

Helping people with disabilities flourish and live full and abundant lives

3rd Quarter
2021

# Services, Inc. The GENTPASS So that our mission is never lost...

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### Gain monthly inspiration



Trinity Services' Art from the Heart 2022 wall calendar features original artwork created by the people we support. See page 5 for more details, or visit **www.trinityservices.org/calendar** to order yours.



Chad Kodiak, R.Ph., (center) of KODO Care Pharmacy, is surrounded by family and coworkers after receiving an award at Trinity Services' 32nd Annual Better Together event.

# 32nd Annual Better Together Dinner Dance & Auction honors pharmacist for providing lifesaving access to vaccines

rinity Services, Inc.'s 32nd Annual Better Together Dinner Dance & Auction safely joined friends and neighbors on Sept. 18 at The Odyssey in Tinely Park for the benefit of people with developmental disabilities and mental illness who receive support from Trinity.

This was Trinity's first indoor, inperson fundraiser since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, made possible by the availability of vaccines, low case numbers at the time, as well as required masks and social distancing.

The event featured a presentation

from Trinity Services President and CEO Thane Dykstra, Ph.D., who thanked guests for their continued friendship and support throughout the pandemic. Dykstra presented a special award of recognition to Chad Kodiak, R.Ph., of KODO Care Pharmacy, for his lifesaving work securing COVID-19 vaccines for people with disabilities and staff members who support them earlier this year.

Kodiak and his team quickly notified Trinity Services as soon as the pharmacy acquired Moderna vaccines. When other organizations like Trinity were struggling

(Continued on Page 3)

### Letter from the President of the Board



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### The COMPASS

is published by Trinity Services, Inc. Send any correspondence to sladislas@trinityservices.org or call (815) 717-3750.

Dear Friends,

As we approach an unthinkable third year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I want you to know how much hope your support has given those we support and our staff members at Trinity Services.

The work we do to provide services to people with developmental disabilities and mental illness throughout Illinois has certainly not been made any easier by the pandemic, but your friendship has helped us through some of the pandemic's darkest days.

The omicron variant is creating positive case counts never before seen in the course of the pandemic, creating a set of new, yet familiar, challenges for our organization. Our work necessitates in-person interactions with the people we support in order for us to provide essential direct care and the assistance people need in their daily lives. We are fortunate that the majority of our staff members and the people we support are fully vaccinated and, therefore, have some defense against this virus, but we still must contend with the difficulties of enhanced risk and breakthrough cases.

We are proud of all we've been able to accomplish throughout the pandemic thus far — keeping people as safe, healthy and engaged as possible. Despite the added adversities we face, we never let up on the pursuit of our mission to help people flourish and live full, abundant lives.

Your friendship has been a key component of our ability to stay flexible, innovative and tenacious in our work throughout the pandemic. As you will see in our cover story, we

were very fortunate to be able to safely host our 32nd Annual Better Together Dinner Dance & Auction in person in September at The Odyssey in Tinley Park. With masks and social distancing, this event was different from those of the past, but it was as full as ever of warmth, camaraderie and the shared belief in our mission to support people with disabilities and mental illness.

Thank you to all who made this event such a success.

In the following pages, you will see information about some activities people we support were able to engage in this fall and, in the Someone You Should Know article on Page 4, an article about one of our amazing staff members who makes full, abundant life possible for those we serve.

Reflecting on the ebbs and flows of the pandemic, we are grateful for every moment resembling normalcy that we have been able to experience, and equipped with your support, we are prepared to take on new challenges as they present themselves.

Together, we are making history, affecting change in a way that people will marvel at generations from now. Thank you for your ongoing friendship during these difficult times. We truly are better together.

Proymond & Mi Shane

Sincerely,

Raymond D. McShane, Chairperson of the Board

## Trinity School student pursues interest in policing, is sworn in as Junior Trooper

ne student at Trinity Services' school program took one step closer to achieving his dream of becoming a police officer on Nov. 10 when he was sworn in as an Illinois State Police Junior Trooper at Trinity's Community Day Services program in Joliet.

Cristian Ayala, 15, received a Junior Trooper badge and certificate and an Illinois State Police patch during a morning ceremony with members of the Illinois State Police.

During his ceremony, he was sworn in both in Spanish and English to honor his heritage.

After the ceremony, Cristian and his family were greeted with a parade that included police cars and motorcycles that turned on their lights and sirens along the way.

"Thank you, Cristian, for displaying your passion for wanting to be a police officer when you grow up," School Director Stacey Paprocki said. "I can't express enough how grateful I am for everyone who came together to make this happen."



(Better Together — continued from Page 1)

to gain access to the lifesaving shot, Kodiak and his team also stepped up to partner with Trinity, the Illinois Department of Human Services, J.D. Brown Pharmacy, and nursing students from Joliet Junior College and the University of St. Francis to offer a vaccine clinic. This clinic was available for people with developmental disabilities and staff members who support them from nonprofit provider organizations throughout the Chicago area. The clinic provided inoculations to approximately 650 people from 22 provider organizations in the area.

Kodiak and his team's efficiency, teamwork and organizational skills advance the timeline for vaccinations for so many people with developmental disabilities who are especially vulnerable to the coronavirus.

During his speech, Dykstra also thanked Trinity supporters, including

many guests in attendance, who donated essential supplies like hand sanitizer and cloth masks (needed toward the beginning of the pandemic when

these items were hard to come by), food, games and activities to keep people engaged while home, and more. These items helped bring some peace of mind and joy to people Trinity supports and staff memsome of the

pandemic's most difficult days.

Trinity is grateful to all who made this event a success for those we support.



bers during Guests browse auction items at Trinity Services' 32nd Annual Better some of the Together Dinner Dance & Auction, held Sept. 18 at The Odyssey.

# Someone You Should Know Cheryl Bales



"They know I'm there to see them, and I'm not just there for nursing."

hen Cheryl Bales accepted a job at Trinity Services in 2000, she thought it would just be a temporary role, but 22 years later, she retains her vital role within the organization, providing nursing care and leadership.

Bales is a registered nurse who works primarily within Trinity's Residential Network I in the Joliet area, where she has lived and worked her entire life. She pursued a career in nursing because it was seen as an honorable profession, and she split the first 10 years of her career between orthopedics, neurosurgery and hospice care.

"I was looking for something outside of nursing, and this job allows you to do so many other things," Bales said of her role at Trinity.

Her responsibilities in a typical day or week vary, and flexibility is key. There are some standard components, like paperwork and assessments, but "you can never really plan. You never know what's going to come up," Bales said.

One of the more enjoyable parts of Bales' job is getting to visit the people she supports in their homes to interact with them and assess their health.

"There's a lot of personal interaction — much more than in a hospital where you see someone briefly, they go home and you never see them again," she said. "I know most of the people we support in most of the departments. It's an achievement that they know me, and I know them."

To Bales, the most surprisingly enjoyable part of her role at Trinity has been the ability to grow her public speaking and teaching skills.

"I never thought I would like teaching," she said. "I almost quit when I found out I had to get up in front of people and teach, but now it's my favorite thing to do. It's a way of connecting with the staff, both your peers and leadership. I teach what I know and what I've learned."

Bales regularly teaches a medications class at the organization and has also led instruction on other health-related topics like cooking and nutrition. Through the pandemic, Bales worked with Trinity's Staff Development Department to teach in virtual formats. She said she is proudest of her work on medication and medication reauthorization class curricula, and her assistance developing medication protocols.

Her expertise is deeply valued, as the lessons she shares are all related to providing direct care to people with developmental disabilities. Many Trinity staff members had no formal medical training prior to working with the organization.

Looking to the future, Bales hopes to create a more structured curriculum around cooking for staff members, particularly to help staff plan appropriate meals for specific diets.

Another challenge Bales continually works to address is ensuring the people she supports receive adequate medical care. She serves as a patient advocate for them when they need to

see other medical professionals and works to challenge negative views and attitudes members of the public may have toward people with disabilities. Her advocacy and attention to detail are particularly important as the people she supports age.

Reflecting on her years with Trinity Services, Bales described her work as rewarding, above all things.

"It's a field that you don't think you're going to go into as a nurse," she said. "I didn't go to school thinking I would work with people with disabilities. It's a rewarding job. There's something about going into a house, and the people who live there know my name and are excited to see me and show me what they're doing. They know I'm there to see them, and I'm not just there for nursing."

To help add some happiness to people's days throughout the pandemic, Bales regularly drops off lunch or dinner at their homes. She is able to conduct her health assessments while the people she supports are eating, but the visit is so much more than an assessment.

"At Trinity, I don't have to be just a nurse all the time," she said. "That's one of the big things. I get to see people and be part of their lives.

"This was supposed to be a temporary job. I was going to stay a year until I could find a non-nursing job, and 20 years later, I'm still here. It's fun. It's a good job. I love the people I work with. It's a different type of nursing but a good type."

"Caring is the essence of nursing." ~ Jean Watson

### Young adults from Trinity's The Branch learn about area history on visit to Joliet Area Historical Museum

embers of The Branch, Trinity Services' Well-Being and Enrichment Program for young adults, had a fun, educational experience learning about Joliet on a November trip to the Joliet Area Historical Museum.

The group took a walk through the museum, stopping to watch educational videos about Joliet history, view artifacts and mementos from the area's past, and take some photographs along the way.





## Art from the Heart Wall Calendar features original artwork from people Trinity Services supports

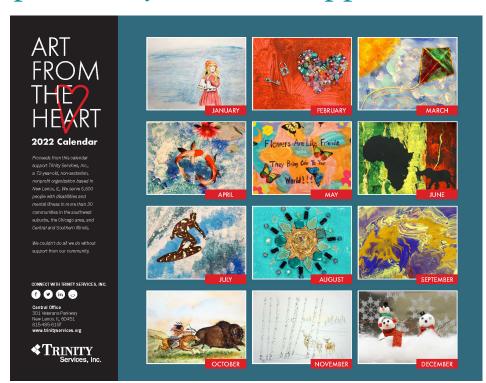
he new year has just begun, and Trinity Services has a great calendar for friends to stay organized and inspired throughout 2022.

The Art from the Heart wall calendar features 12 original pieces of artwork handmade by people with developmental disabilities and mental illness who receive support from Trinity. The themed pieces of artwork take viewers through the year, and each piece features a quote from the artist about the inspiration behind the work.

Calendars may be shipped to purchasers' homes or are available for curbside pickup at Trinity office locations in New Lenox, Des Plaines, Wilmington, Peoria and Mascoutah.

Calendars are \$20 each with curbside pickup or \$25 each with shipping. Calendar purchases benefit the artists and people who receive support from Trinity Services.

To order a calendar, visit www.trinityservices.org/calendar.



### Donations July through September 2021

Trinity Services extends heartfelt thanks to the individuals and businesses whose generous contributions help people with disabilities and mental illness flourish and live full and abundant lives.

We are updating our records to recognize donors how they would like to be addressed. Please let us know what format you would like your name or household to be listed in this newsletter and correspondence by emailing sladislas@trinityservices.org.

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