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Don't miss...



Mark your calendar for Trinity's annual dinner dance and auction on Sept. 17. This year's theme is Puttin' On The Ritz.

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.

A Message from the Director

Year with no budget averted

Like you, I am relieved that lawmakers in Springfield reached a compromise in creating a stopgap budget. The State of Illinois avoided going a whole year without one, an event that has not happened since the Great Depression. The last-minute flurry of activity in the legislature and the Governor's office left us certain of only one thing: a total disaster has been averted.

Through our joint efforts and the work of many supporters, one significant improvement for persons with developmental disabilities or mental illness has moved closer to reality. The Illinois House voted to raise the DSP wage rate to \$15 an hour (House Bill 5931). Then Senate Bill 2952, the companion bill introduced by Sen. Heather Steans, was passed. Now we must continue to urge the Governor to sign the bill into law.

From the general public's perspective, lawmakers ensured that basic education and human services needs are funded, along with essentials like medical care, police and fire protection, and roadwork projects. From the perspective of a

(continued on pg. 2)

New rest stop for frequent flyers



Left: Jillian digs a post hole to install a hand-crafted bird pavilion outside the Old Plank Studio program in New Lenox. Below: The finished pavilion.



Message from the Director *(continued)*

person with developmental disabilities or mental illness, the compromise ensures the disbursement of federal pass-through funds, just as lawmakers did last summer for 2016.

No new revenues are included. That leaves many community service providers with difficult choices to make or, in some cases, no choice but to discontinue a program.

So, will 2017 be a better year? Will the deficit grow? Will taxes rise? These issues are still unclear. A picture has emerged of two budget visions—one from the Rauner Administration and one from the rank-and-file legislative working group. The two do not seem terribly far apart, and both sides appear willing to work on issues such as tax reform.

Right now, the new budget is 65% completed. One can imagine that, if legislators feel enough heat from constituents, they will complete the full-year budget in January. By then, elections will be in the rearview mirror and the work of crafting a 2018 budget will be approaching fast.

We will keep you informed of changes that occur as a result of funding shifts.

Please email me if you have any questions. Enjoy the summer.

Sincerely,

Art Dykstra



Taking a virtual trip around the world

Above: Kody shows the “passport” he got stamped at various “countries” during Trinity School’s Multicultural Day. Students studied the history, geography and people—and sampled the cuisine—of countries like Greece (right).



Class of 2016!



Students at Trinity School and their families celebrated graduation in May. Left: Alex shows his joy on the playground. Above: Saul walks down the aisle to graduate. Top right: Sergio, Saul and Alex share a thoughtful moment during the ceremony. Right: Sue and John celebrate with their son, Alex.



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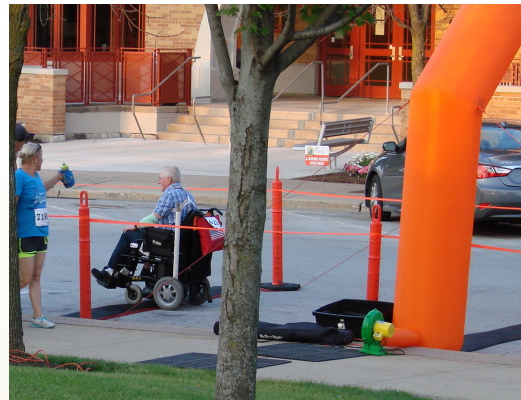
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Nearing cookie perfection



Left: Cheryl, Patrice and Auredia prepare desserts to sell in Trinity's Lillie Pad Cafe. Above: The Culinary crew recently acquired a commercial-grade mixer.



They rolled, strolled and ran at lively 5K



The Trinity Triumph 5K run/1K walk brought together families, runners, walkers, strollers and pooches on a lovely June evening. Clockwise from top left: The Murray family gathers before the run, a man using a wheelchair crosses the finish line, a woman with a stroller rounds the New Lenox Commons; New Lenox Mayor Tim Balderman shoots the starting gun; Sue and John celebrate with their dogs; a girl with a walking cast runs uphill with her buddy.



Around Town



Springtime in Chi-town



In downtown Chicago, Oscar (left) plays with the visual effects of The Bean sculpture in Millennium Park. Below left: Melissa, Robert, John-Noah, Sue, Name and Kathy enjoy the view from the South Pond bridge in Lincoln Park.



Top right: Dwayne, John-Michael, Darryl, Vito and Chang outside "the Cell," where the White Sox started off the season winning a lot of games. Right: Joshua, Carly, Melissa and Eloy take a selfie during a Sox game.



Christina, Elisha, Jessica and Tom show some of Elisha's artwork. In May, Trinity friends exhibited and sold barn quilts, artwork and other hand-made items at the 2nd annual Red Berries and Bluegrass fest at Trinity Gardens and Farmstead in Mascoutah.



Having a twirl at the annual Family and Friends Spring Dance are (above) Chris and Ruth, and (right) Tanya and Shannon.



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Upcoming Events

Aug. 27 & 28

Petals & Twigs Harvest
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Sept. 12 to 15

Trinity greenhouse fall mum sale

Sept. 17

Trinity Dinner Dance and Auction

Sept. 23

Petals & Twigs Ladies Night Out

Oct. 14 & 15

Petals & Twigs Spooktacular

Oct. 23

The Barkery Halloween Bark Bash

Holiday Office Closings

Sept. 5

Labor Day

Oct. 10

Columbus Day



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Numbers Tell Stories

939

Witness slips boost support for DSPs

This spring, Trinity mobilized 939 people to tell the Illinois General Assembly that Direct Service Professionals (DSPs) deserve a living wage.

Supporters of the law are fortunate to have an efficient, new method for telling lawmakers about their wishes. In March of 2012, the legislature began offering online witness slips as a way for citizens to participate in the legislative process. Previously, citizens had been allowed to give input during a committee hearing. But, the input took the form of public testimony. During the hearing, the committee chair would read aloud the names of the witnesses who filed a slip of paper for or against the proposal.

Now, Illinoisans can quickly weigh in without testifying. A witness slip is simply a person's or group's position on a bill. It can be filed for any bill, and it can be filed on behalf of oneself or an organization. The Senate and House have different rules, but both consider this form of input official state documentation.

The Senate allows you to submit a witness slip up to the end of the day of the committee hearing's scheduled date. In the House, you can submit a witness slip up to the end of the committee hearing.

The online option is critical for increasing public participation. With a state the size of Illinois—57,915 square miles—it is impossible for most citizens to drop what they're doing and attend a hearing.

Research shows that the Internet has increased participation in civic life—the business of learning about and influencing how our democracy works. Unfortunately, the data also shows that our participation levels are unbalanced. Folks with higher incomes are participating more frequently than those with lower incomes.

Witness slips are an excellent tool for citizens with fewer resources. Only a smartphone, or brief access to a computer, is needed now to influence lawmakers at these critical moments in the legislative process.

Trinity will continue to encourage its supporters to participate online in legislative proceedings. The site to visit for witness slips is <http://witnesslips.ilga.gov>.



Wedding, new baby or anniversary?

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Electronic News Delivery

If you have computer access and would like to help Trinity cut costs by receiving the newsletter via email, please contact Sherry Ladislas in the Development office at: sladislas@trinity-services.org.

Dykstra, Mecozzi begin new roles

The Board of Directors of Trinity Services is pleased to announce the appointment of Thane Dykstra, PhD, to the position of Chief Operating Officer of Trinity Services, starting July 2.



Thane Dykstra

Thane earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno. He has been with Trinity for over 21 years, most recently as the Director of Behavioral Health.

Mike Mecozzi, PsyD, assumed the role of Director of Behavioral Health, starting Aug. 1.

Mike has been with Trinity Services for nine years, most recently as the Behavioral Health program's clinical director. He earned a doctorate from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology.

He is the author of the book *The Other Side of Pain: Discovering Meaning When Life Hurts*.



Mike Mecozzi



Adding style and color

David trims appliques on t-shirts and jerseys in the spruced-up work room at All Area Custom Designs. Among the improvements are state-of-the-art poured flooring and LED lights.



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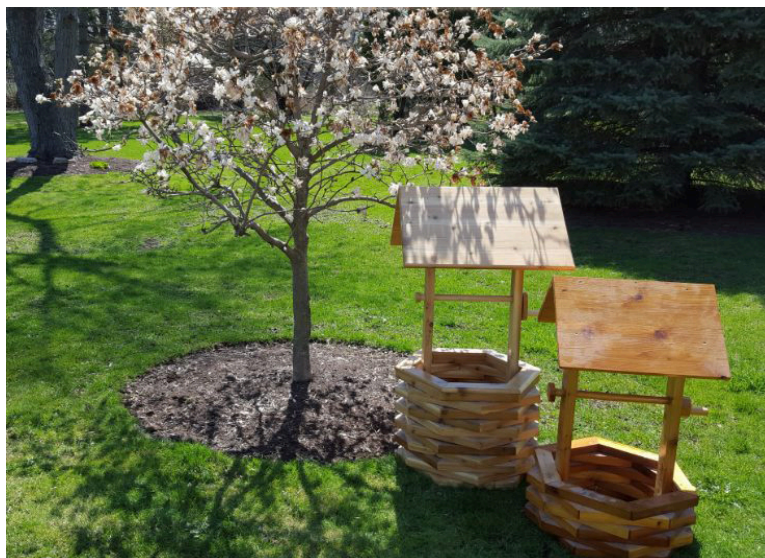
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Trophies, costumes add to a rockin' good time

The winners of this year's Tom O'Reilly Memorial Golf Classic (above left) are Lynn Woder, Eileen Woder, Jan Lumpp and Curtis Lumpp.

The weather was great for this year's event, and Trinity thanks all of the golfers who participated and everyone who supported the event. Trinity's employee-volunteers (left) created costumes and impersonated rock stars from the 1980s.



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Ladies Night Out – Friday, Sept. 23

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Spooktacular – Friday, Oct. 14 & Sat., Oct. 15

Enjoy a festive kickoff to Halloween.