Media Release

MISERICORDIA
Health · Centre
The future of care

99 Cornish Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 1A2, Canada

www.misericordia.mb.ca

CARING • RESPECT • TRUST

October 22, 2026

A full-circle story of dedication and devotion:
A Misericordia Sister and two Vietnamese refugees

In a nutshell:

In 1979 Y Lam was 18 years old and living in a refugee camp in Indonesia – having fled her home country of Vietnam – when the Misericordia Sisters, including Sr Marie-Anna Plamondon, sponsored Y to immigrate to Winnipeg.

While Y was to spend her first year only attending English-language classes and adjusting to a new culture, she immediately asked Sr Marie-Anna for a job to begin earning money to sponsor family to come to Canada.

Y began working at Misericordia in the housekeeping department in the evenings and weekends after language classes.

In 1982 Y met and fell in love with Bob, another Vietnamese refugee in her English classes, who conveniently had the same last name. They married in 1986.

Y beseeched Sr. Marie-Anna to also hire Bob and he began working in housekeeping as well.

The couple's strong connection to Sr. Maria-Anna never faltered, sharing weekends and holidays together. Sr. Marie-Anna named their first-born, Nadine. Two more daughters followed. All daughters were babysat by Sr. Marie-Anna (and other Misericordia Sisters at their house in the Gates) and the daughters all learned how to speak French at the Sisters' insistence. Recall, the Misericordia Sisters were originally from Montreal.

In 2004, Sr Marie-Anna returned to the Motherhouse in Montreal, which was sad for everyone. Sunday phone calls became the new normal. Sr. Marie-Anna returned occasionally to visit Winnipeg. Y, Bob and their daughters drove to Montreal to visit Sr. Marie-Anna before her passing in 2020.

"We felt a deep bond to the Sisters for taking care of us," says Bob. "Whenever we needed help troubleshooting anything – whether at home or at work – they were there for us. We considered Sr. Marie-Anna a member of our family."

“And we consider Misericordia our second home,” said Y.

Over the years in their careers, Y moved from housekeeping to linen and laundry while Bob trained to be a journeyman in plant services. They both are still working at Misericordia – until tomorrow!

Interviews and photo opportunities:

WHAT: Y and Bob Lam retirement party - 46 and 43 years of service respectively

WHO: Y, Bob, daughters, grandchildren and Misericordia staff

WHERE: Misericordia Auditorium, Wolseley East entrance *(free media parking in metered Sherbrook lot)*

WHEN: **Tomorrow** 11:45 a.m. – 2 p.m. Friday, October 23, 2026

In a full-circle gesture and retirement gift to Misericordia, the Lam’s have donated a bench to the Misericordia Place personal care home garden. The plaque inscription will read:

In loving memory of Sr. Marie-Anna Plamondon with love and gratitude from Y Lam, Bob Lam and family.

-30-

Media Contact:
Josh Verinder, Communications Coordinator
Cell: 204-250-9409

Other information/fun facts:

- Y’s sister couldn’t spell her Chinese name in English on her immigration application to live in Canada, so she just wrote the letter “Y” – today it would be spelled Tuyet
- Sr. Marie-Anna helped Y sponsor her extended family to come to Winnipeg
- Bob came to Canada in 1979, the same year as Y: “I didn’t see a future in Vietnam. The war ended in 1975 and I had no education because the war had disrupted my schooling as we had to relocate so many times”
- Bob’s parents were Chinese, living in Vietnam. The Vietnamese government allowed those with Chinese ancestry to leave by boat after the war. The family (two parents, six kids) decided to leave in separate boats “in case something went wrong”

- Bob’s two older brothers left on the first boat. Bob left on the second boat. A week later, the Vietnamese government rescinded its permission to leave and Bob’s parents and remaining siblings weren’t able to travel. Bob’s Dad passed away before he could leave Vietnam

- Bob’s older brothers settled in Winnipeg and sponsored the rest of the family to come to Canada

- Bob’s real name is “Binh” but a supervisor at one of his first jobs in Canada had difficulty pronouncing Binh so suggested “Bob” as an alternative

- Funniest story: Sr. Maria-Anna raised some eyebrows at the Motherhouse when she told the Sisters how she had received a “police escort” with the Lam family back to the Motherhouse after an outing to Montreal’s Notre-Dame Basilica (Bob asked a kind policeman for directions back to the Motherhouse and the officer insisted on providing an escort)

HIGH RESOLULTION PHOTOS AVAILABLE

jverinder@misericordia.mb.ca

1

Y and Bob standing behind Sr. Marie-Anna on their wedding day (1986)

2

Bob, his daughters, Y and Sr. Marie-Anna, Montreal (1998/1999) (left to right)

3

Y and Bob in their apartment (1985)

4

Y and in front of Misericordia Health Centre (1980)

5

Y and Bob with family and friends on their wedding day (1986)

6

Y at her first day of work at Misericordia Health Centre (1979)

7

Y in the laundry and linen department at Misericordia Health Centre (2024)

8

Bob in the electrical department at Misericordia Health Centre (2026)