey (HR)

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



HIGHLIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES (CONT'D)

MAY IS BETTER SPEECH AND HEARING MONTH



Pictured (clockwise): Kendrick Lamar, Elvis Presley, Tim Gunn, Rosie Perez, who identified themselves as persons who “stutter.”

The role of the Communication Therapy Department includes evaluation and treatment of individuals with communication disorders, as well as limitations related to feeding, swallowing, and safety at mealtime. The SLPs (Speech-Language Pathologists) here at Misericordia also support our residents who communicate through the use of (AAC) Augmentative and Assistive Communication systems, to include electronic devices, pictures, books, etc.

Additional services offered by these therapists include providing social language group opportunities, completing routine hearing screenings, and supporting those who communicate through the use of Sign Language.

Five Fascinating Facts from Misericordia's SLPs:

- Derrick Coleman (from the Seattle Seahawks) is the first offensive NFL player to identify as a person who is legally deaf.
- There were approximately 5,000 deaths due to choking in the United States last year.
- Food items that present the greatest risk of choking include hot dogs, grapes, nuts, and seeds. Watch out for non-edible items that often cause children to choke, such as batteries, pebbles, small toys, and coins.
- Like fingerprints that are unique for each individual, an imprint of the human ear is also different for every person. These prints can be used as identification.
- To produce one phrase, humans use approximately 100 muscles in the neck, jaw, tongue, lips, and chest, working together to create verbal speech.
- Did you know that the following celebrities identified themselves as persons who “stutter”? Joe Biden, James Earl Jones, Emily Blunt, Tiger Woods, Ed Sheeran, Wayne Brady, Adrian Peterson, Steve Harvey, Rosie Perez, Kendrick Lamar, Tim Gunn, Shaquille O’Neill – and Elvis Presley!

CITY COLLEGES OF CHICAGO

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (ASL) CLASS

American Sign Language (ASL) is quickly becoming one of the most widely used languages in the United States. This class will explore sign vocabulary and basic grammatical structures. Come join us to communicate with your hands, face, and body. This class will cover the basics of ASL, emergency sign language, and a basic introduction to the world of Deaf Culture. This class is designed for those 16 years of age or older.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

2025 TOGETHER FOR CHOICE CONFERENCE

In Partnership with



The CoAct Project
Founded by The Marbridge Foundation

Misericordia Heart of Mercy
Chicago, Illinois
June 18-20, 2025

info@togetherforchoice.org
www.togetherforchoice.org

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE

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EMPLOYEE RESOURCES

NORMALIZING MISERICORDIA E-MAIL USAGE

To continue improving communication across our workforce, IT will transition staff to using their Misericordia email address for Misericordia functions.

What is my Misericordia/Outlook e-mail?

All staff are given an employee e-mail address upon hire (example@misericordia.com) If you are not sure what your Misericordia e-mail is, please ask your director or supervisor.

Why normalize it? Normalizing the use of e-mail would create an organizational culture that keeps up with the best practices in effective communications of today. This initiative aims to streamline all organization-wide communications through e-mail engagement and strengthen internal communications within each area.

What can I expect? Electronic employee engagement could take some getting used to. Over the next few weeks, you can expect the following:

- **Phase 1:** Everyone should have a Misericordia email. If you don't contact IT.
- **Phase 2:** Everyone should be able to access their email from an iPad or computer.
- **Phase 3:** Everyone should be checking their Misericordia email regularly for the latest Misericordia information.

Again, while adapting to technology can take time, in the long run, you can expect electronic communications through Outlook to be more interactive and help you stay organized and informed.

MISERICORDIA TUITION REIMBURSEMENT

Full-time and part-time employees of Misericordia Home are eligible to apply for tuition reimbursement. This program was designed to help employees continue their education and maintain or improve skills for career advancement. The amount of the reimbursement paid shall not exceed the annual maximum (\$2,000) per calendar year. Tuition reimbursement covers only the unpaid tuition that is not paid through a scholarship, grant, or other funding source, as well as tuition that is paid by the staff through a personal loan. Employees who meet the following criteria are eligible to apply for tuition reimbursement:

- Full-time or part-time status, who have worked at Misericordia for 6 months prior to starting classes.
- Review of Personnel file.
- Must have received a Meets Standards or better rating on their most recent performance review.
- A review of corrective action taken within the last 12 months.
- Prior consent and approval by Department Administrator.

Employees must be currently employed and in "good standing" to receive reimbursement. The application for tuition and procedures for filing are available in Human Resources.

BREAK THE ICE WITH THESE CONVERSATION STARTERS WITH CO-WORKERS



Courtesy of [Teambuilding.com](https://teambuilding.com)



Four Cs: Choose a car, color, cartoon character, and cuisine that represents you.



What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?



What was your first job and what did you learn from it?



FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

LOCAL BUSINESSES FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

ALOHA EATS

2534 N Clark St, Chicago, IL 60614
[details here](#)

MANDALA ARTS

410 S Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60605
[details here](#)

VIETFIVE COFFEE

1116 W. Madison St., Chicago IL 60607
[details here](#)

CHOC CHOC COSMETICS

3127 N Broadway St, Chicago IL 60657
[details here](#)

QIDEAS PLANT SHOP

1134 W Argyle St, Chicago, Illinois 60640
[details here](#)

HERITAGE MUSEUM OF ASIAN ART

3500 S. Morgan St., Chicago IL 60609
[details here](#)

As we celebrate **Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month**, [click here](#) for a roundup of Chicago events, exhibits, and beyond celebrating AAPI Heritage Month 2025.

Also, check out [this page](#) from **CHICAGO.GOV** to read and watch interviews with Asian American Chicagoans discussing what AAPI means to them.

Send us a tip! If you have recommendations for any local minority and women-owned businesses that Misericordia should know about it, [click here](#) and tell us about their goods and services. We may highlight your suggestion in future issues of Campus Connections!

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN MONTH

THE STORY BEHIND ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE

Courtesy of NPR, [click here](#) to read more about the story behind Asian Pacific American Heritage, and why it's celebrated in May.

May marks *Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month*, which celebrates the histories of Americans hailing from across the Asian continent and from the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

Before it was a month, it was a week



Pictured: Jeanie Jew

AAPI Heritage Month began with Jeanie Jew, who proposed the idea to Rep. Frank Horton after reflecting on her family's history. Her great-grandfather, M.Y. Lee, immigrated from China in the 1800s and helped build the transcontinental railroad. Lee later became a successful businessman but was killed during a time of anti-Asian violence. Jew wanted to honor the contributions and struggles of Asian Americans like her great-grandfather.

In 1977, Horton introduced a resolution to establish Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week, with Sen. Daniel Inouye doing the same in the Senate. A year later, a new resolution co-sponsored by Rep. Norman Mineta passed, and President Jimmy Carter signed it in 1978. The first official observance took place in May 1979. In 1990, Congress extended the celebration to a full month, and in 1992, May was officially designated as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Why May was chosen to commemorate AAPI heritage



Pictured: Photograph of First Transcontinental Railroad, circa 1869.

The legislation designating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month highlights two significant historical dates: May 7, 1843, when the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States, and May 10, 1869, known as Golden Spike Day, which marked the completion of the first transcontinental railroad. This railroad connected the East and West Coasts and was a major milestone in U.S. infrastructure and expansion.

A key part of the railroad's construction was the labor of 15,000 to 20,000 Chinese immigrants, who played a vital role in building it through challenging terrain like the Sierra Nevada. Their work helped make cross-country travel dramatically faster, reducing the journey from several months to less than a week. The railroad was instrumental in the development of the American West and remains a symbol of progress and unity in U.S. history.



COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS

QUALITY OF LIFE

From Linda B (mother of a Misericordia resident)

This article begins an in-depth exploration of each of the core values that make up the Misericordia Community of Believers. Today we focus on the first core value: **Quality of Life.**

The Community of Believers document summarizes this core value as follows: We value excellence and strive for it in all we do. Each of our residents is a valued person and deserves a worthwhile, quality life. Our staff creates and maintains a professional workplace, which benefits them and provides the residents with a positive environment in which to live. We are committed to this goal.

The mission of Misericordia is to provide the highest possible quality of life for its residents. While many residential facilities answer to the guidelines set by local and federal governments, Misericordia goes a step further to provide a lifestyle that is an extension of each resident's family home. We gather as one big family, supporting each other in this effort to provide the best possible care for our family members. Each person is treated with dignity and respect. Residents participate in programs both on and off campus and live and work under the auspices of compassionate attentive staff, who provide support services based on individual needs.

Throughout the campus, in every building, there is evidence of the attention to detail and excellent services. Indeed, visitors to the campus often remark on the wide variety of programs and the beautiful campus and facilities.



Residents ... Work/life balance is what we seek for ourselves, and Misericordia has done a great job of providing this balance for our family members. Residents have a five-day workweek, whether in outside employment, campus-based employment, or vocational programs. Evenings and weekends are filled with a variety of activities, suited to each person's needs and abilities. Swimming, fitness, team sports programs, bowling, Special Olympics, singing, concerts, dances, theme parties, and community outings are regular activities. Staying active and interacting with friends certainly makes for a fulfilling life. In addition, residents have quality time with family members, and this is one of the hallmarks of Misericordia.

Kindness abounds at Misericordia and is an expectation that residents quickly learn. The kindness that exudes throughout the campus is one of the contributing factors to the wonderful quality of life at Misericordia. Residents treat each other and staff with respect, making for a generally happy atmosphere.

Pictured: Residents at our Candy Days Fundraiser, the Reverse Job Fair, at the Botanic Garden, and learning archery with the Chicago Park District.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS (CONT'D)



Pictured: Residents having fun with staff at various recreation and leisure events, including concerts, gardening, and music bingo.

Staff ... Misericordia is known for its high quality staff, who treat residents and their families with the utmost respect. Staff work with each resident at that individual's level to ensure the best quality of life. They are keenly aware of residents' personal needs and of their safety, constantly adjusting to support changing needs. Misericordia is not a one size fits all place—each individual receives services and care tailored to that individual person.



Staff work hard to maintain clean, safe, joyful, and homelike living areas. And based on their own talents, staff provide a wide variety of experiences to the residents, whether engaging them in music, games, cooking, exercise, and so much more.

Families ... Parents and guardians actively participate in the planning of programs for their family members. They attend meetings and staffings, and new family members receive the resources they need to begin their Misericordia journey. Families oversee the care of their family members and support staff in this most important task of providing a high quality of life for all Misericordia residents. Indeed, new families quickly become an integral part of the greater Misericordia family and become familiar with Misericordia programs and services.

Misericordia considers itself an extension of family life for each resident, rather than an alternative or a replacement. And the family members who visit and volunteer on campus certainly add to the quality of life. A parent might coach a sports event, assist in the fitness center, or work alongside a resident server in the Greenhouse Inn. Activities such as these contribute to a good life for Mis residents by delivering a variety of experiences, offering support, and providing companionship.

Organization ... Misericordia is committed to a continuum of care for its residents and is constantly looking for new ways to serve them. This includes modernization of existing facilities as well as adding new residential areas and new services. In the last ten years, Misericordia has extended housing to meet the needs of the aging population, opened a dental clinic, opened a hair salon, and added new opportunities in the vocational and social arenas. Wellness activities have been a main focus at Misericordia, with newly hired dieticians, plans to expand the fitness center, and an expansion of the on-campus medical services.

Leadership reaches out to people in the greater community to bring their talents to Misericordia as volunteers and friends. The organization is committed to providing a home where residents can work, live, and thrive, and where they can pursue a fulfilling and meaningful life, engaged in various social activities. Leadership also communicates with families through regular meetings, newsletters, and email, to keep families informed.

To its great credit, Misericordia has been incredibly successful in engaging its stakeholders to expect, promote, support, and work to achieve and maintain a truly wonderful life for all who are a part of this great place. Residents are genuinely happy to live here, parents feel blessed, and the number of staff and leadership who have stayed the course is a testament to the quality of life.

CAMPUS CONNECTIONS



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

THANK YOU NURSES!!!

May follows another round of monthly appreciation for the various departments on campus. This month, we had a weeklong celebration to thank all staff in our nursing department.

We thank them for all they do in the lives of the residents.



Pictured: Our Misericordia Nurses in action from various areas (Main North, Main South, McAuley)

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 49** Vera Sanders
- 39** Deborah Satterfield
- 33** Kevin Connelly
- 31** Charles Carper, Janine Jacquet
- 30** Ariel Alvarado, Heather Mike, Nekisha Tolbert
- 29** Gwendolyn Arnold
- 28** Heather Barile, Esperanza Hernandez
- 27** Joan James-Walker
- 23** Sophia Alexander
- 22** John Tortorello
- 21** Emad Garibovic
- 20** Nellie Guerrero
- 19** Denise Davis
- 18** Anne Maddock, Lynise Williford
- 17** Cherie Churan, Migdalia Otiz, Debra Wright
- 16** Alfredo Barrientos, Dorothy Finnegan, Kathleen Watts, Justyna Madura
- 14** Sarah Burlingham, Thomas Harris, Nora Turgeon, Kelli Wilson
- 13** Wendy Gee, Meghan Gerage, Alice Ighodaye
- 11** Vicki Williams
- 10** Melissa Barron, Tania Bridge, Tim Noerr, Carolyn Seng, Erika Nava, Erin Clark, Katrina Semelroth
- 9** Maricela Guzman, Ricardo Bobadilla, Skye Dent, Elizabeth Dick, Kevin Markham, Evelyn Thomas, Erin Goga
- 8** Bettina Hutchens, Ashleah Martin, Barbara Moerman, Angel Pryor, Lakiesha Thompson, Jorge Rendon Cruz
- 7** Richard Martel
- 6** Allyson Byrne, Judy Wolf, Ariana Vargas Solis, Tamicka Stokes, Maria Lynette Vazquez-Benitez
- 5** Jessica Diaz, Maliha Malagic
- 4** Carlos Benavides, Katie Nguyen, Yao Amegan, Brigid Brennan, Sade Carter, Shanqwanta Horne, Grace Kariza, Jennilyn Layag, Stephanie Lopez, Jade Riedel, Maria Urrutia Valente, Caitlenn Caddick
- 3** Raejaena Dowdy, Rajendra Patel, Chelsea Cade, Mantoya Chambers, Giovanni Espinosa, Anita Henry, Bernadette Lettner, Rachel McNutt, Francisco Silva
- 2** Sharelle Fletcher, Jessica Grove, Judas Benson, Harrison Clark, Vanessa Diaz-Perez, Grant Fairchild, Victor Guzman, Latoya Newman, Sofia Trejo
- 1** Samuel Ferrara, Soleil Nyagicumbi, Djordje Veljkovic, Danaysha Gant, Julianna LeVecke, Lauren OKane, Melanie Salgado, Tess Vega, Mary Grace Kapraun, Julian Oribello, Virginia Susa



MONTHLY RECOGNITIONS

WELCOME NEW STAFF



Calabrese, Jenna (Therapy Student); **Corbo, Adelaide** (H&F Cafe); **King, Michael** (Quinlan); **Qureshi, Kirun** (Rosemary Connelly); **Rennaiye, Olamide** (Nursing Services); **Suarez, Argenis** (H&F Cafe); **Anthony, Maygan** (DT); **Arnold, Earnestine** (Village); **Ballen, D'nedra** (McAuley Residence); **Buzi, Kejsi** (Nursing Services); **Clemmons, Kathryn** (Quinlan); **Cruz, Jose** (Mercy Glen); **Farris, Summer** (Marian Center); **Fractus, Cyrus** (Village); **Glass, Skyler** (Village); **Golden, Vernisha** (McAuley Residence); **Rios, Sayuri** (McAuley Residence); **Satterthwaite, Maria** (Therapy); **Shin, Jennifer** (Quinlan); **Balleza Gonzalez, Juliana** (Laundry/Housekeeping Aux); **Cobb, Demetrius** (McAuley Residence); **Ledezma, Ezequiel** (Building Operations); **Oshodi, Latifu** (Security)

HAVING TROUBLE ACCESSING YOUR MISERICORDIA EMPLOYEE EMAIL?

IT staff are happy to help get you into your email. Please follow these guidelines to get your email password reset:

- Please have your supervisor or director email IT@misericordia.com
- Please indicate your need for the email password reset
- Please indicate the staff person's name

IT will not send a password reset to personal email addresses. We have no way to verify that these email addresses are accurate. All employees should have a Misericordia email account, and IT can create any email accounts we missed. You can stop by IT (3rd floor Marian Center), and we would be happy to help.



Stay tuned for weekly Campus Connections updates sent via email. You can also find previous issues of Campus Connections in ADP and [here](#) on our website. If you have any questions or feedback for us, send your messages [here](#)! Be sure to include your name, work area, and an email we can use to contact you!