

Helping people with disabilities flourish and live full and abundant lives

3rd Quarter
2017

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

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Havana Nights-themed Dinner Dance heats up support for Trinity Services



Couples take a twirl on the dance floor Saturday, Sept. 16, at Trinity Services' 28th Annual Dinner Dance & Auction at The Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

pproximately 250 generous supporters and friends of Trinity Services enjoyed an evening together at Trinity's 28th Annual Dinner Dance & Auction "Havana Nights" on Saturday, Sept. 16, at The Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

Attendees enjoyed a Cuban-inspired meal, danced to the sounds of The Connexion Band, and placed bids on a variety of silent and live auction items ranging from experiences to the latest tech devices to popular play and concert tickets, and beyond.

Through attending the event, sponsoring the event, placing an ad in the program book, or providing monetary or auction item contributions, supporters were at the heart of the evening's success.

As always, all proceeds from the event benefit the people with developmental disabilities and mental illness who are supported by Trinity Services.

Slightly different this year, proceeds benefited a specific initiative — the renovation of The Roxy in downtown Lockport, Illinois. The Roxy has been used by Trinity since the 1990s as a social gathering spot for people Trinity supports. To read more about the ongoing project, see Page 7.

Thank you to everyone who made the Dinner Dance & Auction such a success and who supported Trinity Services through attending. To view more photos from the event, see Page 11.

Letter from the President of the Board



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The COMPASS

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

As the seasons progress, so too do the services and supports we offer to people with developmental disabilities and mental illness at Trinity Services.

We are anticipating the ground-breaking of one new permanent supportive housing complex for people diagnosed with a mental illness this year in Northlake, as well as the opening of another similar complex for low-income individuals in Sandwich (See Page 3). Trinity will provide services to all residents of the Northlake building and to residents who require services in the Sandwich building.

This exciting expansion of Trinity's behavioral health program allows people diagnosed with a mental illness to enjoy the benefits and independence of living in state-of-the-art apartments while also offering them top-of-the-line support whenever they need it.

Soon, all people supported by Trinity Services will be able to enjoy a renovated Roxy Theater (See Page 7). The Lockport building will offer different types of gettogethers for people to relax and enjoy each other's company. The building will also offer some public events, with the aim to increase awareness about and support for the services Trinity provides and the people it supports.

So that they might have something new to wear for these events, everyone supported by Trinity will also soon be able to purchase new or gently used clothing in modern, attractive styles from a clothing store operated by Trinity offering affordable prices and a peaceful, boutique-style environment. (See Page 4).

And though there is always something new going on at Trinity Services, in this issue of *The Compass*, we also take time to reflect on our history — namely, the history of our expansion to Southwest Illinois. This year, we celebrate our 10th anniversary of providing services in the area and of our fruitful partnership with the Abundant Living For All Foundation (See Page 4).

As always, the success of our mission is made possible by generous sponsors, donors and supporters who join us at events like our 28th Annual Dinner Dance & Auction (See Pages 1 and 11), who purchase items sold at our support businesses or through our Adult Learning programs (See Page 8), or who offer their help in any other way.

There are two upcoming events where we would welcome your continued support. An Evening of Holiday Music, Trinity's Fourth Annual Dinner and Concert Gala, is set for Dec. 1 in Oak Brook (See Page 9) and will feature sounds of the season in an elegant setting, bright with holiday joy. GivingTuesday is coming up Nov. 28 (See Page 5) and is a convenient and simple online day of giving. Once again, this year, the Coleman Foundation is generously supporting Trinity Services through a matching grant program, applying to donations made on GivingTuesday.

We look forward to what the rest of the year brings and wish you a very enjoyable autumn.

Sincerely,

Raymond D. McShane, Chairperson of the Board

Northlake, Sandwich apartments to expand reach of Trinity's behavioral health services

rinity Services, Inc. will soon be able to support more people through two new permanent supportive housing developments in Northlake and Sandwich, Illinois.

These state-of-the-art apartment buildings provide people who have been diagnosed with a developmental disability or mental illness with a modern, upscale apartment in which to live independently, with supports available as needed or as desired.

Trinity Park Vista in Northlake may break ground as soon as November. Once completed, the three-story apartment building will offer 16 units — three three-bedroom units and 13 one-bedroom units.

The one-bedroom apartments will be home to people diagnosed with a mental illness or a developmental disability.

The three-bedroom units will each be home to one care provider and two people with developmental disabilities. These units are known as shared living settings — environments in which care providers share their lives with the people they support.

"It has been extremely rewarding working with the City of Northlake," said Mike Mecozzi, director of Trinity's behavioral health division. "Mayor Jeffrey Sherwin has been acknowledged by the Illinois Housing Development Authority for his support of these types of developments."



Rendering of Trinity Park Vista in Northlake/ Courtesy of Worn Jerabek Wiltse Architects, P.C.

Hall Street Lofts in Sandwich offers 28 units — a mixture of two- and three-bedrooms each. The apartment building is unique for Trinity in that it is geared toward low-income individuals. Trinity owns the building and will provide services to residents who require them.

The development is expected to be at full capacity by the end of the year.

With the addition of these developments, Trinity's permanent supportive housing structures will increase to a total of five. It also provides services at The Landings on Villa in Villa Park, Finley Apartments in Lombard and Green Garden Apartments in Joliet.

The locations for the two new developments were chosen by IHDA, which assesses the need for permanent supportive housing in Illinois communities.

Mecozzi said these types of develop-

ments are the future, particularly for people diagnosed with a mental illness who need occasional support but who would primarily like to live independently.

"This is how we best serve persons with a mental illness," he said. "I foresee these developments continuing to grow in the future. These are beautiful units at a subsidized rate, and having support on site is a huge advantage."

Trinity was involved in the design process for each of the new developments, ensuring the buildings have a warm, community feel to them. Each has a community room where residents can gather for activities, potlucks and other get-togethers.

With one's own housing comes strengthened feelings of independence and empowerment that are advantageous for peoples' lives.



Rendering of Hall Street Lofts in Sandwich/Courtesy of #9 Design | La Mancha Construction

Trinity celebrates 10 years of providing services, supports to Mascoutah, Illinois

his year, Trinity Services marked its 10th year of providing services and supports to people with developmental disabilities in the Mascoutah, Illinois, and surrounding Southwest Illinois communities.

Ten years ago, a group of dedicated parents who sought better services for their children with developmental disabilities approached Art Dykstra, Trinity's executive director. They petitioned for Trinity Services to expand to the area, pledging that they would provide their own assistance to Trinity in any way they could. From there, the Abundant Living For All Foundation, or ALFA, was created. And to this day, those parents continue to deliver on their promise.

ALFA is composed of volunteers who are family members or friends of people with developmental disabilities. The non-

profit partnered with Trinity to launch residential and Adult Learning programs in St. Clair County in 2007.

ALFA volunteers tirelessly work to raise funds for the men and women who Trinity supports in Southwest Illinois, and give countless hours of hands-on assistance, helping people become immersed in the arts, horticulture, cooking, sports, academics and leisure activities.

One of the most unique aspects of life at Trinity Services Southwest is access to the expansive, 42-acre Trinity Gardens & Farmstead. Aside from offering a robust, year-round agenda of plant care and harvesting, the beautiful land features a hiking trail and plenty of spots to relax outdoors.

This space is open to members of the public multiple times of the year for ALFA fundraisers, including the Red Berries &

Bluegrass Festival in the spring and Oktoberfest in the fall.

Adults served by Trinity Services Southwest also regularly exercise their artistic abilities, regularly enjoying a music program and also creating barn art and other one-of-a-kind pieces that are sold at craft fairs.

Each day, these men and women are supported to do what they love, explore new things and simply be themselves with the help of dedicated Trinity staff members and ALFA volunteers. Next year, they will have a new swimming pool to enjoy, as those staff and volunteers continue to look for ways to improve services.

For more information about Trinity Services Southwest and ALFA, and to donate to the swimming pool project, visit www.alfafoundation.info.

Clothing shop opening this fall to offer trendy, affordable attire to people served by Trinity

new clothing shop is on the horizon to ensure the people with developmental disabilities and mental illness whom Trinity Services supports are able to purchase and wear the clothes in the styles they want to wear.

The boutique-style store is set to open this fall in New Lenox, Illinois, and features racks of gently worn and new clothing for men and women served by Trinity Services.

The ladies' side of the store is painted a pastel pink and features an elegant, feminine chandelier hanging from the fitting room ceiling. Racks of fashionable, seasonal clothes fill the walls, accompanied by jewelry, purses, shoes, belts and other accessories for women to find outfits for professional, evening, active and casual wear, depending on their needs.

The men's side of the store is a light gray and has a masculine theme, also with a fitting room to match the feel. Similar to the women's side, it features seasonal clothing for all occasions, as well as accessories.

The store also has stylish, comfortable furniture for shoppers to use during their trips and the overall ambiance of a highend boutique.

One of the outcomes Trinity Services strives to achieve in helping people to flour-ish and have full and abundant lives is for people to participate in the life of their communities. However, for some people with disabilities, shopping for clothing at malls or big-box stores can be unreasonable for their budgets, as well as stressful.

Those who live in community-integrated living arrangements, or group homes, receive a Personal Needs Allowance from the State of Illinois, but it equates to approximately \$2 a day, or just \$60 a month. With that money, people are supposed to buy personal hygiene products and any other supplies they may need, including clothes.

With this in mind, Trinity set out to create a trendy shopping experience for people that was both reasonably priced and offered high-quality clothing items.

Bob Vallera, who coordinates the store, said it will feature contemporary, trendy clothing instead of the older, out-of-style items that can sometimes overwhelm the racks of secondhand stores.

The store will be open solely to people supported by Trinity Services, fulfilling a need that simply is not currently met elsewhere in the community.

Since the concept of the store was first revealed to the Trinity community, countless gracious donors have supplied new and gently worn clothing items to ensure the store is fully stocked when it opens. Clothing racks were also donated.

"I look forward to seeing all of the excitement," Vallera said. "This is something people without disabilities take for granted."

Members of the community who want to donate gently worn or new clothing items or accessories to the store can coordinate a time to do so by calling Trinity Services at (815) 485-6197.



#GIWINGTUESDAY

Helping people with disabilities and mental illness so that they may flourish and live full and abundant lives

www.trinity-services.org/GivingTuesday

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Someone You Should Know **Eddie Sylas**



"You've got a voice, but what's behind the voice?"

ust a few moments of conversation with Eddie Sylas can be enough to completely lift one's spirits.

As a team leader at Trinity Northwest, overseeing three group homes in Chicago's Rogers Park neighborhood, Sylas is responsible for ensuring the well-being of all who live in the homes and supervising the work of independent living coaches who provide support to people living there.

Sylas' joyful, fun personality combined with his true compassion and care for others naturally shine through and put people at ease. These qualities make him approachable and the go-to person who others seek out when problems arise. And Sylas welcomes that responsibility, as serving others is what he knows how to do best.

Sylas grew up on the South Side of Chicago with eight sisters and graduated from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. College Preparatory High School in 1978. He went on to study computer science at the College of Automation. For most of his career, Sylas worked in the IT Department at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He was selected as a recipient of Northwestern Medicine's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award as a testament to his dedication to serving others.

After work, he would volunteer at Chicago Public Schools and was part of a group that advocated for more of the district's schools to become wheelchairaccessible.

"Everybody deserves to have an education regardless of the limitations of a disability," Sylas said.

Sylas' youngest son was born with a cyst on his lungs and took speech therapy for nine years for a resulting speech impediment. CPS did not have one-to-one support available for him, inspiring Sylas' advocacy.

Sylas was also on the Local School Council for Chappell Elementary School, where his son went to school, on CPS' Parent Involvement Advisory Board and worked to patrol his neighborhood parks, letting police know if anything was amiss.

"You've got a voice, but what's behind the voice?" Sylas asked. "If there's no action, to me you're just mouthing. You have to get out there and participate."

In 2009, during the Great Recession, Sylas was laid off from his job and struggled to find another position in his field. The major loss of income required him to give up his house. At the time, he never thought he would work with people with disabilities for a living, he said.

And now?

"Taking care of people with disabilities is what I have a passion for," he said.

Sylas was introduced to Trinity Services at a job fair. He filled out an application and accepted a position as an independent living coach. Shortly after this, a neck surgery required Sylas to leave Trinity to heal, but he returned a couple years later, missing the culture and kinship Trinity offers.

"I enjoy the joy I'm able to bring to people here," he said. "It keeps me going. It's all about doing something for someone else. I'm a God-fearing man, and by my beliefs and faith, I'm a servant."

Sylas explained that if he is upset, all it takes is one positive interaction with someone he helps support, and his entire mood improves.

He cooks holiday dinners for those he serves, brings them coffee and doughnuts, and goes above and beyond to ensure they have every opportunity and joy that people without disabilities are able to experience.

"Ever since Eddie started working at Trinity Services, he was a man who stood out," said Jen Hodges, Sylas' supervisor and director of Trinity Northwest. "Not only did he stand out for his fashionable bow ties but for his kindness, generosity and caring nature."

Sylas also makes sure he is there for his staff by being visible and accessible to them, taking their calls at any time of day, and motivating them when they are having trouble at work or in their personal lives.

When Sylas is not working at Trinity, he spreads joy, care and compassion in his free time, too. He teaches a relationship group at a halfway house, helping formerly incarcerated women learn how to reconnect with their families and friends, and reenter the workforce. He's also an avid tennis-player and enjoys spending time with his family, including his three sons ages 38, 26 and 22. He raised his youngest son from birth, as a single father.

"I think my son helped me be the way I am today," he said. "I had to learn how to nurture. I had to learn a sensitive side."

Through experiencing the major life changes he has, including the setback of losing a job, some might think Sylas would be bitter or depressed. Instead, he radiates positivity.

"This is how you grow, learn and persevere," he said. "You move on regardless of what life throws at you or takes away from you. Because it didn't take anything away from me. I still am rich at heart."

Life's most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?" ~ Martin Luther King Jr.

Renovations at The Roxy set stage for Trinity clients, public to experience building anew

Along State Street in downtown Lockport, Illinois, sits a historic theater that doubles as a bustling social spot for people Trinity Services supports through its many programs.

The Roxy's marquee serves as a beacon to all who drive or walk by. Since Trinity Services purchased the building in 1995, The Roxy has been a space for people with developmental disabilities and mental illness who are supported by Trinity to socialize and relax.

Through the vestibule and beyond the lobby, The Roxy features a lounge neighbored by a bar that serves nonalcoholic beverages. The lounge opens to a seating area that faces a stage used for performances, presentations and the projection of movies. The Roxy is versatile to accommodate different types of gettogethers. In the past, it has held formal dances, holiday parties, birthday celebrations and more. In recent years, through a partnership with the City of Lockport, The Roxy has also been open to the public on select nights for movie viewings, giving attendees a taste of what it was like to attend a show in the 1920s.

For those who Trinity serves, The Roxy has set the stage for new relationships and friendships to blossom, social skills to grow, and a true sense of community to flourish. It is a one-of-a-kind social spot for people with developmental disabilities and mental illness. There is no other place quite like it in the country.

Last spring, Trinity temporarily closed The Roxy for renovations, updating and upgrading the historic building to improve the experience for all visitors. Renovations include a new facade and marquee sign; new flooring; an updated bar, lounge and recreation area; fresh interior paint; a new roof; and upgraded fire and safety systems. All renovations emphasize a 1920s Art Deco theme.

In December, once renovations are

complete, The Roxy will again provide a fun social gathering spot for the people Trinity supports. The updated lounge area will be more conducive to conversation. The theater will be used for dinners, lectures, live entertainment, movies and more. Trinity Services' staff will use the space for celebrations, staff appreciation events and trainings.

If the theater is filled for an event, guests sitting in The Roxy's lounge can see what is happening on stage through closed-circuit broadcast on large-screen TVs. Guests may also view popular sporting events or other programs on the TVs.

The Roxy's renovated exterior will beckon visitors to a bygone era. The people served by Trinity Services can look forward, once more, to the positive, relaxed social atmosphere The Roxy offers them alongside their peers.

The Roxy makes a difference in people's lives, providing an atmosphere for social growth, free from judgement, misunderstanding or discrimination that may occur in public bars or clubs. It is truly a place where everybody knows each other's names, as well as where people cheer on each other's accomplishments.

The Roxy has been recognized in articles by the *Chicago Tribune* and other local publications, as well as in a piece by National Public Radio.

Proceeds from Trinity Services' 28th Annual Dinner Dance & Auction supported The Roxy's renovation, helping ensure that for many years to come, people will benefit from the beautiful social gathering spot where they can enjoy the company of friends.



Rendering of The Roxy's updated facade/Courtesy of Orbis Architects, Inc.

Holiday gift selections abound at Trinity's support businesses, Adult Learning programs

It it hard to believe that the holiday season is already approaching, but Trinity Services' support businesses and Adult Learning programs are already gearing up for the most wonderful time of the year, ready to provide shoppers of all interests with the gifts, decorations and other staples needed to make the season bright.

Proceeds from any purchase made at a support business or Adult Learning program of Trinity Services directly benefit the men, women and children with developmental disabilities and mental illness whom Trinity supports. In the spirit of the holiday season, this allows shoppers to give back while getting something new for their loved ones or themselves.

Petals & Twigs

Walking into New Lenox's favorite gift shop during the holiday season is like stepping into a winter wonderland.

Winter and holiday decorations go on display in November, allowing shoppers plenty of time to stock up for their decorating endeavors.

The shop also carries endless options for gifts, like cozy, stylish scarves for women; customizable jewelry from DaVinci Beads; every scent imaginable in Yankee Candles; a variety of spa and bath products from brands like Green Envee Organics and Crabtree & Evelyn; flavored coffees from Door County Coffee & Tea Company; dip and soup mixes for the foodies in the family; plus beds, toys and more for dogs and cats in The Trinity Barkery II.

Shoppers are welcome to stop by the store's Holly Jolly Holiday Show on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 11 and 12, and its annual Holiday Open House "From Our House to Yours" on Saturday, Dec. 2, for special deals.

Where: 427 W. Francis Road in New Lenox, Illinois

When: 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday

More information: (815) 485-5976 or www.facebook.com/petalsandtwigsNL

The Trinity Barkery

Gift-givers can check off all the pets and pet-lovers on their shopping lists in one quick online or in-person trip to The Trinity Barkery.

The Barkery is home to all-natural Fritters for Critters dog, cat and horse treats, which are prepared, baked and packaged by men and women with developmental disabilities who are served by Trinity Services. The treats come in a variety of sizes, and novelty treats will be available for the holiday season.

The Barkery also carries an array of toys, beds, foods and accessories for dogs, cats and birds.

For pet-lovers, the store carries products and accessories, including blankets, T-shirts, mugs and more.

Where: 240 W. Baltimore St. in Wilmington, Illinois

When: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday More information: (815) 476-5104 or www.FrittersForCritters.com

Horticulture Program

For the flower-lover, holiday plants, wreaths and poinsettias will be available for purchase during the Horticulture Program's Holiday Sale in December.

All plants are grown, cared for and prepared by people with developmental disabilities who attend the Adult Learning program.

More details about holiday plant and flower choices, as well as pricing, will be made available soon.

Where: 100 N. Gougar Road in Joliet, Illinois

When: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday More information: (815) 485-8146 or www.facebook.com/TrinityGreenhouse

New Lenox Woodworks

For a one-of-a-kind, larger gift for a loved one or a friend, handmade wooden furniture from New Lenox Woodworks is the perfect answer.

Choose from picnic tables, beanbag sets painted with the recipient's favorite sports team logos, giant Jenga sets, benches, rocking chairs and more.

All items are made by people who participate in the Adult Learning program.

Where: 14605 W. Edison Drive in New Lenox, Illinois

When: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday More information: (815) 463-4692 or www.facebook.com/NLWoodworks

Old Plank Studio

Decorations to inspire laughter or hope, spark memories, or simply add a unique touch to someone's wall or desk are abundant at Old Plank Studio.

The Adult Learning program specializes in handcrafted, hand-painted wooden signs and decorations that can be custom-ordered.

For inspiration and to view what the studio has created in the past, visit its Facebook page, listed below.

Where: 12723 Old Plank Drive in New Lenox, Illinois

When: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday More information: (779) 803-3523 or www.facebook.com/OldPlankStudio

Cherry Hill Books and Media

Bookworms in the family who enjoy reading about topics related to well-being, leadership, or even field-specific topics regarding behavioral health and disabilities would enjoy some new reading material from Cherry Hill Books and Media.

A Trinity favorite that is both an easy read and powerful enough to inspire anyone to take steps toward a more positive life is "The Positive Dog" by Jon Gordon.

The store also carries books for children, including "Benji Bounces Back: A Story About What It's Like to Need Physical Therapy," written by Smita Charate and illustrated by Dan Dougherty.

More information: (800) 235-6009

or www.CherryHillHighTide.com



Trinity Services, Inc. Dinner and Concert Gala



Friday, December 1, 2017

Butterfield Country Club Oak Brook, IL at 6 p.m. \$140 per person

Featuring the Western Springs School for Talent Education Allegro!!! Violin Ensemble

For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, call Sherry Ladislas at 815.717.3750 or visit www.Trinity-Services.org/ConcertGala.

All proceeds benefit people with disabilities and mental illness.





DonationsJuly-September 2017

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.

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