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Don't miss...



Trinity's annual dinner dance and silent auction will feature a Cuban theme. See page 7.

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

Addressing the staffing shortage

Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties and obstacles vanish. – John Quincy Adams

By now, most of our friends and families know about our staffing shortages and our ongoing efforts to deal with the problem. As we discussed previously, many variables account for the problem, which is occurring on a statewide basis. Among them are:

- Too few employees available
- Increase in community healthcare positions
- Rising wages in other hourly wage businesses, including food and retail
- Low entry wage levels – based on state reimbursement
- A dramatic rise in warehouse jobs with a starting wage of \$13 an hour
- Increase wages for personal care assistants, etc.

Trinity, along with other providers, worked hard to gain a salary increase during the past legislative session for our direct support staff. What we achieved was a very important first step in a quest to provide a living wage. The legislature passed a budget that provides for an increase of 75 cents an hour, start-

(continued on pg. 2)



JJWC donates for smiles

Jeremy enjoys a break from his desk work to play in Trinity School's new "galaxy tent." The Joliet Junior Woman's Club donated funds for the tent and a "body sock" that kids can wrap themselves in.

Message from the Director *(continued)*

ing July 1, 2017. Unfortunately, as of this writing we still have not heard from the Department of Human Services regarding implementation. Efforts will be made again next year to seek a minimum threshold of at least \$13 an hour. Legislation sought \$15 an hour.

In the meantime, Trinity Services' Board of Directors has approved a wage increase for our frontline workers, which was agreed to during our labor management negotiations. The salary increases entry-level wages and recognizes our most senior staff with a greater increase in their salaries.

These increases were not made with any additional State reimbursement; rather, they were put together using reserves and budget-cutting measures. We are anticipating that the salary increases will allow us to retain our excellent work staff. But, we are not optimistic that the increase, while substantial, will significantly increase the number of new employees.

Finally, we continue to make contingency plans for home consolidation or closure should that measure become necessary. Some providers have already begun closing homes on regularly scheduled weekends and we may find that action necessary as well.

These are difficult times for Illinois providers and for the people and families that we serve. As one newspaper columnist shared, "We have, with this budget, gone from hospice care to intensive care", certainly not the best news.

Thanks to all of you who have supported us, and especially those of you who helped in the postcard campaign and in contacting our legislators.

I trust you will enjoy the remainder of this summer.

Sincerely,
Art Dykstra

2017 sees debut of assistive tech conference



Participants learn new ways to create and implement assistive technology in June at Illinois' first-ever, statewide technology conference for persons with developmental disabilities. Trinity and the National Association for QIDPs hosted the event at the Tinley Park Convention Center.



Good food and good times

The annual Family and Friends Picnic was held under sunny skies in August. Enjoying the day are (top photo): Mike and Tom; (second from top): LaShawn, Neflon and Sarah; and (third from top): members of the Trinity Family and Friends group.

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A spot to relax and enjoy the summer



Sandra and Shirley (above), and Dorothy and Diane (right) sit outside their house on their new new rocker and glider. The Joliet Junior Woman's Club donated funds to purchase the seating. Both items were hand-crafted at New Lenox Woodworks.



Monarch butterflies find refuge at farmstead

At Trinity Gardens and Farmstead in Mascoutah, a new space was created this year for the monarch butterfly.

Sadly, populations of monarchs have seriously declined due to agricultural and land management practices and the widespread use of herbicides. The farmstead is organic, providing a great site for this project.

During its transformation from caterpillar to cocoon, and on to a regal, colorful, mature butterfly, the monarch requires environmental supports. It cannot survive without milkweed.

As caterpillars, they feed on milkweed plants, and once they mature, they need milkweed to lay their eggs.

The new Trinity environment is designed to build a local monarch population and provide learning opportunities for persons receiving services. They will help buy plants, prepare the ground, plant the milkweed, check for caterpillars, and create an indoor habitat.

An area along the new walking trail is set aside for a monarch oasis. Other native flow-



Stephen, Cory and Eddie stand among the milkweed and other perennial plants, which were planted along the new walking trail to attract monarch butterflies.

ering plants—species with different bloom times—are included to provide monarchs with the nectar they need to reproduce in the spring and summer, and to embark on their fall migration.

The monarch migration is considered to be one of nature's most spectacular phenomena. Their eastern and northeastern populations head south in September or October from Canada and the U.S. They winter in Mexico, then head back north in spring, arriving in midsummer.

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Annual 5K brings joy to the community



The annual Trinity Triumph 5k run/1k walk in New Lenox saw a great turnout this year. More than 130 people participated. In addition to the running and walking, folks enjoyed music, food, and fun with family, friends and co-workers.



Solar eclipse a chance to witness history

Cory (right), Kierra and Gina (center), and Darryl (far right) enjoy the solar eclipse in August at the Des Plaines-based Adult Learning program. People in Illinois were only able to view it through a cover of clouds but many found the sight breathtaking. The background photo shows the full eclipse as seen from Hopkinsville, KY.



Photo courtesy Gary Johnson

Upcoming Events

Sept. 16

Annual Dinner Dance & Auction

Sept. 22

Ladies Night Out at Petals & Twigs

Oct. 1 to 31

Fall cornstalks, hay and pumpkin sale at Trinity Greenhouse

Oct. 13 and 14

Petals & Twigs Spooktacular

Oct. 22

Trinity Barkery Bark Bash

Nov. 11 and 12

Holly Jolly Holiday Show

Holiday Office Closings

Oct. 9

Columbus Day

Nov. 10

Veterans Day

Numbers Tell Stories

14,008

Medication administration

One of the most important duties of Trinity staff is to ensure that medications get to each person receiving services who needs them.

Trinity's pharmacy program, operated in partnership with Pharmacy Alternatives, serves 584 individuals. Of those persons, 459 are served in the greater Joliet area, 75 in the Des Plaines/Chicago area, 14 in Peoria, and 36 in Mascoutah.

A large number of medications are distributed. For example, 14,008 doses were distributed in the first three months of 2017 alone. In the Peoria CILA program, 476 doses were administered; in the Joliet CILA program the number was 10,203; in Mascoutah it was 787; in the Des Plaines area it was 1,841; and, in the Joliet ICF/DD homes it was 701.

Trinity staff provide this support around the clock at more than 100 homes, and on weekdays at dozens of program sites. They are trained to do so in a way that minimizes disruption to a person's activities while also ensuring safety and accuracy. When any medication is handled, whether it is administered or sent back to the medical office for disposal, the staff record the event in the person's medication administration record (MAR).

The types of medication range widely—from anti-convulsants to anti-depressants to laxatives to vitamin D. A large percentage of the medications Trinity distributes are generic. For example, in the first quarter of 2017, 90 percent were generics while 10 percent were brand-name drugs.





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An asset to the local community



Jen Hodges (far right) and Andrea Gaba (second to right) of Trinity's Northwest program accept a Community Enhancement Award from the Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce. (Also pictured: leaders from other award-winning organizations.) The award recognizes those who make Des Plaines a better place to live and do business.

Show features one of Trinity's own

Trinity's Fine Arts for Finer Lives, a fund-raiser for Trinity Services, was held June 22 at Lewis University in Romeoville.

The evening reception kicked off a summer art show at the Oremus Fine Arts Center at Lewis. The show features 12 local artists, including Jim, who receives services at Trinity.



The show, which was free and open to the public, ran every day from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Aug. 11.

Your donations round out event

Havana Nights is the theme for the 28th Annual Trinity Dinner Dance and Auction on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

The event features dinner, music, socializing and a silent auction for great items and experiences. Your generous donations can help.

Talk to your friends! Ask a neighbor, a loved one, or a favorite business owner to buy an ad in the program book. Ad prices begin at just \$50.

This year, we are introducing a new twist on the themed basket

concept. We invite you to propose a theme (based on a hobby, sport, family concept, holiday, etc.).

Trinity's Development team will pull together all the items to complete the basket.

Other popular donations are a gift certificate from a restaurant, spa or hair salon; frequent flyer

miles; tickets to a sporting event; and, an art piece.

To donate an auction item or other item, please call Sherry in the Development office at 815-717-3750.



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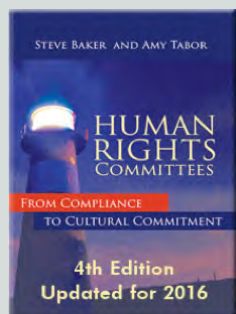
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The Trinity Bike Club held its first meeting May 24 in New Lenox. More than a dozen cyclists cruised the area together. For some, this was a chance to try something new.

A variety of cycles were provided—bicycles, tricycles and a tandem bike for a person with disabilities to use with a Trinity staff person.

The Old Plank Road Trail is a wonderful community asset for residents of the South and Southwest Suburbs. It was one catalyst for this initiative. The club supports persons Trinity serves to share cycling experiences, on and off the trail, with others.

Trinity's Social Center launched the club. Goals include the gentle exercise, recreation and relaxation that biking provides, and social opportunities.

Donation helps bike club take off



Trinity friends met in New Lenox this summer to kick off a bike club. Top photo: David tries out a new three-wheeler. Above: Tony, whose love of bikes helped spark the idea for a bike club, rides another three-wheeler.

Club members enjoy time with each other and folks around the community.

Trinity is grateful to the Sage Foundation for its generous grant of \$10,000. The funds were used to purchase high quality bicycles for the club.

A bountiful harvest



Donna gathers vegetables from "John's Garden" in Joliet. The garden is designed to provide delights for all five senses, in addition to fresh produce. Trinity created it in memory of John DeJean, who lived for many years in the house where it is located.



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