

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

Helping people with disabilities flourish and live full and abundant lives

4th Quarter
2024

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Trinity Services offers more than 40 programs and services that help people with disabilities and mental health needs flourish every single day.

2024 Event Schedule



Mark your calendars for the 2024 Concert Gala - **An Evening of Holiday Music**, Friday, December 6, 2024 at Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook.

Go to www.trinityservices.org/concert-gala for ticket information.

Supporting people with disabilities and mental health needs since 1950.

Make a Difference in Someone's Life. Support Trinity's Annual Appeal.

Putting the needs of others before our own is the cornerstone of Trinity Services. Every day, our dedicated and compassionate staff are making a difference in the lives of people with developmental disabilities and mental health needs.

Your generous donations support Trinity Services in fulfilling its mission, so the people we support may flourish and lead full and abundant lives.

Today, Trinity supports over 5,800 people, in over 30 communities across Illinois, thanks to the incredible generosity of friends and neighbors like you.

Your essential financial support makes it possible for Trinity to offer a wide variety of services and supports including residential living, community day services, behavioral health services, supported employment, and so much more.

During this holiday season, please consider making a donation to help the people we support flourish and live their best possible life.

To learn more about Trinity Services and about how you can support Trinity's Annual Appeal, go to www.trinityservices.org/donate.

Letter from the President of the Board



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Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed our fabulous fall weather! The unseasonably warm temperatures in September and October, combined with a late color explosion, really made it a special autumn!

First, I would like to thank all of our generous guests, sponsors, advertisers, and volunteers who made this year's Better Together Dinner Dance and Auction a big success. We could not have done it without you!

In this issue of *The Compass*, we are presenting a new feature called *Helping People Flourish*. Here, you can read heartwarming stories concerning the people Trinity supports, and about their individual efforts to attain personal goals and lead full and abundant lives.

Next year, Trinity Services will celebrate 75 years of providing the highest quality-person-directed services and supports to people with disabilities and mental health needs. It all started when a dedicated group of parents in Joliet founded what would become the Trinity School in 1950. Today, the program remains a vital support for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21. Read about the latest innovations to the school and its curriculum.

This issue's *Someone You Should Know* shines the spotlight on Michael "Mickey" Whitesell, a former chef who found his true passion as a Direct Support Professional (DSP) with Trinity Services helping people with disabilities. Congratulations to Mickey, who has been with Trinity for four and a half years.

Finally, please consider giving generously this holiday season to our Annual Appeal, Giving Tree program, and Giving Tuesday requests.

When you select a name from our Giving Tree and purchase gifts from someone's wish list, you make that person's holiday dreams come true. By spending just \$40, you can make a difference in a person's life.

This year's Annual Appeal highlights the stories of people Trinity supports and the many ways they are flourishing. You can support our Annual Appeal, by going to www.trinityservices.org/donate, returning a gift through the mail, or by texting the code **GIVEYES to 44-321**.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. McShane,
Chairperson of the Board

Helping People Flourish!

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

Trinity Helps a Woman in Freeburg Stay in Her Family Home!



Emily is ready for the holidays!

Emily, a woman with developmental disabilities, lost her primary caregiver, her father. Her mother had died when Emily was very young.

Knowing Emily needed supports but wanted to stay in the family home, her sisters, neither of whom lived in her hometown of Freeburg, worked with Trinity Services to convert the house into a community integrated living arrangement, or CILA.

"Trinity Services made it possible for Emily to stay in the only home she has ever know," said Vicki Gothard, one of Emily's sisters. "We are incredibly

grateful for Trinity's support."

Today, Emily shares the house with two other women, both of whom have disabilities. Trinity's rotating staff provides 24/7 support.

The three women enjoy one another's company. They go to restaurants and attend events, and even do the grocery shopping together.

"Emily is an awesome, outgoing, friendly person," said Susann Faulk, who works for Trinity. "She truly enjoys helping her roommates when they need assistance."

Happy Holidays, Emily!

Hospital Worker Receives Employee of the Month Honors!

In February 2024, Morgan, a young woman supported by Trinity Services, joined the staff of the UChicago Medicine/Advent Health hospital in Bolingbrook as a housekeeper in the same-day surgery department.

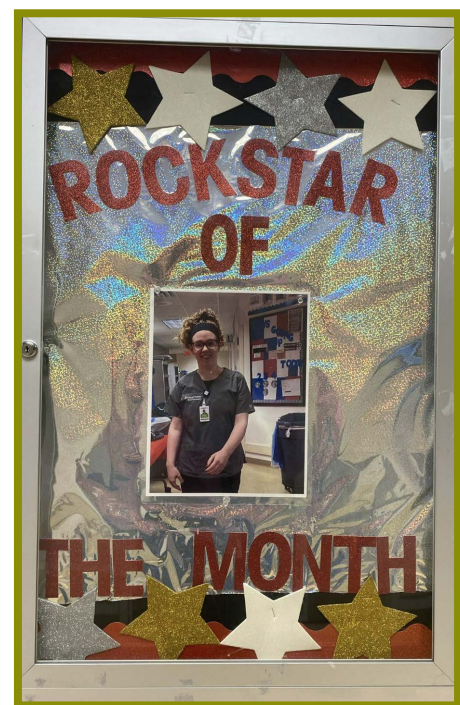
As a high school student with a disability, Morgan attended Plainfield Academy in Plainfield, Illinois, a school that provides a supportive environment for student's academic, behavior, and transitional growth to develop independence and success in life. She graduated in 2023.

"Almost immediately, Morgan proved to be a very hard worker, who did her job quickly and efficiently," said Jessica Wisneski, an Employment

Specialist with Trinity. "Morgan carries out essential duties at the hospital that include cleaning patient rooms, making up beds, cleaning bathrooms, and taking out the trash, all performed each day with a positive attitude and a smile on her face."

Morgan's colleagues in same-day surgery appreciate her tireless work ethic and can-do attitude, something that received special recognition at the hospital.

"This year, the hospital selected Morgan as Employee of the Month," explained Sabrina McLernon, also with Trinity. "We're very proud of what this young woman has accomplished in a short time."



Trinity Services Celebrates the 35th Annual Dinner Dance and Auction at a New Venue - DiNolfo's in Homer Glen!

On Saturday, September 21, 2024, Trinity Services hosted its 35th annual Better Together Dinner Dance at a new venue - DiNolfo's in Homer Glen.

Two hundred and forty guests enjoyed a wonderful evening that raised money for people with disabilities and mental illness supported by Trinity Services through silent and live auctions, sponsorships and ads, and other generous donations.

Guests were treated to cocktails and a delicious dinner, bid on silent and live auction items, and danced to the sounds of The Connexion Band.

Before dinner, guests had the opportunity to bid on a roomful of items donated for the silent auction. After dinner, guests played a game of "Heads or Tails" to win gift cards and then bid on live auction items including a week's stay at a private resort on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

"Everyone enjoyed the beautiful new venue," said Sherry Ladislas, Trinity's Director of Development. "We are truly grateful to those who donated items for the auction, and for the support of our very generous advertisers, sponsors, and volunteers."

Next year, Trinity Services will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. It will be a very special occasion that you will not want to miss!

See you in 2025!



Essential Upgrades to the Trinity Campground in Jones, Michigan are Completed in Time for Summer Fun!

In 2012, Trinity purchased forty acres of land for a campground in Jones, Michigan, a former Arabian horse farm located in the southwestern part of the state.

Renovations began immediately and included a heated in-ground pool, converting the stable and stalls into a bathhouse with showers and toilets, transforming the sheep shed into a dining hall, and adapting the indoor riding arena into a multi-purpose area for sports and activities.

“The camping experience became a real tradition that everyone enjoyed,” said Thane Dykstra, Ph.D., President and CEO of Trinity Services. “However, we wanted to make some additional upgrades to the property to maximize the enjoyment of the people we support and staff.

In 2023, Trinity built six prefabricated bunkhouses, designed by

an Amish company, that sleep six comfortably. They also constructed a screened-in eating pavilion, and a pickle ball court.

This summer, guests were able to enjoy the new amenities. D’Anthony Smith, a Trinity Direct Support Professional (DSP), took people supported to the campground last July with other staff members.

“It was my first time at the campground,” explained Smith. “I really enjoyed it. We all stayed in the bunkhouses, went swimming, played basketball, and made s’mores while we sat around a campfire.”

The campers had a wonderful time. “I really like being here,” said Michael, one of the people Trinity supports. “I like swimming in the pool and playing basketball and hanging out with my friends. It’s really fun!”

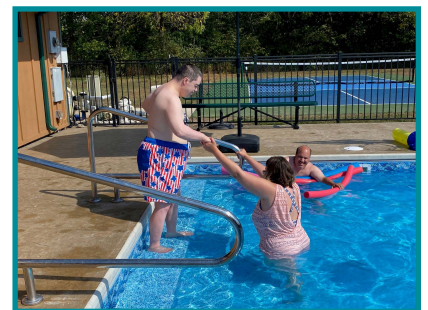
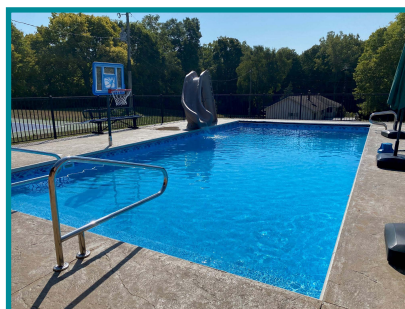
This fall, Trinity completed new landscaping, putting the finishing touches on the recent renovations.

“I’m very happy with the way things turned out,” said Dykstra. “We have a beautiful place where the people we support can go and relax and have a good time.”

Andy Long, a Trinity Network Director, is especially pleased with all of the improvements.

“The upgrades to the campground have really enhanced the experience for the campers, as well as our staff,” said Long. “It’s been a fantastic summer! So many of the people we serve and support get to enjoy a real vacation for the first time and take advantage of this fabulous setting.”

Everyone is already looking forward to going up to the campground next summer!



Someone You Should Know

Michael "Mickey" Whitesell, DSP



"I'm really good with getting to know people."

-- Michael "Mickey" Whitesell

Born and raised on his grandfather's farm in Manhattan, Illinois, Michael "Mickey" Whitesell came from a hardworking family. At the age of 15, Mickey started working at a grocery store in town, where he learned to cut meat.

"I never had any desire to go to college," said Whitesell. "So I learned to be a butcher."

After several years cutting meat, Mickey was looking for a new challenge. A friend, who owned a local pub, invited Mickey to become the chef.

"I guess I had a knack for cooking," Whitesell explained. "I was sort of self-taught, reading recipes, figuring things out. People liked the food. In six months, I was running the place."

For the next 15 years, Mickey made a living running the pub, serving food and drinks to a loyal customer base. Then COVID hit in 2019 and ignited a career change.

"After all that time, I was burned out being a chef," explained Whitesell. "I was looking for a change of careers. And then the COVID outbreak sort of made the decision for me."

With the restaurant closed and out of work, Mickey turned to a friend, Kevin Krauss, who worked at Trinity Services. He suggested Mickey apply for a position with the community day program Kevin managed for Trinity, now called Studio 22.

"I applied, got the position, and

started working at Trinity on June 24, 2020," said Whitesell. "I had no prior experience working with people with disabilities, so I really didn't know what to expect."

At the time Mickey started his new job, Studio 22 was still a warehouse producing safe cleaning products. The people Trinity supported were not attending day program activities in person due to COVID.

"I was fortunate to be able to ease into it," Whitesell explained. "When people started coming back it was gradual - one group in the morning and another in the afternoon. I had the opportunity to get acquainted with everyone. I'm really good with getting to know people."

As things returned to normal, Mickey realized he was falling love with the job, and especially with the people he supported.

"Each person is awesome in their own way, and I treat them all the same, with care and compassion," said Whitesell. "Every day is different. You never know what to expect. I'm an upbeat kind of guy, so I try to make everyone smile. If someone comes in feeling sad, I do my thing with them and five minutes later they're laughing and happy. It makes my heart feel great. When I leave here, I feel like I accomplished something."

In 2022, Trinity converted the warehouse into a recording studio and space for other program activities. Mornings are usually food ori-

ented with a focus on healthy eating. Mickey enjoys teaching everyone various cooking skills and helping them make soda pop. Afternoons are devoted to having fun including playing games, as well as outdoor activities such as basketball, kickball, and hiking during the summer.

"Mickey is passionate about assisting others to maximize their independence," said Kevin Krauss, who manages Studio 22. "He also leads the way in training people on the important topic of healthy relationships."

For Mickey Whitesell, this is the perfect fit. "I love my job at Trinity and especially the people!"



Michael 'Mickey' Whitesell
at Trinity's Studio 22

75 Years Later, the Trinity School Remains A Vital Support for Students with Disabilities!

In 2025, Trinity Services will celebrate 75 years of providing the highest quality person-directed services and supports to people with disabilities and mental health needs. In fact, it all started in 1950, when a group of dedicated parents founded what would become the Trinity School in Joliet.

Today, Trinity's school program remains a vital support for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities between the ages of 3 and 21. Stacey Paprocki, the program's administrator, uses the therapeutic method of teaching. According to Paprocki, the therapeutic method is taking applied behavioral analysis and breaking down every skill a child would learn into minimal steps, so students can achieve the skill set and then build upon it.

"We want to make sure we are teaching to the five senses," explained Paprocki. "We want to know we're incorporating everything our students need to regulate their system in order for them to learn effectively."

Paprocki says the therapeutic method is working well. "Students have made significant progress since they have been here," Paprocki said. "Many have truly flourished in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals and objectives, which means the students are really understanding and grasping the concepts."

Samuel Hernandez, who teaches at the elementary level, is a proponent of the therapeutic method. "Through this approach, we are able to effectively meet the student's sensory needs, which is critical to their academic success," explained

Hernandez. "We also have a support team of specialists including a speech and language pathologist, an occupational therapist, and a behavioral analyst, who provide essential support to each of our students."

Paprocki has restructured the program's learning methodology as well. "We've streamlined the data process," said Paprocki. "That includes data collection, the assessment procedures, and developing the new curriculum and assessments that align with our therapeutic approach."

Kevin Rogina, who has taught at Trinity for six and half years, enjoys the small classes, meeting with the parents and guardians, and coming to work not really knowing what each day will bring.

"I enjoy having a job where every day is different and full of challenges," said Rogina. "I love working with the students and meeting with their parents, and helping each student to meet his or her personal goals. That's the fun of it. It's a job you are never going to master."

Paprocki is also working to elevate members of her staff. One of those is Ian Hamilton, who has dedicated his entire career to the Trinity School. Starting as a paraprofessional in 1992, Hamilton eventually became a sub-teacher working with high school students. Paprocki recognized that Ian was a huge asset when it came to student behavior and was ready for a leadership role. She encouraged him to become a Registered Behavior Technician, or RBT.

"I've been with the Trinity School for over 30 years," said Hamilton.

"I've enjoyed every day and I am grateful for the opportunity to help make this school a special place to learn and grow."

Paprocki is very appreciative of Ian's experience and his natural ability to work with the students.

"I'm very proud of Ian and of what he's accomplished," Paprocki said. "I am very happy to have him as my second in command. Ian is wonderful at handling de-escalation situations. The students adore him!"

The future looks bright for the school program. "We are gaining new students," said Paprocki. "Our parents are very supportive, and we hope to continue on a growth path."

Here's to another 75 years!



Stacey Paprocki, MA,
Trinity School Administrator

Donations

July 2024 through September 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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Kenneth Thompson

Mrs. Joan Thompson

In honor of...

Bear Larson

John and Pat Slack

Cameron Harer

Mr. and Mrs. Terrence J.
Sullivan

Mrs. Maureen Toomey

Eric Gossar's 52nd Birthday

Ms. Connie Gossar

The staff at Hanover House

Mr. and Mrs. Steve
Sanderson

Conor Larkin

Mr. Howard Larkin and
Ms. Megan Mulligan

Peggy O'Reilly

Ms. Shannon Phillips

Donna Reed

Ms. Patricia Schiewe

Greg Wettour

Mr. and Mrs. Judd Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stine

Tom Witte

Tom and Mary Witte

Thank
you for
all you do
for Trinity
Services!



TRINITY SERVICES, INC. DINNER
AND CONCERT GALA

AN EVENING - OF - Holiday Music

- SAVE THE DATE -

Friday, December 6, 2024



One of the highlights of the year, Trinity Services' Annual Dinner Dance and Concert Gala at Butterfield Country Club in Oak Brook is an event you won't want to miss. Featuring the sounds of the season by vocalist George Holmes, cocktails, and fine dining. To register, call Sherry Ladislas at (815) 717-3750 or email her at sladislas@trinityservices.org, or go to www.trinityservices.org/concertgala.

Join Trinity's *Sustained Giving Program* and help persons with disabilities and mental health needs flourish so they may lead full and abundant lives. Your annual or monthly gifts truly make a difference. For more information about our *Champions Circle* (Annual) and *Partners Circle* (Monthly) giving programs, call Sherry Ladislas, Trinity's Director of Development, at (815) 717-3750, or email Sherry at sladislas@trinityservices.org.

Champions Circle

Mr. Robert Baumeister
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald C.
Berro
Mrs. Maureen Cirrincione
Geraldyn and Mike
Colantonio
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cox
Charlotte and Mike Cronin
Mr. and Mrs. Edward E.
Devine
Sister Patricia Even
Chris and Kevin Falvey
Gregory Geuther
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Grove
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harer
Mr. Thomas Herbstritt
Ms. Diane Hodges

Ms. Kathleen M. Hohnstedt
Hinsdale Nurseries, Inc.
Mr. Eugene Cerrato and
Ms. Kathleen Kading
Mr. and Mrs. Walter M.
Kelly, Jr.
Mrs. Terri King
L. DeGeus & Associates,
Inc.
Lawrence J. Dyjak & Asso-
ciates, Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Liljeberg
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Locke
Ms. Diane E. Maksay and
Mr. Ronald Stokes
Jeffrey and Janet Mark
Perma Graphic Printers
Pizza Mia

Mrs. Faye Predny
Darlene and Richard Purler
Rich's Lawncare
Landscape Inc
Rigsby Builders, Inc.
Mrs. Bilha Ron
Mr. and Mrs. Sol Rosen
Miss. Linda Savino
Mrs. Barbara Carney Sharaf
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice J.
Sheehy
John and Pat Slack
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Stricklin
Mrs. Joan Thompson
Mr. and Mrs. Frank
Walsworth
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth
Wettour

Partners Circle

Ms. Andrea Biondi
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bisek
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Goste
Mr. and Mrs. Judd Meyer
Ms. Shannon Phillips
Mr. and Mrs. Steve
Sanderson
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stine
Mrs. Judy Stromsland

**Champions Circle
members make an annual
donation of \$1,000 per
year over 5 years.**

**Partner Circle members
make a monthly donation.**



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Member agency



Support Trinity Services' Annual
Giving Tree Program!

Feel the good that comes from giving this holiday season!

Trinity Services provides residential support to 700 people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. Some of these people do not have contact with family members, and many do not have the financial means to purchase items that they want for the holidays.

When you select a name from Trinity Services' Giving Tree and purchase gifts from someone's wish list, you make that person's holiday wishes come true and help to bring them joy.

This year, Trinity Services' Giving Tree sign-up will be online. To sign up for a wish list, visit <https://signup.com/go/trinity-givingtree>.

By spending just \$40, you can make a difference in someone's life. We greatly appreciate your generosity and kindness during the holiday season.

If you have any questions, please call (815) 717-3750.

Trinity Services wishes you Happy Holidays!