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Don't miss...



Start training now for Trinity's annual 5K run and 5K/1K walk. This year's event will be held Thursday, June 23. Details at www.trinitytriumph.com.

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

Action today for a brighter future

Dear Friends:

This may be one of the most important columns of mine that you read. I am writing to you because your help is needed to avert a direct support workforce crisis.

Trinity's most critical task right now is to safeguard its ability to hire and retain qualified staff. Keeping wages at a competitive level is key. During the worst budget crisis in modern history in Illinois, it might seem odd to push for legislation to raise wages. But, without a wage increase from the state we will be unable to keep the high quality staff that your family member, and Trinity, rely on.

Community disability service providers are competing with many voices right now as our lawmakers hammer out a new budget. The voices of persons with disabilities matter. The voices of their families and friends matter. Specifically, I am asking you to urge the Governor and General Assembly to pass House Bill 5931 and Senate Bill 2952.

(continued on pg. 2)

Proud grad attains lifelong goal



Rose shows the high school diploma she was conferred in February. Her desire for the last 47 years has been to earn her high school diploma. In the 1960s, Rose struggled in the public schools in Chicago, where they were unaware of her difficulty in reading. In the early 2000s, she began attending night classes to pursue her goal. Her friends at Trinity share in her pride and excitement at achieving this admirable goal.

Message from the Director *(continued)*

Please complete as many of these tasks as you can to raise awareness and to reach lawmakers. They are listed in order of impact.

Meet personally

- The most impactful thing you can do is to set up a time to meet with your state representative and state senator in their local offices.
- Consider bringing your family member who has a disability or, if that is not feasible, bring an 8 x 10 photo.
- Legislators are in their local offices, usually on Mondays and Fridays, as follows. Representatives: now. Senators: Mar. 21 – Apr. 1.

Send mail

- Write a letter via postal mail or email to your state representative and state senator.
- Support your family member to write to his/her elected officials.
- Include a personal note and photo of your family member.

Call them

- Phone your state representative and state senator.

Show up where they are

- Attend a town hall or other public event and voice your concerns.

Use social media

- Your personal page or account on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and those of your friends, are excellent places to get others involved.
- You can tag your elected officials and post on their pages.

The quality of direct support services is on the line. What we do today has a direct impact on the future of community-based services for persons with developmental disabilities. We will keep in touch and assist you any way possible. If we do not have your current phone and email, contact Sherry Ladislas at 815-717-3750 or sladislas@trinity-services.org.

Sincerely,
Art Dykstra

In Brief

Spring dance set

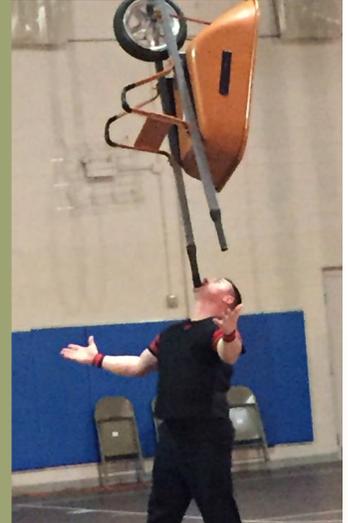
The Family and Friends Annual Spring Dance will be from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, at Lincoln-Way East High School in Frankfort. The free event will feature snacks and DJ music with Jamie and John.

Barkery hosts pet clinic

Trinity Barkery is co-sponsoring a Pet Wellness Clinic with Just Animals Shelter from 4 to 8 p.m. on Friday, April 29. The event will be held at the Riverfront Adult Learning program site, 217 N. 1st Street, Wilmington. To schedule an appointment, call 815-476-5104 or go to the shelter's website: www.justanimalsshelter.org.



Above: Renee, Jen and Val enjoy popcorn and laughs at a recent circus at The Godley Park in Godley, IL. The show featured fire eaters, contortionists and jugglers (right).



Developmental Disability Awareness Month

March is National Developmental Disability Awareness Month. A number of resources for celebrating and for advocacy are available from The Arc at www.thearc.org.

Flowers, foliage for your spring planting

The 2016 plant sales have kicked off at Trinity's greenhouse. Pre-orders are available through March 31 and walk-in sales will be held May 1 and 7. To access a pre-order form, go to www.trinity-services.org and search the word Horticulture, or call the greenhouse: 815-462-3992.



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Above: Scott observes a ray at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago.

Right: Taking a photo in front of the aquarium's studio backdrop are (left to right) Lauren, Michael, Brooke, Anna, Kara, Sue, Peter and Kim.



Time with undersea creatures a perfect cure for the winter blahs



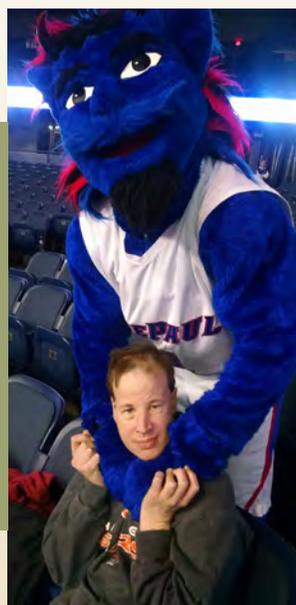
Above: Outside of the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago are (left to right) Bill, Robert, Thomas, Eric, Mo, Joe and Darwin.

Below: Discussing the underwater creatures at the aquarium are Sue, Brooke and Mike.



Go, team!

Brian (left), Mike (below left) and Peter (right) hang out with the Blue Demon mascot at a recent DePaul University basketball game.



Valentine Bingo

Sam (left), Iresha (center) and Steven (right) pick out prizes during the Valentine Bingo event hosted by the Trinity Family and Friends.

Mar. 28 - Apr. 1

Trinity School spring break

Now thru March 31

Trinity greenhouse pre-ordering

May 19

Trinity's annual golf outing

June 23

Trinity Triumph 5K run/1K walk

Holiday Office Closings

May 30

Memorial Day

Friends of Trinity Northwest

Friends of Trinity Northwest meets twice a year, in spring and in fall. Meetings cover topics such as communication, supporting staff, hosting events, and budgetary issues. Group meetings also provide social opportunities. The group encourages new members. For details, call Trinity's Des Plaines office at 847-299-2200.

Internet connections needed for eMAR

In order to make eMAR (electronic medication administration record) a reality across all of its residential programs, Trinity needs to create 91 in-home Internet connections. The eMAR is a new form of a very old document. Every day at Trinity, the staff meticulously record on that document when and how much medication each person who receives services is taking.

In order to meet the federal requirements for electronic medication records, Trinity has been switching away from traditional phone services to Internet-based services. At the 91 locations, Trinity will establish internet service for administrative use over the next few months. Approximately 30—about 1/3—of those sites have had the new service installed already. Overall, about 2/3 of the residential locations will have a different phone service company when the internet service is added. This is needed in order to help contain the costs.

In addition, Trinity must change phone service or at least investigate less expensive options at 15 office and day program locations. For most of the planned changes, Trinity's staff have already found alternative vendors.

So, an important question arises: Can every person living in the home have Internet access for email, Web browsing, and watching movies and TV shows? Unfortunately, the answer is no.

Data plans are limited. Trinity's current data plans cannot ensure the electronic medication administration records (eMAR) process while also trying to accommodate each person's leisure preferences.

Data plans are also expensive. While Trinity would prefer for all persons served by residential programs to watch TV any way they prefer, like streaming movies and shows, funding is simply not available.

Persons living in a home and staff working there should not be experiencing service interruptions and should not need to change anything they are doing on the phone. The switch to Internet simply adds the option to record the distribution and use of medication.



Rockin' golf classic better with your donations

The 23rd annual Tom O'Reilly Golf Classic will be held May 19 at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park.

The theme is I Want My MTV. Costumed characters will show up. Who knows... maybe folks will bump

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, call Kris at 815-717-3750 or visit www.trinitygolfclassic.com.



Department Contacts

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Network V & VI Lisa Dillon	815-485-6197
Network VII / Trinity Northwest Jennifer Hodges	847-299-2200
Network VIII / Southwest Illinois Mike Lowry	618-566-4200
Network IX / Staff Development Trina Sieling	815-722-0166
Network X / North Central Illinois Jennifer Price	815-941-1503
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Sally Ritchey Information Technology	815-485-6197
Mike Sieling Financial Operations	815-485-6197

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.



Retired and finding joy in helping

At her recent retirement celebration, Tammy shows the card her co-workers all signed. She now participates in the Adult Learning program in Mascoutah. Her friends really appreciate how Tammy greets others with a smile and helps with organizing tasks.

Resources help families plan for loved one with a disability

Every family who has a member with a developmental disability or mental illness must look at planning in a very unique way.

Questions range from “How will she find suitable housing if I don’t provide it?” to “Will the publicly-funded safety net carry him through financial difficulties for a lifetime?”

Many professionals and groups are available to help parents, guardians, siblings and other family members answer these questions and gain some peace of mind.

For example, a special needs lawyer may be needed to find and keep the most appropriate housing. And, a financial services professional can

help if a family is considering a special needs trust that finance caregiving once a parent dies. Other professionals help a family navigate the legal complexities of Medicaid and of nonprofit services. See below for some great resources you can find on the Web.

Resources for Families

Special Needs Alliance

www.specialneedsalliance.org

Academy of Special Needs Planners

www.specialneedsanswers.com

Federal government

www.disability.gov

The Arc

www.thearc.org



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www.petalsandtwigs.com

Trinity Barkery

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

SafeNow

Human safe, earth friendly, purpose-driven cleaning products for all your household needs. 815-723-0898
www.safenowproducts.com

Cherry Hill Bookstore

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

High Tide Press

Publications, training materials and resources for disability and nonprofit professionals. 815-717-3780
www.hightidepress.com

All Area Custom Designs

Custom designs for corporate, school, sports and all other related apparel. 815-726-8323
www.trinity-services.org/about/Support_Businesses.aspx

Jasmine's

Gift shop in downtown Wilmington offering gift baskets, hand crafts, jewelry and Fritters for Critters. 815-476-5352
<http://frittersforcritters.com>



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FCC moves New Lenox office to school building



In February, the Family Counseling Center (FCC) moved its administrative office to 1361 Lincoln Hwy. in New Lenox. It now shares the building that houses Trinity School.

The FCC occupies the site where the Trinity Autism Service Center had been. The center had to close its doors last year after the State of Illinois discontinued funding for The Autism Program of Illinois (TAP).

The counseling center move provides additional space for therapists to serve individuals and families. And, it now offers a space for master's-level interns to complete paperwork and study.

The FCC has been in operation in Will County and Grundy County since the 1960s. Its other offices are in Joliet at 62 W. Washington St., and in Homewood at 3650 W. 183rd St.



Top left: Alice and Jordan work in the space designated for college interns. Top right: Comfortable, new therapy rooms were added. Above: Workers from a supply store assemble a desk for the counseling staff.

Museums launch free, low-cost options

Several Chicago-area museums, such as the Chicago Children's Museum at Navy Pier and the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, now offer low-income families a discount or free admission. They are participating in Museums for All.

Starting this winter, entry to the children's museum is just \$3 per person in a family, up to six people. An Illinois Link Card and a valid form of photo ID are required.

At the Morton Arboretum, all visitors enter the facility in their cars. This

program allows vehicles of up to eight people to enter for just \$1 per person.

Other participating museums in the Chicago area include the Chicago Botanic Garden and Chicago History Museum.

In Peoria, the Peoria Riverfront Museum offers free or reduced admission for up to four people in a group.

To find information, and links to participating Museums for All museums, go to www.childrensmuseums.org/participating-museums.





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