

The
COMPASS
So that our mission is never lost...

Helping people with disabilities flourish and live full and abundant lives

3rd Quarter
2024

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Trinity's Roxy, a beautifully renovated Art Deco-designed venue in Lockport, hosted a special night of music and dancing.

2024 Event Schedule



Mark your calendars for all the 2024 Trinity Services events including: *Better Together Dinner Dance and Auction (9/21)*, and *An Evening of Holiday Music Concert Gala (12/6)*.

Visit www.trinityservices.org/DinnerDance to register now.

Dancing the Night Away! Trinity Really Knows How to Party!

On Saturday, May 18, Trinity Services transformed their Roxy venue in Lockport into a magical experience for the people we support.

Owned and operated by Trinity Services, Roxy hosts public events like jazz bands and swing dancing, as well as activities for the people supported by Trinity.

“We had not held a dance since COVID,” said Jen Hodges, Director of Network 3. “This was a wonderful opportunity to bring everyone into a place where they could mingle with friends, meet other people, and enjoy a night of music and dancing.”

Approximately 90 men and women who receive support from Trinity Services, many dressed in formal attire, attended the special event.

“It felt like a homecoming,” said Jen Wilkerson, a staff member who helps out at Roxy. “Everyone was super dressed up! You could literally feel the excitement in the air when they came into the room!”

Before the dance, a number of women were treated to a makeover experience. Volunteers helped the women with their hair and getting dressed. Queen Mecca Wilson did everyone's makeup.

Letter from the President of the Board



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The COMPASS

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Dear Friends,

I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer.

First, I want to extend a big thank you to all those who volunteered to make the *Dancing at Roxy* event on May 18 so very special for the people we support. The volunteers decorated the Roxy venue, provided clothes and accessories, and helped many of the ladies get ready for the evening by doing their hair and makeup. It was an evening our men and women will never forget!

Congratulations to Betsy Cihlar, and Laura Landini of Trinity's Homeless Support Program (HSP), who participated in the Will County Continuum of Care's 100-Day Encampment Challenge with a goal of placing people in safe and stable housing. The entire HSP team worked hard to place 12 families to meet their goal. Well done.

On June 19, Trinity staff and the people we support celebrated Juneteenth Freedom Day with barbeques at the administration building in New Lenox and other Trinity communities throughout the State of Illinois. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to make this a very special day.

Once again the Trinity Triumph 5K was a resounding success with over 250 runners and

walkers participating. Thank you to the Development staff and all the volunteers who pulled it off.

You will certainly enjoy reading the *Someone You Should Know* article featuring Sierra Waller, Trinity's Safety and Leave Coordination Specialist. Thank you, Sierra, for all your dedication and hard work.

Finally, please join us for Trinity Services' Annual Better Together Dinner Dance and Auction on Saturday, September 21st. This year's event will be held at a new venue - DiNolfo's in Homer Glen. Enjoy fine dining, dancing, and silent and live auctions for the benefit of people with disabilities and mental health needs who receive support from Trinity Services.

There's still time to register at www.trinityservices.org/dinnerdance or call Sherry Ladislas at (815) 717-3750.

Have a delightful fall!

Sincerely,

Raymond D. McShane,
Chairperson of the Board

Trinity's Homeless Support Program Achieves 100-Day Encampment Challenge Goal

Last February, the Trinity Services' Homeless Support Program (HSP) participated in a special two-day workshop called the 100-Day Encampment Challenge.

Sponsored by the Will County Continuum of Care, the workshop, held at the Clarion Hotel in Joliet, invited local area homeless support agencies to come together to establish attainable goals for reducing the burgeoning encampment population in Will and Grundy counties.

Betsy Cihlar, HSP Referral Specialist, and Laura Landini, HSP Housing Specialist, participated in the workshop, run by Re! Institute, an international nonprofit organization helping communities swiftly and effectively address critical social problems via a proven collaborative systems transformation strategy. Other agencies participating in the two-day practicum included Cornerstone, Daybreak, Grundy PADS, Joliet Township, Morning Star Mission, River Walk Homes, Will County Health Department, and the Will/Grundy Medical Center.

Each agency was asked to come up with their own realistic goals for finding stable housing for people in homeless encampments, those disadvantaged individuals and families living on the streets. "Initially, we thought a realistic goal was placement of three families," said Betsy Cihlar. "However, through our

discussions with other agencies, we came to the realization that a goal of 12 placements was possible."

The Trinity HSP goal was specific and to the point – *within 100 days, Trinity Services Homeless Support Program will connect 100% of people in encampments in Central Joliet to active case managers and 12 people from encampments, or with a recent history of encampment homelessness, to safe and stable housing.*

The workshop really paid off. "Every goal was broken down by different groups to help make the goals happen," explained Cihlar. "Then we met weekly with all the agencies to review our goals and to help each other accomplish them."

Over the 100-day challenge period, HSP worked closely with other local agencies to meet their goal. "It was literally on the final day of the challenge that Trinity was able to connect 100% of individuals living in the encampments with the case management expertise they needed and to find safe and stable house for all 12 people," said Laura Landini. "That was very exciting for us."

The Trinity HSP helps people by applying for grants through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or through the counties. The grants pay for rental assistance, while at the same time HSP clinical support specialists, or case managers, provide additional support, as-

sisting people with developing or relearning life skills, such as the basics of cooking meals, cleaning, and budgeting money.

The 100-Day Encampment Challenge also served as a catalyst for building relationships among the various agencies. "The success of the Challenge encouraged all the local organizations to agree to meet on a regular basis to keep the lines of communication open and to maximize our resources," said Betsy Cihlar. "We want to keep pushing forward to reduce the homeless population in our areas."



Laura Landini and Betsy Cihlar moving furniture during Will County Continuum of Care's 100-Day Encampment Challenge.

Trinity Celebrates Juneteenth Freedom Day with Food, Friendship, and an Important Lesson in History!

On Wednesday, June 19, Trinity Services celebrated Juneteenth Freedom Day with picnics at the Veterans Building in New Lenox, as well as in Des Plaines, Peoria, Mascoutah, the Trinity School, and at all of the community day program sites.

Juneteenth, officially Juneteenth National Independence Day, is a federal holiday that honors the date of June 19, 1865 when Federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas to an-

nounce and enforce emancipation for enslaved people.

“This celebration is a great way to remind everyone of this important moment in our history, while at the same time offering fellowship and fun for the people we support and our staff,” said Thane Dykstra, President and CEO of Trinity Services.

Guests were treated to hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, chips, cookies, and drinks. Afterwards, there were

games, contests, and prizes.

Prior to the picnics, the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Belonging (DEIAB) Committee hosted virtual sessions about Juneteenth history, meanings, and traditions.

“We appreciate all of the volunteers who helped make this a special day,” said Amy Roberts. “Everyone had a great time being together for this very historic occasion.”



14th Annual Trinity Triumph 5K Welcomes Runners and Walkers of All Ages and Abilities!

Under an overcast sky, runners and walkers turned out in force for the 14th Annual Trinity Triumph 5K on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Despite an earlier downpour, the clouds parted and the race started a few minutes late at the Village Commons, winding its way through the beautiful Wildwood subdivision and finishing in front of the New Lenox Public Library.

Lexy Sams was the top female

finisher with a time of 20:17. Nick Diaz was the top male finisher with a time of 20:29.

The top male and female finishers each received Amazon \$50 gift cards, while the top three finishers in each age group received a medal.

When it was over, runners, walkers and their families returned to the band shell for pizza, soft drinks, water, and announcement of the winners.

“A big thank you to everyone who participated, and a special thank you to our Trinity staff who gave their time, our terrific sponsors, and our dedicated CERT volunteers,” said Sherry Ladislas, Director of Development. “We are so grateful for everyone who supports Trinity Services. It means so much to the people we support. We look forward to seeing everyone next year for the 15th Annual Trinity Triumph 5k.”



Someone You Should Know

Sierra Waller, Employee Services



"I believe it is a very special thing we do here!"

-- Sierra Waller

Sierra Waller, a member of the Employee Services team, is an effervescent individual with a sparkling personality who exudes positivity.

Following graduation from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign, Sierra worked for Colorado Technical University, a for-profit online school, before getting married and giving birth to her first child, a son named Damacio. Eventually, Sierra got back into the workforce, as the Chronic Disease Prevention Coordinator with the West Cook YMCA in Oak Park.

"I was basically in charge of all of the health and prevention classes such as diabetes prevention and blood pressure monitoring," explained Waller. "I helped liaison the contracts with hospitals such as Rush in Oak Park, Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, and MacNeal Hospital in Berwyn. I also taught diabetes prevention classes at MacNeal. It was an important learning experience."

During COVID, Sierra and her family decided to move to Country Club Hills. After eight years at the West Cook YMCA, Sierra began looking for opportunities closer to home. That was when she found out about an opening at Trinity Services.

"I had never heard of Trinity," Waller said. "However, I decided to apply." In July 2021, Sierra joined Trinity as the Safety and Leave Coordination Specialist.

"Basically, I am the point of contact for all leaves of absences, worker's compensation claims, and automo-

bile accidents," said Waller. "If you're injured, or if you need to take time off from work, I'm the person to see."

Tracy Dudek, Director of Employee Services, is effusive in her praise. "I have the pleasure of working with Sierra on a daily basis, and I can confidently say that she is one of the kindest individuals I've ever met, Dudek said. "Sierra's dedication to her work is matched only by her genuine care for those around her. She consistently puts others before herself, always ensuring that everyone feels supported. Sierra's ability to maintain such a warm and uplifting presence, even in challenging situations, is a testament to her remarkable character."

Now in her third year, Sierra loves working at Trinity. "I love the culture and I love the people," Waller said. "There are lots of opportunities to connect with fellow employees including our annual retreat at Starved Rock, trips to the Michigan campground, and events and activities throughout the year."

Thane Dykstra, President and CEO of Trinity Services, said, "Sierra is a great addition to the Employee Services team. Her positive attitude and authentic concern for Trinity's employees, as well as her willingness to volunteer wherever needed, makes her a valuable member of the Trinity family."

Sierra is part of Trinity's Appreciation and Recognition Committee that sponsors events like Breakfast with Santa and Kindness Day. She

also enjoys volunteering at Trinity events, such as Valentine's Day parties, where she has the opportunity to engage with the people Trinity supports.

Sierra has also taken on a leadership role facilitating Small Groups, a 26-week positive psychology experience that promotes well-being and mental health among Trinity employees. She also chairs the Safety Committee.

"I believe it is a very special thing we do here, and I'm glad to be part of it," said Waller. "At Trinity, I feel like we are making a difference every single day and having a positive impact on the State of Illinois."



Sierra Waller in her office.

On a Very Special Night in May the Roxy in Lockport was Totally Transformed into a Magical Experience!

(Continued from page 1)

Cathy Kostek, who runs the Trinity Clothing Boutique that accepts gently-worn clothes for the people we support, provided outfits for the women.

“Cathy did an excellent job making sure everyone found something that fit perfect,” said Amy Cords, Associate Director. “She pressed and hemmed the outfits and made sure they had matching jewelry and accessories.”

Like any formal event, guests were dropped off in front of Roxy on a picture perfect day. Volunteer staff welcomed everyone as they came through the door and helped them to the tables.

One of the highlights was the mocktail bar, where guests could come up and order their own non-alcoholic drinks.

“It was so great to see everyone going to the bar and ordering a drink,” said Jen Wilkerson. “This was an opportunity for the people we support to enjoy a very normal experience.”

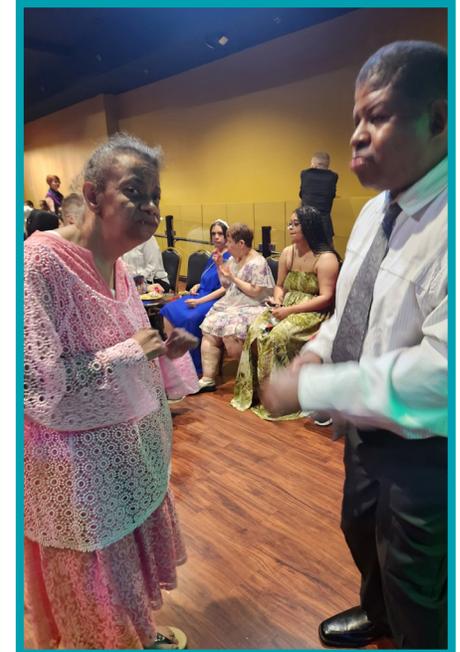
The food theme for the evening was dipped chocolate. Guests were treated to all kinds of special treats including chocolate-covered strawberries and Oreo cookies.

As the evening progressed, guests enjoyed dancing to the music and engaging with people they had never met before. Many were excited to be reconnected with old friends.

“I think this was a real success,” said Jen Hodges. “Everyone who attended had a wonderful time. The staff who volunteered were absolutely terrific. We definitely want to do this again soon.”



Celebrate! Celebrate! Dance to the Music!



Donations

April 2024 through June 2024

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 update our records regularly 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 sladislav@trinityservices.org.

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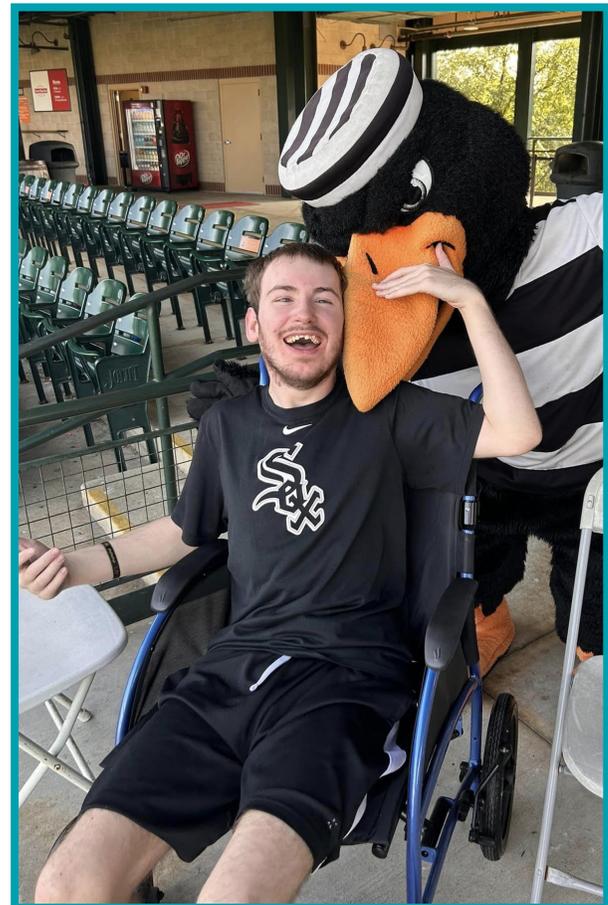
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Thank You for All You
Do for Trinity Services!



35TH ANNUAL TRINITY SERVICES, INC.
BETTER TOGETHER
DINNER DANCE & AUCTION

We feel privileged to be celebrating our 74th year of providing supports and services for people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Since first opening our doors as a small school in 1950, Trinity Services has been committed to helping people with developmental disabilities and mental illness flourish and live full, abundant lives. Today, we support more than 5,800 people through an array of innovative programs. This would not be possible without generous supporters like you.

We hope you will join us for this evening of entertainment, fine dining and dancing.

Saturday, September 21, 2024
DiNolfo's, Homer Glen, IL

Entertainment by The Connexion Band

- 5 p.m. Cocktails and Silent Auction
- 6 p.m. Dinner
- 7 p.m. Live Auction and Dancing

RSVP by Friday, Sept. 6, 2024

Two ways to register

1. Visit www.trinityservices.org/dinnerdance
2. Call 815-717-3750

Helping people with disabilities and mental illness flourish and live full and abundant lives



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Fall is the Perfect Time to Plan a Visit to STRIDES!



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STRIDES has a new stablemate and his name is ATLAS!
Stop by and say hello! Pictured with Atlas are barnhands
Amanda Albrecht, Rachel Foster, and Jen Kaiser.