

Helping people with
disabilities flourish
and live full and
abundant lives

3rd Quarter
2026

The COMPASS

So that our mission is never lost...

In this issue

2026 Trinity Triumph 5K	1
President's Message	2
Sharon Parker-Love	3
Helping People Flourish	4
The Practice of Encouragement	5
Someone You Should Know	6
Trinity Endowment Fund	7
Donations/Sustained Giving	8-10
An Evening of Holiday Music	11
WGN-TV Skycam Flyover	12



David Wojciak was the top male finisher in a time of 18:02, while the top female finisher was Kristin Kotara with a time of 19:13.

2026 Events Schedule



2026 An Evening of Holiday Music

Mark your calendars for
**An Evening of Holiday Music and
Concert Gala at Butterfield Country
Club, Friday, December 4, 2026.**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Serving Up Support Pickleball Fund-
raiser, Sunday, March 7, 2027**

2026 Trinity Triumph 5K Walk and Run Sets New Attendance Record

It was a picture perfect evening for the 16th Annual Trinity Triumph 5K Walk and Run, held on June 23, 2026.

Over 500 runners and walkers registered for the event, a new attendance record. New Lenox Mayor Tim Baldermann welcomed all of the participants and started the race at 7:00 pm.

Kristin Kotara was the top female finisher with a time of 19:13, while David Wojciak finished first for the men with a time of 18:02. Each received a gift certificate for new running shoes from **The Human Race Sports** in Orland Park, IL. Every walker and run-

ner received a commemorative medal.

This year's theme was **READY, SET, GLOW**. Race t-shirts and participant medals were designed to glow in the dark.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who supports Trinity Services," said Sherry Ladislas, Trinity's Director of Development. "We also want to give shout-outs to our incredible 5K sponsors, the dedicated New Lenox CERT volunteers, and our amazing Trinity staff members."

Join us in June 2027 for the next Trinity Triumph 5K.

Letter from the President of the Board



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301 Veterans Parkway
New Lenox, IL 60451
(815) 485-6197
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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,

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and productive summer.

First, I want to express our deepest sorrow at the recent passing of Sharon Parker-Love. Sharon was one of Art Dykstra's first hires when he became President and CEO at Trinity Services in 1987. Sharon will be truly missed by all of her Trinity colleagues and friends.

I also want to thank everyone who participated in the WGN-TV Skycam Flyover on Friday, July 24, 2026. Hundreds of Trinity staff and people supported greeted the helicopter with *WGN-TV Superfan* signs and cheered their hearts out.

Congratulations to Stephanie Behlke Leigh, Trinity's new Chief Program Officer. In her new role, Stephanie, who has worked for Trinity for 25 years, will provide oversight for the organization's residential, community day, behavioral health, assistive technology, admissions, and related community-based service divisions. She will also lead and support Trinity's Network Directors. You can read more about Stephanie in *Someone You Should Know*.

There is still time to purchase your tickets for Trinity Services' *Better Together Dinner Dance and Auction* on Friday, September

18, 2026, at DiNolfo's in Homer Glen. Enjoy cocktails, a delicious dinner, silent and live auctions, and dance the night away to the music of *The Connexion Band*.

All proceeds go to supporting people with disabilities and mental health needs served by Trinity. For more information go to www.trinityservices.org/dinnerdance.

Congratulations to Art Dykstra on the recent publication of his new book, *The Practice of Encouragement*, a remarkable collection of thought pieces on leadership, work, relationships, and purpose. Well done, Art.

Finally, please consider donating to the Trinity Services Endowment Fund. The Trinity Foundation and Trinity Services created the Fund to provide long-term financial stability for Trinity Services and the people served by the organization. To learn more, contact Sherry Ladislas, Director of Development (815) 717-3750, or email Sherry at sladislas@trinityservices.org.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather!

Sincerely,

Raymond D. McShane,
Chairperson of the Board

Sharon Parker-Love, Beloved Trinity Colleague, Remembered for Her Advocacy and Generosity

Sharon Lucretia Parker-Love passed away peacefully at the age of 80 on Wednesday, August 5, 2026, at her home in Shorewood, Illinois, surrounded by the love of her family.

Born in Chicago in 1945, Sharon was the daughter of the late Sanders and Cannie Middleton. As the daughter of a U.S. Army lieutenant, she had the unique opportunity to travel throughout the world during her childhood, experiences that helped shape her broad perspective, compassion, and appreciation for people from all walks of life.

Sharon was a Registered Nurse (RN), who received her nursing diploma from Copley Memorial Hospital School of nursing in 1967. Later she earned a Bachelor's degree from Lewis University in Applied Behavioral Science and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Illinois-Chicago.

In 1969, Art Dykstra, former President and CEO of Trinity Services, hired Sharon at the Elgin Mental Health Center, where he served as the Extended Care Program Director. When Dykstra became President and CEO of Trinity Services in 1987, Sharon was one of his first hires.

In 2025, shortly before her passing, Sharon took time to reflect on her career at Trinity Services and working with Art Dykstra.

"My career has always been rooted in loyalty – to people, principles, and purpose," said Sharon, who started at Trinity Services in 1989. "Art saw potential in me before I saw it in myself. And together, we helped build something lasting."

Sharon didn't set out to be a supervisor. In fact, when Art offered her the position of RN and Resi-

dential Program Administrator at Trinity, she turned the job down at first. But then she realized that by supervising, she could help more people.

"If you do all the work yourself, you can only reach so far," explained Sharon. "But if you build a strong team with high standards, you can make lasting change."

The work was personal to Sharon. "Even at Elgin, I couldn't stand seeing people live in dirty environments, being ignored, or being treated like numbers," explained Sharon. "I pushed for better – always. I trained my teams to listen, clean, ask questions, and act with integrity. I wanted people to feel seen, safe, and valued."

From the very beginning, Sharon felt that she was making a difference.

"At Trinity, I had the chance to shape entire programs," Sharon said. "I helped launch the first behavioral health homes. I trained teams, wrote policies, and advocated for people who had no one else. Art trusted me to lead, and in return, I gave it my all. And we never stopped trying to do what was right. We weren't just meeting standards; we were setting them."

Art Dykstra was effusive in his praise of her.

"Sharon was a trusted colleague who made a positive difference in so many ways," said Dykstra. "She did so not only with the people we serve at Trinity, but also with the staff and with me, personally. Sharon is one of Trinity's superheroes. She will be missed."

For 56 years, Sharon devoted her career to serving individuals with developmental disabilities, making an extraordinary impact on countless lives through her compassion, advocacy and leadership.

At Trinity, she became a respected mentor, colleague, and champion for those she served.

As she neared retirement, Sharon looked back on her career at Trinity with a feeling of pride.

"I see the leaders I helped raise. I see the culture we built. And I know I was a part of something that changed lives."

Thane Dykstra, President and CEO of Trinity Services, had known Sharon since childhood.

"I do not have the words to convey how much Sharon impacted me and so many people at Trinity and beyond," said Dykstra affectionately.

"She was a role model, mentor, helper, and friend. She was committed to making a difference in peoples' lives right up to the time of her illness. Sharon's legacy lives not only in what she did, but who we became because she touched our lives. We carry part of her with us. If we learned anything from Sharon, let it be that we should say "Love you" often and loudly (with a blown kiss. Love you, Sharon."



Helping People Flourish!

Trinity's mission is to provide the highest quality, person-directed services and support to people with disabilities and mental health needs so that they may flourish and live full and abundant lives.

A Summer Filled with Wonderful Memories!

Izaak Walton League of America Sponsors Day of Fishing

In August, members of the Walter Sherry Memorial Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America in Wilmington, Illinois, once again treated people supported by Trinity to a wonderful day of fishing on the beautiful Kankakee River.

Named after Izaak Walton, author of *The Complete Angler*, one of the most famous books about fishing, the organization promotes enjoying the great outdoors with family and friends as well as conservation of natural resources.

The membership provided everyone with fishing poles and bait and offered lessons. For many of the people supported, as well as Trinity staff, this was their very first time fishing. People supported also had the opportunity to engage with members and their families.

The members also provided space for activities and games and served a delicious meal with hamburgers and homemade sides.

"Everyone had a terrific day

being together and enjoying the nice weather," said Carrie Cooley, Trinity QIDP. "We want to thank the members of the Walter Sherry Memorial Chapter for making this a perfect day of fun, relaxation, and engagement for the people we serve."

Adam and his brother, Brett, not only got to go fishing, they also got to see members of their family, including their nephew, Joe Burwell, whose family manages the property.

"I really enjoyed seeing my family and going fishing," said Adam. "It's very quiet and peaceful here and the people are very nice."

Trinity Tigers Compete at Special Olympics Spring Games

This spring, the Trinity Tigers proudly represented Trinity Services, Inc. Northwest at the Special Olympics Spring Games, a regional track and field competition held April 25–26 at Hoffman Estates High School.

An impressive 28 athletes competed in 47 events, including the 100-meter walk, 50-meter run,

javelin, shot put, tennis ball throw, and softball throw.

"The athletes had an outstanding showing, bringing home 9 gold medals, 9 silver medals, and 5 bronze medals, with eight athletes advancing to the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games at Illinois State University," said Carly Bagnuolo, Director of Trinity Northwest. "They also had the opportunity to make a lot of new friends."

The Summer Games are about much more than competition—they offer athletes the opportunity to spend the weekend on campus, stay in the dorms, connect with athletes from across Illinois, and experience one of the weekend's highlights: a Victory Dance, when the streets of Uptown Normal come alive with athletes celebrating and dancing together.

The Trinity Tigers also did well at the State competition, returning home with 2 gold medals and 3 silver medals. Congratulations to all of our athletes for their hard work, determination, sportsmanship, and for representing Trinity with such incredible Tiger pride!



People supported by Trinity enjoyed a wonderful day of fishing and making new friends on the beautiful Kankakee River thanks to Izaak Walton!



"I like meeting new friends and winning medals," said Jada Sanders.

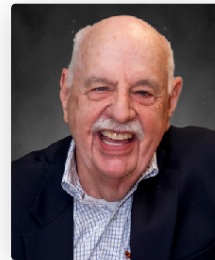
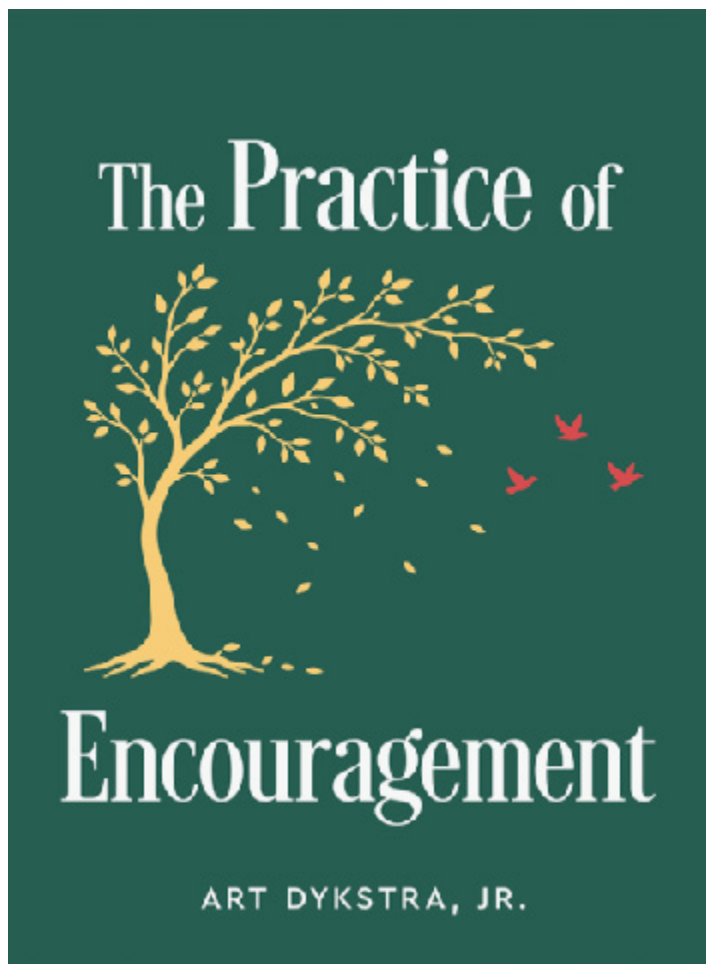
NEW FROM ART DYKSTRA

Some books you have to work at.
The Practice of Encouragement isn't one of them.

What if the difference you make in life is not just what you accomplish, but, perhaps more importantly, who you encourage? *The Practice of Encouragement* is a collection of short thought pieces and stories that challenge familiar assumptions and offer fresh ways of understanding people, organizations, and everyday living. Each article offers a different lens through which to view leadership, work, relationships, and purpose.

Every one of us has an impact on others. The question is this:

How do others experience you?



Art Dykstra has devoted his career to helping vulnerable people live better lives and helping those who serve them become better leaders. Whether leading organizations, teach-

ing, writing, or speaking, Art demonstrates that people do their best work when they are encouraged to grow, and united around a meaningful purpose.

The former President and CEO of Trinity Services, Art is currently CEO of the Trinity Foundation, directing its activities and business endeavors from Joliet, IL. Art is considered a national leader in intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has authored several books and publications and is a frequently sought conference speaker and consultant in matters of organizational leadership.

To order your copy call High Tide Press at 779-702-5540 or visit www.hightidepress.org.

*All proceeds from book sales will be donated to the
Trinity Services Endowment Fund*

Someone You Should Know

Stephanie Behlke Leigh, Chief Program Officer



"Helping people pursue goals that matter most to them is important to me."

Trinity Services recently announced the appointment of Dr. Stephanie Behlke Leigh, LCPC, as its new Chief Program Officer. A respected leader with more than 30 years of progressive experience in behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disability services, higher education, and organizational leadership, Stephanie brings a unique combination of clinical expertise, operational excellence, and person-centered leadership as she expands her role on Trinity's executive team.

Born in Chicago Heights, Behlke Leigh set her sights on a career helping other people at an early age. She attended Homewood-Flossmoor High School. Following her graduation, she became a Direct Support Professional (DSP), helping people with mental health needs in residential settings, while pursuing a bachelor's degree in psychology.

"Seeing the relationships my mom built while volunteering assisting people with disabilities influenced my path in this field," said Behlke Leigh. "I have always had a passion for helping people reach their goals."

After several years as a DSP for another organization, Behlke Leigh joined Trinity Services in a leadership position. She holds a master's degree in marriage and family counseling and a doctorate in counselor education and supervision, and is a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (LCPC).

Behlke Leigh's career has spanned direct service, clinical practice, higher education instruction, and executive leadership. In addition to her leadership experience, Stephanie has served as a graduate adjunct professor, teaching courses in counseling, career development, group dynamics, and marriage and family counseling.

"While I value clinical work, I definitely enjoy teaching as well as serving in administrative roles at Trinity," said Behlke Leigh. "Helping people pursue goals that matter most to them is important to me."

Having dedicated 25 years to Trinity Services, Behlke Leigh has served in numerous leadership roles across the organization, including Network Director of Residential and Community Services, Director of the Family Counseling Center, Network Associate Director, Employment Coordinator, and Job Developer. Most recently, Stephanie provided leadership for a wide range of programs, including community day services, a school program, employment services, respite services, a therapeutic horseback riding program, and other community-based supports.

Behlke Leigh is looking forward to expanding her role at Trinity.

"I'm excited to have this opportunity to be part of so many people's lives," said Behlke Leigh. "Most importantly, I get to work closely with our executive leadership team, as well as helping to chart a course for Trin-

ity's future.

In her new role, Stephanie will provide oversight for Trinity's residential, community day, behavioral health, assistive technology, admissions, and related community-based service divisions. Stephanie will also lead and support Trinity's Network Directors, ensuring consistent quality, operational effectiveness, regulatory compliance and person-centered service delivery throughout the organization.

Behlke Leigh has two young daughters, Cecelia and Alistair, both of whom have had the opportunity to see their mother working with people with disabilities and mental health needs.

"In the same way I observed my mother supporting people with disabilities, I hope my children will develop a passion for helping others grow to their highest potential."

Thane Dykstra, President and Chief Executive Officer, looks forward to working with Stephanie in her new position.

"I've had the pleasure of working closely with Steph for many, many years, and have always valued her hard work and servant leadership" said Dykstra. "She is going to do an amazing job in her new role, and I know she will have an even greater positive impact on our organization."

Trinity Services Endowment Fund

Become a Founding Member



Trinity's Endowment Fund has already grown to \$240,000, thanks to the generosity of our Founding Members. Our goal is to reach \$500,000 within the next year, creating a stronger investment base with greater potential to grow and provide lasting support for Trinity's future. We invite you to join our Founding Members and help us reach this important milestone.

Ensuring Trinity's Future

The Trinity Foundation and Trinity Services created the Trinity Services Endowment Fund to provide long-term financial stability for Trinity Services and the people served by the organization. The Trinity Services Endowment Fund is designed for donors to provide a consistent and reliable source of funding, thereby reducing reliance on unpredictable income sources and allow for strategic planning and long-term vision. It also ensures that Trinity's mission can be sustained for generations by reinvesting a portion of the earnings back into the fund to provide continuous support for programs and initiatives.

Tax Advantages

Along with its long-term philanthropic impact, donating to the Trinity Services Endowment Fund can offer meaningful tax advantages: *Income Tax Deduction (Federal)* - because Trinity Services is a qualified 501(c) (3) organization, your donation is generally tax deductible; *Avoidance of Capital Gains Taxes* - when you donate appreciated assets instead of cash, you avoid paying capital gains taxes, and you can typically deduct the full fair market value.

For more information about contributing your \$5,000.00 gift to the Trinity Services Endowment Fund, or to discuss your personal gifting strategy, contact Sherry Ladislas, Director of Development, at (815) 717-3750, or email Sherry at sladislas@trinityservices.org.

Donations

January 2026 through
March 2026

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 sladislal@trinityservices.org.

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*Thank you for
 everything you
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 flourish!*

*Scan the QR
 code below to
 view the new
 Trinity video,
 Making a
 Difference!*



Join Trinity's *Sustained Giving Program* and help persons with disabilities and mental health needs flourish and lead full and abundant lives.

Trinity Services' Champions Circle - Annual Contributions

As a member of the Champions Circle, we ask for a minimum commitment of \$1,000 per year over five years. In return, we will honor your family on our new digital donor wall in the lobby of the Trinity Services administration building in New Lenox. You will also receive a set of beautiful slate coasters with the Champions Circle logo, recognition in our quarterly newsletter, and an invitation to attend the annual Champions Circle appreciation dinner.

Bob and Jan Agazzi
Mr. Robert Baumeister
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald C. Berro
Stephen and Ann Brugge
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Trinity Services' Partners Circle - Monthly Contributions

As a member of the Partners Circle, we ask you to consider making a monthly donation that fits within your annual budget. In return, we will honor your family on our new digital donor wall in the lobby of the Trinity Services administration building in New Lenox. You will also receive a set of beautiful slate coasters with the Partners Circle logo, as well as recognition in *The Compass*, the Trinity Services' quarterly newsletter.

Raymond and Renee Baran
Ms. Andrea Biondi
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bisek
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Goste
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Larkin

Mr. Kenneth and Ms. Jaymee
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Ms. Janet Parker

Ms. Shannon Phillips
Ms. Jo DeJean-Pucci
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Sanderson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stine
Mrs. Judy Stromsland

Thank you for giving so generously to Trinity Services!

'Tis the Season to Save the Date for Holiday Cheer!



"This is one of our favorite holiday traditions!"



Enjoy cocktails and holiday harp music, listen to the amazing students from the *Allegro!!!*

Ensemble of the Western Springs School of Talent Education during dinner, and experience the extraordinary sounds of vocalists Diva Montell and George Holmes during coffee and dessert, as they perform solos and duets and lead the audience in the traditional singing of Christmas Carols.

**SAVE THE DATE! FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2026.
JOIN US FOR MUSIC, MERRIMENT & MEMORIES!**



301 Veterans Parkway ♦ New Lenox, IL 60451

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and inspiration.



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phone to scan the
QR code below.



On Friday, July 24, 2026, hundreds of Trinity Services' staff members and people supported by Trinity were on hand early in the morning at the Trinity Services administration building to welcome the WGN-TV Skycam Flyover in front of the administration building at the Village Commons. Participants held up colorful signs and letters spelling out "Trinity Services Super Fans Love WGN!". To view the video on YouTube, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2Kh0JyJwgU>