

## Inside

In Brief	2
Seeking survey respondents	3
Around Town	4
New board members welcomed	4
Numbers Tell Stories	5
Camp registers kids, seeks staff	7

## Don't miss...



Savor wine, chocolate, and jazz at A Night of Decadence for Autism Awareness April 6 at ROXY. Featuring the Clay Corso Quartet. See page 2.

## 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,

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, Governor J.B. Pritzker signed a bill to incrementally raise Illinois' minimum wage to \$15 an hour by 2025.

As the minimum wage increases across all professions in the state, Trinity Services and its peer organizations in Illinois must make sure they have the resources they need to adequately pay their direct support professionals (DSPs) a living wage.

At Trinity, DSPs are referred to as Independent Living Coaches, a title that reflects the one-to-one coaching they do with the people they support. ILCs provide a person with the resources they need to achieve their goals and do the things they want to do. The value and impact of their work far surpasses what they are reimbursed by the State of Illinois.

As a loved one of someone Trinity supports, you intimately know how much the monetary devaluation of the important work ILCs do impacts services. The uncertainty of who will help them cook dinner tonight or who will assist them to take a shower tomorrow can produce anxiety, stress, and disappointment, particularly when a favorite staff member says goodbye.

With the help of supporters like you, Trinity and other providers in the They Deserve More Coalition secured two modest raises. These created an increase over  
(continued on pg. 2)



## Zero gravity

Antonio experiences weightlessness at iFLY in Chicago.

A generous supporter donated a handful of tickets to iFLY to Trinity. They were auctioned off at Trinity's annual dinner dance and auction. Several individuals served by Trinity participated, along with some staff members.

## Message from the Director (continued)

the past couple of years of \$1.25 per hour for DSPs. The raises, which are tied to the Medicaid reimbursement rate the State of Illinois pays to providers like Trinity, are the first for Illinois DSPs in roughly 10 years.

Today, DSPs across the state are paid an average of \$10.49 an hour. However, organizations like Trinity remain understaffed. Dedicated DSPs remain overworked, taking on hours of overtime and/or additional jobs to support themselves and their families. Turnover costs continue to climb as DSPs turn in their two-week notices to take higher-paying jobs in warehouse, grocery, and retail businesses.

The work of a DSP is difficult. It takes compassion, dedication, high emotional intelligence, attention to detail, and so much more. How can this work be worth less than scanning groceries at the checkout or pulling items to fill a shipping order? The latter are important jobs as well, but they very rarely create such a profound impact on people's lives.

This year, Trinity continues its work with the They Deserve More Coalition. Since the state minimum wage will increase annually, the coalition, with the support of

Sen. Heather Steans (D-7), and Rep. Robyn Gabel (D-18), drafted Senate Bill 1148 and House Bill 2148 to fund living wages for DSPs. The bills would ensure that DSP wages outpace the minimum wage.

On or before July 1, 2019, the legislation, if passed, would require that DSPs and front-line staff make at least \$5.25 per hour more than the highest applicable federal, state, county or municipal minimum wage. It also requires that on or before July 1, 2021, these rates would increase to at least \$6.75 per hour more than the highest applicable minimum wage.

This legislative session, I ask for your support for these bills, which can make life better for the people we support. We will keep you updated on potential actions and supportive measures you can take to help advance this legislation. Please follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, and sign up for our email list at the bottom of our website's homepage, [www.trinityservices.org](http://www.trinityservices.org).

As always, thank you for your support and solidarity as we fight for the best interests of the people we support.

Sincerely,

*Thane Dykstra, Ph.D.*

## In Brief

### Barkery egg hunt

Trinity Barkery will host families and their pets for free photos with the Bunny from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Apr.

7. In addition, pets and their families will enjoy free treat bags, refreshments, and sales throughout the store. An egg hunt will begin at 2 p.m. All activities take place at 240 W. Baltimore St. in Wilmington. For details, call Shirley at the Barkery, 815-476-5104.



### Third TEC conference co-hosted this June

The Technology Enhancing Capabilities (TEC) Lab, National Association of QIDPs (NAQ), Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities (IARF) and Disability Cocoon are proud to bring you the 3rd annual TEC Conference. This event will be held



on Wednesday, June 5 at the NIU Conference Center in Naperville. For details, go to: [www.qddp.org](http://www.qddp.org).

### Pure decadence... for a cause

A Night of Decadence for Autism Awareness will start at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 at The Roxy. Savor an evening of wine, chocolate and jazz to benefit Trinity Services. The Clay Corso Quartet will perform from 7:30 to 9:30. The cost is \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. All proceeds will support autism awareness. The Roxy is at 1017 S. State St. in Lockport. Register online at: [www.trinityservices.org](http://www.trinityservices.org) or call 815-717-3750.



### High quality, gently used games needed

The Roxy, Trinity's beautifully restored event venue, has a recreation room in the basement for kids ages 4 to 94. It could use a ping-pong table and air hockey game. If you have a game to donate, please call Maggie at 815-582-1306.

Trinity Services, Inc.  
301 Veterans Parkway  
New Lenox, IL 60451  
phone 815-485-6197  
fax 815-485-5975  
[www.trinity-services.org](http://www.trinity-services.org)

### Board of Directors

Raymond McShane, Chairperson  
Jan Agazzi  
Chris Falvey  
Greg Geuther  
Barbara Hall

Bob Libman  
Barbara McGoldrick  
Ron Stricklin  
Ken Stromsland  
Thane Dykstra, Ph.D. President and CEO



## Sharing is caring

Trinity friends (photo at left, from left to right) Kim, Aly, Sue, and Kara sort and pack toiletries and cleaning products. Right: standing are Aly, Kim and Kara, and seated are Brooke and Sue. The friends donate the items to Sharing Connections of Downers Grove, IL, which provides essential household items to families facing a crisis, such as domestic violence, returning or homeless veterans, job loss, or financial hardship.

## Survey needs siblings' input

The Sibling Leadership Network is conducting a survey of individuals who have a sibling with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The researchers, led by Meghan Burke, Ph.D., BCBA-D, an associate professor of special education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, want your help with the project. The survey takes 20 to 30 minutes to complete. It is located online at:



<http://bit.ly/adultsiblingsurvey>

You can read the questions in advance. They cover the experiences of siblings of individuals with disabilities. If you have questions about the survey, email Meghan Burke at [meghanbm@illinois.edu](mailto:meghanbm@illinois.edu) or call 217-300-1226.

The Siblings Leadership Network is building a broad network of siblings, and folks who are concerned with sibling issues. It has chapters in 26 states and Washington, DC. Their website is: <https://siblingleadership.org>.

series of tabs in the upper left corner. If you choose Schedule, you will see a list of previous and future court events. Choose Events to see a list of filings and orders from previous events.

If your guardianship status has been terminated, it will show the case as closed. You will need to file for guardianship again. Go to the Events tab to see when notification of the case closure was sent. This can be done without an attorney. For more information, call Sherry Ladislas at 815-717-3750.

NOTE: You can now file annual/tri-annual reports online. In Illinois, e-Filing is mandatory in every county except DuPage and Madison, where the matter is still pending. For details, visit [http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/faqs.htm#faq\\_container3top](http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/faqs.htm#faq_container3top).

## Checking your guardianship is a simple but necessary precaution

Are you still the guardian of your loved one in the eyes of the court?

You may think you are, but if you missed a filing date, you may not be.

Did you know that unless you have annually (or tri-annually as may be the case) appeared before the court for the Guardian of Estate's Annual Report and Accounting, you may not still be your loved one's guardian in the eyes of the law? That's right. The court can terminate your guardianship status.

It is important for guardians to go to their county clerk's website and look up their loved one's case to see if their guardianship status is still current. Why is this important? It is extremely important for a variety of reasons. However, let's focus on a medical scenario. Let's say your loved one is not capable of making her own medical decisions and needs life-saving surgery. She is fearful and doesn't want to consent to the procedure. You have no legal ground to insist on the surgery despite the fact that you are the person's parent or sibling. This consequences could be stressful and potentially devastating.

It's easy to check your status.

In Will County, go to [www.circuitclerkofwillcounty.com](http://www.circuitclerkofwillcounty.com). Click on Case

### Find your county's link

*(counties where Trinity has a presence)*

**Cook:** [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/CourtCaseSearch/ProbateDocketSearch.aspx](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/CourtCaseSearch/ProbateDocketSearch.aspx)

**DuPage:** <https://epay.18thjudicial.org/Clerk/allsearch.do>

**Grundy:** [www.judici.com/courts/cases/case\\_search.jsp?court=IL032015J](http://www.judici.com/courts/cases/case_search.jsp?court=IL032015J)

**Peoria:** <https://judicial.peoriacounty.org/Portal/Home/Dashboard/29>

**Jackson:** [www.judici.com/courts/cases/case\\_search.jsp?court=IL=039015J](http://www.judici.com/courts/cases/case_search.jsp?court=IL=039015J)

**Madison:** [www.co.madison.il.us/departments/circuit\\_clerk/court\\_records\\_search.php](http://www.co.madison.il.us/departments/circuit_clerk/court_records_search.php) (Choose court records search.)

**St. Clair:** [www.circuitclerk.co.st-clair.il.us/courts/Pages/icj.aspx](http://www.circuitclerk.co.st-clair.il.us/courts/Pages/icj.aspx)

**Will:** [www.circuitclerkofwillcounty.com](http://www.circuitclerkofwillcounty.com)

Lookup. Enter your loved one's name and a list of people with that name will appear. Click your loved one's case number. The next screen will display a



## It's not about winning or losing

A recent Trinity Trivia Night in Mascoutah raised funds for the Abilities Behavioral Therapy program. The program serves military families in Southwest Illinois. It provides in-home, in-clinic, and community-based behavior analytic services for children with autism.

**Top left, and bottom:** Cory and his teammates on the lowest scoring team display a sense of humor and the lollipops they received as a consolation prize.

**Top right:** Friends enjoy the festive atmosphere.



### The joys of nature

Danny and Darryl enjoy the cold weather delights at the Chicago Botanic Gardens.



### All shook up, virtually

Peggy (left) and Connie (right) share the joy of Elvis Presley. A multimedia Elvis experience surrounded Peggy at the TEC Lab's Virtual Reality Experience, a workshop held in February for people Trinity serves.



### A sweet ride

AJ checks out his dream car at the Chicago Auto Show.

## New members add skills, experience to board

Trinity Services recently welcomed two new members to its Board of Directors. Christine Falvey and Ron Stricklin joined the board this summer. Both are parents of children who are supported by Trinity Services, and both have been involved with the organization for roughly 15 years.

Christine, a Mokena resident, has approximately 30 years of experience in the environmental industry as a transportation coordinator for a waste

management company. Falvey's goals for her first term are to become familiar with the full scope of the services Trinity provides and to promote Trinity throughout her community.

Ron is a retired business executive and a resident of South Barrington. He participates in the Parent Advisory Group at Trinity Northwest (based in Des Plaines).

Already, Ron has volunteered in several ways at Trinity—assisting with

audits, with legislative advocacy campaigns, and with planning for the Dinner and Concert Gala, held each December in Oak Brook.

"I like keeping busy," Stricklin said. "I'm excited to learn how the board works and how different programming works at Trinity.

"I'm impressed with people I see up and down the organization. They are so committed to what they do and to trying to help everyone succeed."



*No matter your income or situation,  
everyone needs a plan!*

# Estate Planning Seminar

Learn how to create a legacy for your family, loved ones and organizations that are meaningful to you.

Get practical guidance for stewardship and avoid costly probate. Plan ahead and gain peace of mind.

**Complete your  
revocable living  
trust for FREE!**

*Trinity Services, Inc. is hosting two FREE seminars.*

**7 p.m. Tuesday, March 26 & 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 27  
301 Veterans Parkway, New Lenox, IL 60451**

To register, call or email Trinity Services Director of Development Sherry Ladislas at 815-717-3750 or [sladislas@trinityservices.org](mailto:sladislas@trinityservices.org)



*In Partnership with*





**April 6**  
Night of Decadence at ROXY

**April 7**  
Egg hunt at The Barkery

**May 4 & 5**  
Petals & Twigs Spring Fling sale

**May 16**  
Tom O'Reilly Memorial Golf Classic

**June 20**  
Trinity Triumph 5K run/1K walk

**July 19**  
Reds, Whites, and Blues at ROXY featuring the HepKats

### Holiday Office Closings

**May 27**  
Memorial Day

## Employees triumph over bitter cold

On Wednesday, Jan. 30, a rare shift in the polar vortex caused dangerously cold temperatures to blanket most of the Midwest. In Northern Illinois the temperature, with the wind chill factored in, dipped to minus-50 degrees. Illinois was experiencing colder weather than Antarctica.

Most folks stayed home and did not venture outdoors. Thousands of people lost power. Schools and universities were closed. The U.S. Postal Service took the rare step of suspending its service in towns from Illinois to Pennsylvania.

The airports grounded thousands of flights, Amtrak cancelled routes, and train workers set fire to the tracks to prevent contraction.

On that frigid day, 520 Trinity employees showed up on time and completed a full shift of work. During such a crisis, some employees may find it impossible to access a working vehicle or childcare. Others

may experience health issues that prevent them from going outdoors—even to and from a vehicle. They must avoid the danger of a vehicle breakdown.

And yet, during that dangerously cold period—for 57 hours straight—all shifts were fully covered. And, no accidents or injuries were reported.

Overall, a majority of work activities hummed along as usual. The daytime programs were closed, but offices were open. At STRIDES, the therapeutic horseback riding program, the staff worked extra hard to keep the horses warm.

The Trinity community gratefully acknowledges the 520 employees who worked during the cold snap. We are truly fortunate. Trinity's 24-hour supports are never suspended, even in severe weather. So, "Cheers!" to the health, dedication, and grit of Trinity employees!



**A Trinity employee uses a shovel to remove snow from her car in January.**

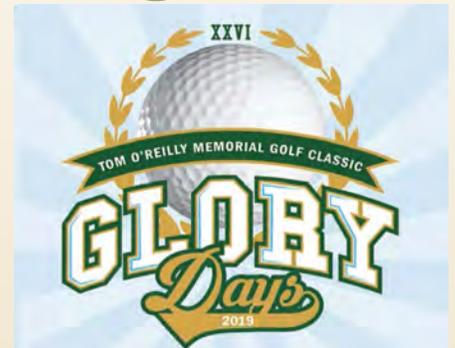
## Donations sought for golf classic

The 24th annual Tom O'Reilly Golf Classic will be on May 16 at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

The theme is Glory Days. Costumed characters will feature.

Trinity appreciates your help with this fund-raiser. Please contact any business owner you know who may want to be a sponsor. Also, Trinity welcomes sports-related donations for the silent auction.

The best auction items are tickets for sporting events (Sox, Cubs, Bulls or Bears games) and golf packages,



golfing supplies or pro shop gift cards. For details, please call Anthony in the Development office at 815-717-3750 or visit [www.trinitygolfclassic.com](http://www.trinitygolfclassic.com).

Fresh Baked  
**TRINITY Barkery**  
Pet Treats

pet treats ▪ pet food ▪ decor  
▪ clothing and accessories ▪

815-476-5104

**Fritters Critters**

## Department Contacts

Network I Andy Long	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 VI / Community Day Services Stephanie Leigh	815-485-8146
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
North Central Illinois Jennifer Price	815-941-1503
Thane Dykstra President and CEO	815-485-6197
Ray Carmody Administrative Operations	815-485-6197
Tina Fogarty Chief Operating Officer	815-485-6197
Christina Chavez Performance Mgmt. Systems	815-485-6197
Sherry Ladislas Development	815-717-3750
Sharon Parker-Love Health Services	815-485-6197
Dr. Rajani Patwari Medical Director	815-320-7326
Sally Ritchey Information Technology	815-485-6197
Bob Taylor Financial Operations	815-485-6197

## FASD camp registers, seeks staff

CAMP is an FASD community that meets each summer. Its mission is to optimize the life of those affected by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).



Trinity has sent staff volunteers in 2017 and 2018, and will do so again this year. In addition, CAMP is seeking camp social workers and licensed counselors who are devoted to helping kids affected by FASD.

This overnight camp experience, for children and teens ages 9 to 18 years old, meets at YMCA Camp Duncan in Ingleside, IL.

Activities include: swimming, arts and crafts, archery, campfires, volleyball, soccer, hiking, kayaking, canoeing, ropes course, climbing wall, zip-lining, and the Rock Star program. CAMP supports campers to enjoy themselves in a safe, structured space, while having respect for others.

It was founded by a family with an adopted child who has FASD. Campers are supported by a strong team of clinicians and professionals. Programs are geared to improve the campers' social, emotional, and cognitive development.

CAMP dates are Sunday to Friday, June 23 to 28. Fees are: \$895 if paid by Apr. 30, and \$995 starting May 1.

For details, visit the website: [www.fasdcamp.org](http://www.fasdcamp.org).



## Bon appetit!

At a Trinity open house, nurse Cheryl Bales, RN, shares samples of thickened fruit punch and demonstrates the molds available for pureed food. Cheryl is perfecting a training program for Independent Living Coaches to provide more appetizing, healthy options for folks who eat pureed meals.




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

## Hand crafted gifts & decor



Jewelry boxes, cutting boards, dinner trays, decorative clipboards, games, furniture, signs, planters, and more!

Call to order: 815-463-4692

## NEW! Decorative planter



# ShopTrinity

## Dotting the landscape with beauty and style

### Petals & Twigs

A gift shop in a Victorian home offering home décor, candles, and much more. 815-485-5976  
www.petalsandtwigs.com

### Trinity Bakery

Home of Fritters for Critters, the yummy, all-natural dog treats. 815-476-5104  
www.frittersforcritters.com

### SafeNow

Human-safe, earth-friendly, purpose-driven household cleaners. 815-723-0898  
www.besafenow.com

### Cherry Hill Books and Media

Resources for leadership and best practices in the workplace. 815-723-0898  
www.cherryhillhightide.com

### High Tide Press

Publications, training materials. 815-320-7242  
www.cherryhillhightide.com

### All Area Custom Designs

Custom designs for corporate, school, and sports apparel, personal items. 815-726-8323  
www.allareacustomdesigns.com



Cheryl (*left*) and Eric (*above*) work on barn quilts at the Community Day Services program in Mascoutah. The group has posted a video showing their quilt-making process on YouTube at: [youtube.com/watch?v=rIUjcdZKQk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=rIUjcdZKQk)



*Left:* Tyler and Kareem decorate planters and start the seeding in preparation for spring.

## Trinity welcomes new financial leader, Bob Taylor

Trinity Services is pleased to announce that Bob Taylor has joined its leadership team as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). Bob brings more than 20 years of financial leadership experience and a strong commitment to the well-being of people with disabilities to his role at Trinity. He has served as the CFO of three companies in Chicago—a creative agency, an educational publisher, and a global communications agency.



**Bob Taylor**

He is a certified public accountant with an accounting degree from the University of Minnesota.

In addition to his strong financial background, Bob has volunteered with nonprofits, including Young Life and the Center for Economic Progress, and has served as a coach at Sabre Hockey Association and Chicago Blackhawks Special Hockey.

Bob is father to a daughter who has Down syndrome. He stated that he is drawn to work at Trinity because it offers him the opportunity to combine his professional skills with the values that drive his volunteerism. Of his previous achievements, Taylor said he

is proudest to see people he hired and worked with move into roles as controllers, CFOs, and directors.

With tremendous gratitude for his excellent work and dedication, Trinity accepted the resignation of CFO Mike Sieling. Mike arrived in 1987, and Trinity soon began to experience deficit-free budgets. That success has continued for over 30 years. His leadership contributed to significant growth in programs and services despite many unpredictable factors.



**Mike Sieling**



*Purses 30% off* Many styles  
and colors



**May 4 & 5 - Spring Fling**  
Sales throughout the store!  
Remember Mom on May 12.

**Stop in today**  
Bursts of spring color, free  
samples, and deep discounts!

**Store hours**  
9 to 6 Mon.-Fri.  
9 to 5 Sat.  
11 to 4 Sun.

*Petals & Twigs*  
Home Decor and Gifts

[www.petalsandtwigs.com](http://www.petalsandtwigs.com)



*Painted glass*

