

TRINITY

Family Newsletter

Fall 2018

Serving the family and friends of Trinity Services, Inc.

Inside

In Brief	2
Outdoor work and fun in SW Illinois	3
Around Town	4
Numbers Tell Stories	5
Tasty lesson plans	6
Holiday fun planned	7

Don't miss...



TRINITY GREENHOUSE FALL SALE
100 N. Gougar Road, Joliet.
Details on page 3.

Mission

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.

Message from the Director

Dear friends,

If you've recently attended one of the fun social gatherings that the dedicated volunteers in our Family and Friends Group coordinate each year, you may have noticed a common thread among many attendees who Trinity supports—aging.

It is no secret that, as people progress through life, health concerns become more prevalent, and more frequent medical monitoring and care become necessary. For many of the people we support, health conditions like cerebral palsy, diabetes, seizure disorders, dysphagia, heart disease, and serious mental illness require medications, medical devices, and frequent checkups.

Currently, Illinois' guidelines for the role of a registered nurse (RN) serving individuals in community-integrated living arrangements (CILAs), along with its funding model for this role, leave large gaps in resources for care that need to be addressed immediately. Last year, Trinity Services took the lead in authoring a whitepaper titled "Proposal to Reform Nursing and Medical Services in the Community Integrated Living Arrangement Program." It outlines the difficulties current policies create for organizations that provide services and for people receiving services.

When the CILA Program was initially created in Illinois, CILAs were intended to serve people who are able to take medications on their own and who

(continued on pg. 2)

Food support for the little ones



Michael, Robert, and Gloria volunteer at the nonprofit Feed My Starving Children. They place the FMSC label on bags, which are then filled with a nutritious meal. The meals are given to children in need around the world.

 **TRINITY**
Services, Inc.

Message from the Director (continued)

did not have any significant health conditions. Today, many of the people who live in CILAs throughout the state, including those who are supported by Trinity, are unable to manage or take their medications on their own. These individuals have serious medical conditions; however, nursing is still funded at a rate that remains close to what it was 25 years ago.

In the current CILA rate model, base nursing is funded at one hour of service from a registered nurse, and 12 hours of service from a licensed practical nurse (LPN), annually, per person served. Within these timeframes, nurses are tasked with completing assessments, identifying and planning for health risks, coordinating and implementing health supports, monitoring health, and developing updates to the nursing care plan.

In reality, nurses spend most of this allotted time training direct support professionals on medication administration, completing lengthy paperwork, and traveling from site to site. This leaves little funded time for nursing supports. As a result, organizations like Trinity must subsidize any support that is needed beyond the funded hours.

In the current CILA rate model, RNs are funded at \$38,854 annually, which is highly uncompetitive with RN salaries across the public and private sectors. And, for this rate, they are expected to be on-call 24/7 to answer questions from DSPs and are often held accountable by the Office of the Inspector General for findings of neglect based on inaccurate assumptions from OIG staff about CILA nursing requirements.

It is imperative that Trinity and its peer organizations have the proper resources and appropriate funding to support the people in their care, and it is clear that the amount of medical care required will continue to grow as people age.

Since we published our whitepaper in December, there was a small increase in nursing rates, and the Department of Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities is convening groups to discuss how to improve and adequately fund services.

There is still work to be done to modify the CILA rate methodology for the adequate funding of services. In the next legislative session, we will likely ask for your help in advocating for adequate funding and spreading awareness of this issue.

In the meantime, I encourage you to visit www.trinityservices.org/nursing to read the whitepaper and learn more about the rate model's impact on services.

Sincerely,

Thane Dykstra, Ph.D.



Setting up for a slam-dunk

Brett and Michael use their best half-court skills on the new hoop at Trinity's Elwood site. A generous grant from the BNSF Railway Foundation paid for an in-ground back-board that can stand up to heavy winds on the prairie. The site is home to Elwood Acres Community Day Services and the Hoff Road Intensive Outpatient Services program.

Roxy open for event rental

Trinity's unique social venue in downtown Lockport, The Roxy, has seen a robust response to word-of-mouth, social media, and other promotions. Dozens of bookings have been made since it was opened this summer to event rentals.

Tell your friends. The Roxy is the perfect venue for a small, private event, such as a wedding reception, bridal or baby shower, seminar, musical performance, etc.

The elegant space offers a bar, a theater, and a downstairs recreation area. All rental proceeds benefit Trinity's programs and services for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental illness.

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Steady as she goes



Volunteers from the St. Louis Coast Guard Centralized Desk Unit—Chief Kevin Doute and Chief Matthew King—replace a concrete support at Trinity Gardens and Farmstead in Mascoutah. They leveled the swing set and also helped install two culverts on the walking trail. Culverts help to prevent soil erosion.

TRINITY GREENHOUSE

Exclusive!

Hand-made, fresh green centerpieces and 3-inch ivy wreaths (pictured). Plus, all your seasonal favorites.



Special sale dates

Nov. 17	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Nov. 18	10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Dec. 1	9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Hours

M - F 8:30 to 5

100 N. GOUGAR ROAD, JOLIET 815-485-1939



Happy homecoming!

Trinity friends march in the annual parade that is part of "Homecoming Und August" in Mascoutah. This year's theme was Happy 200th Birthday to the State of Illinois. The float resembled a big cake. *Standing, left to right: Emily, Jackie, and Roy. On the float: Katherine and Tammy.*

#GIVINGTUESDAY

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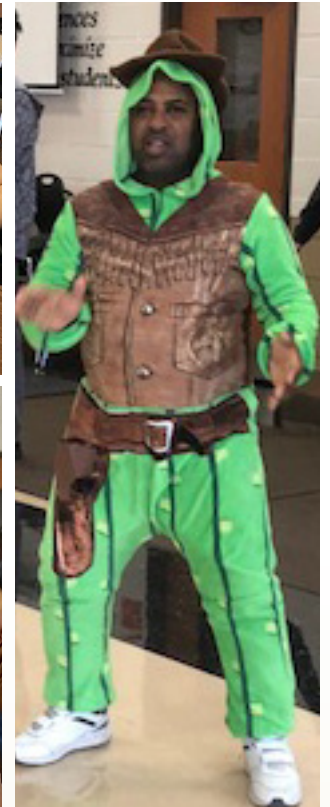
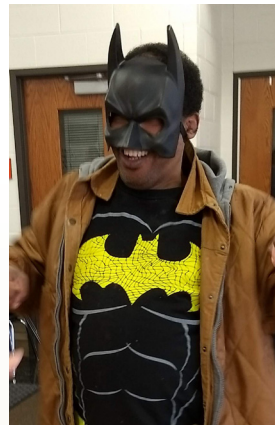
Giving Tuesday was created to encourage Americans to give back to their favorite organizations after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. Feel the good that comes from giving this November 27 by sharing in this global giving movement with Trinity Services.

TRINITY
Services, Inc.

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

Visit: TrinityServices.org/GivingTuesday

Boo, y'all!



A range of characters showed up for the annual Family and Friends Halloween Dance. They were pretty and sweet, or scary and not-so-sweet. Among them were, clockwise from top left: Phillipa, Valerie, Bob, Laura, Saul, and Terry.

Chi-town event a ducky affair



Above: Darryl, Justin, James, Dwayne, and Robert saw 60,000 rubber ducks "race" down the river in downtown Chicago. The event was the Ducky Derby, a benefit for Special Olympics. Right: A truck dumps ducks from the Michigan Avenue bridge.



Thanks for a great night!



Trinity's 29th Annual Dinner Dance and Auction, "Moonlight Serenade", was held at The Odyssey Country Club. Fun and funding made for a great evening. Thank you to all Trinity supporters who attended, or helped with ticket sales, the silent auction, live auction, and advertising. All proceeds benefit Trinity programs and services.

Upcoming Events

Nov. 30

"An Evening of Holiday Music"
Concert Gala and Dinner

Dec. 2

Fun on the Commons of New Lenox

Dec. 1

Petals & Twigs event: From Our House to Yours

Dec. 9

Barkery pet photos with Santa

Holiday Office Closings

Nov. 23 and 24

Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 25

Christmas Day

Jan. 1

New Year's Day

Jan. 15

Martin Luther King Day

Numbers Tell Stories

714

Information technology

Trinity's Information Technology Department, consisting of five staff members, maintains 322 desktop computers, 98 laptops, 100 tablets, 62 thin clients, 22 virtual servers, 10 physical servers, and an additional roughly 100 internet-accessing laptops, cell phones, and tablets for rural locations and the organization's crisis team, for a total of roughly 714 devices.

Through good stewardship of physical, financial, and personnel resources, the IT team efficiently supports all Trinity staff members to do their jobs with the help of reliable access to the devices, programs, and support they need.

The IT team is split into a technical branch, composed of Will Dykstra, Shane Saldana and Steve Cherry, and a quality assurance/data tracking branch, composed of Sally Ritchey and Monica Adamo. Ritchey has overseen both branches since 2008 and has worked for Trinity since 1992. Dykstra came on board in 2006—when Trinity had about 35 computers—and built the organization's network from scratch.

Evolving roles

Through the years, the department has helped support employees in the adoption of new software applications. Trinity staff are currently transitioning to the use of the online application called MediSked. It allows the staff to electronically file daily observation reports, manage and track paperwork, preventing overflowing paper from taking up storage space in the organization, reduce the organization's environmental impact, improve communication between colleagues, and more safely store information.

In fiscal year 2017, IT answered 1,680 support calls, followed by 1,469 calls in 2018. A team member might be asked to set up a new employee's account, install software, solve a printing problem, increase a computer's memory, or fix a networking issue. The team also manages subcontracts with companies that provide IT-related services. For example, one company maintains Trinity's printers and another maintains its landline phone system.

This small but mighty team goes above and beyond to ensure Trinity staff have the technological resources they need to best support the people they serve. Team members devote evenings and weekends, when needed, to ensure their work is finished in a timely manner and creates the least disruption to day-to-day operations.

Team members divide and conquer the department's workload to keep all 700-plus devices Trinity owns running smoothly, and to support more than 1,000 Trinity staff members to remain productive.



Department Contacts

Network I	
Stephanie Leigh	815-485-6197
Network II	
Anita Goulding	815-476-5405
Network III	
Mickey Gossen	815-485-6197
Network IV / Behavioral Health	
Mike Mecozzi	815-485-6197
Network V	
Lisa Dillon	815-485-6197
Network VII / Trinity Northwest	
Jennifer Hodges	847-299-2200
Network VIII / Southwest Illinois	
Mike Lowry	618-566-4200
Staff Development	
Trina Sieling	815-722-0166
Network X / North Central Illinois	
Jennifer Price	815-941-1503
Thane Dykstra	815-485-6197
President and CEO	
Ray Carmody	815-485-6197
Administrative Operations	
Tina Fogarty	815-485-6197
Chief Operating Officer	
Lori Hausherr	815-485-8146
Network VI / Community Day Services	
Sherry Ladislav	815-717-3750
Development	
Sharon Parker-Love	815-485-6197
Health Services	
Dr. Rajani Patwari	815-320-7326
Medical Director	
Sally Ritchey	815-485-6197
Information Technology	
Bob Taylor	815-485-6197
Financial Operations	




Use Trinity's Amazon Smile link:
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2194838>
 to donate every time you shop!

Autumn delights at the farm



Left: Alexis and Tom stand in line to buy pumpkins at Bengston's Pumpkin Farm in Homer Glen. **Right:** Tom and Sam feed carrots to goats at the farm's petting zoo.

Trinity to co-host local holiday fun

Trinity will take a more active part in the holiday celebration that is held each December in front of its corporate headquarters.

You are invited to take a break from the cold weather, and warm up with some indoor festivities at Trinity Services! From 2 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 2, during the Christmas in the Commons Kickoff Celebration, all are welcome to stop by Trinity's Corporate Center. It is located in the Village Commons, between the New Lenox Village Hall and Old Plank Trail Community Bank.

During the free event, guests can meet and take pictures with Disney "Frozen" characters Anna and Elsa. Children can play games and color. Both children and adults can enter raffles for prizes.

Trinity's Lillie Pad Café will serve cookies, hot cocoa, and candy.

For guests

who want to learn more about the services Trinity provides in New Lenox and the greater Will County community, information will be available in Trinity's lobby. For details, call the Development Office at 815-717-3750.

Barkery's got Santa, pet pix

Trinity Barkery will host families and their pets for free pictures with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 9 from 1 to 3 p.m. in Wilmington. Participants will receive treat bags and discounts at the Barkery. Children are invited to decorate a pet cookie to take home with them. For details, call Shirley at the Barkery, 815-476-5104.

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www.petalsandtwigs.com

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www.frittersforcritters.com

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www.allareacustomdesigns.com

Website renovated

If you have not yet had a chance, please visit Trinity's new and improved website. It is designed for easier navigation and more pleasant viewing. Your feedback is welcome; please click on the purple Contact Us box.

Also, Trinity email addresses are changing. For years, they ended in @trinity-services.org. Now they end in @trinityservices.org to match the website. For now, either format will work. Trinity apologizes for any inconvenience during this transition.



Seat of honor

The New Lenox Woodworks program donated a patriotic chair to VFW Post 9645 in New Lenox in November, just in time for Veterans Day.

Tasty lesson plans

Trinity School's garden produced an abundant crop of tomatoes this year. The students learned about where their food comes from, and how to make tomato dishes, such as fried green tomatoes (below, center).



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11 to 4 Sun.



Fun and discounts!

Black Friday – Nov. 23

Deep discounts on top-selling items

Small Business Saturday – Nov. 24

Sales throughout the store. Shop small and support a big cause!

From Our House to Yours – Dec. 1

Huge sale on Christmas items



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