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Don't miss...



The Petals & Twigs winter clearance starts Jan. 2. Stop in and pick up gorgeous decor at the year's best prices.

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

New challenges and new rewards

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached do not adjust the goals. Adjust the action steps. – Confucius

As you are probably well aware, the Illinois Legislature voted Nov. 16 on a veto override, but it fell four votes short of passing. The vote was an attempt to override Governor Bruce Rauner's veto of HB 5931, a bill that will direct the Illinois Department of Human Services to increase rates to developmental disability providers. This would have enabled Trinity to raise the wages of DSPs and other workers.

Trinity joined with advocates and others around the state in this effort. We are truly grateful for all those who helped. About 2,600 people signed the online petition to urge legislators to override the veto.

You are encouraged to keep pressing this issue with legislators. A new legislative session begins in January. You may wish to contact your local legislators, write

(continued on pg. 2)

Hero Run helps vets with PTSD



Left: Shenandoah, Jenifer, Tammy and Katherine rest at the finish of the Hero Run half-marathon in Mascoutah. The race benefits military veterans served by Climb for PTSD.

Below: Trinity friends pack the giveaway bags. Front row: Katherine, Susann, Shenandoah, Jenifer and Emily. Back row: Susan, Sarah, Jessica, Kate, Brandi and Tammy.



Message from the Director *(continued)*

letters to newspaper editors, talk to your friends, etc. You can still find helpful resources, such as an easy-to-read booklet with pictures that describes the work that DSPs do, at: www.trinity-services.org/ways-you-can-help/act-now-documents. Perhaps some legislators are still unaware of how critical this workforce issue is.

I am pleased to share the news that Trinity Services was officially informed on Nov. 18 that it was accredited with Distinction by The Council on Quality and Leadership. Only seven other organizations in the world have achieved this accomplishment.

Council reviewers spent time in Reno, Nevada, Mascoutah and Northern Illinois. The Illinois reviewers were with us the entire week.

Trinity received many commendations but the review staff were especially appreciative of our creative efforts with the I-Plan. If you wish to receive a complete copy of the review, please email me at adykstra@trinity-services.org.

Trinity staff worked hard to make this possible. Congratulations are due to the employees who were actively involved in the discussions. And, this is the achievement of those who work hard every day in our residential and day programs, and in our offices, maintenance department and support services.

We are truly blessed, even in these difficult times. I hope you are having a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,
Art Dykstra



EPA certified safe & effective

*Seasonal-themed soaps.
And, several are on sale
today at our website:*



www.BeSafeNow.com

Donation, upcoming event enhance AT, IT



Left to right: CFWC Executive Director Michael Trench, grant committee chair Kathy Cawley, Trinity Chief Operating Officer Thane Dykstra, and foundation chairman Michael Rittorf.

In October, Trinity received a \$15,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Will County (CFWC) and the Rink Family Grant Fund. The donation will support assistive technology and information technology for persons served in the Adult Learning program.

Specifically, it will pay for iPads and cases, touch screen monitors, adapted keyboards, wireless head-phones and additional items that assist a person to use a computer, mobile devices, and Internet technologies.

Literacy is a primary goal as Trinity adds technology to the Adult Learning programs. Both reading and computer literacy are within the reach of more adults with disabilities than ever before. But, funding remains a significant barrier. Donations like the CFWC grant are greatly appreciated.

Trinity is working with a number of organizations to create "smart" solutions with these rapidly evolving technologies.

Trinity and the National Association for Qualified Developmental Disabilities Professionals (NAQ) will host Illinois' first-ever, statewide technology conference for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities in June of 2017. Please watch upcoming issues of this newsletter for details.

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Studio arts alive at OPS



Above: making decorative signs at the Old Plank Studio (OPS) program are Brett (left) and Tanya (right). Chicago Cubs bottle openers (center) are popular items. And, Cubs signs sold out this year as quickly as the workers could make them.



Eva and Amari make spiders for Halloween at Trinity School.

Persons Trinity serves may now choose Shared Living

Applications for the Shared Living program are now available for interested caregivers and families.

Trinity Services recently expanded this program, which provides a person with disabilities the opportunity to live with a family in a local community. The families have signed up to share their homes and lives.

The official name of this program is Shared Living, and it is open to any household (up to a maximum of six people) that is interested in welcoming one or two persons with disabilities into their lives.

Once a household application is approved, Trinity begins the process of matching the family with a person Trinity serves who is interested.

To create the best possible match, Trinity pays close attention to the needs and wants of the person served and the caregiver. All of the parties meet to ensure they are compatible.

After a match is established, the caregiver signs a contract with Trinity, receives training and becomes part of the person's community sup-

port team. Once a person begins living with a host family, a Trinity leadership team visits regularly to provide assistance and to ensure the quality of services.

The household contractors are responsible for assisting the persons they serve to work toward life priorities. They build a strong relationship with the person and provide transport to a job, appointments and anywhere else requested.

In addition, they make sure the person receives necessary medical and dental care; assist the person in administering medications; provide nutritious meals; provide 24-hour supervision; maintain required documentation; assist the person with personal hygiene; provide the person with opportunities for recreation; shop for items the person needs; assist the person with finances; and comply with regulatory requirements.

For more information about Shared Living, contact the program's director, Jill Schneider, at (815) 485-6197 ext. 2321.

Event success a tribute to all who helped



The 27th Annual Dinner Dance and Auction was a great success. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets, donated auction items and supported this event in other ways.

A special thanks goes out to this year's sponsors—Invesco US, Lawrence J. Dyjak and Associates, Old Plank Trail Community Bank, Rich's Lawn care, Tyson Motor, Aileen S. Andrew Foundation, Double "D" Painting, L. DeGeus and Associates and The Horton Group.



Folks with Trinity Northwest celebrated the Cubs' historic win in the Major League Baseball World Series. They took commemorative photos with Cubs apparel and accessories. Left: Lydia with her W (win) towel and cubbie bear. Above: Darryl. Right: Michael, Darryl, Britney, David and Andrea.

Trinity presents The Barkery 2

Due to its success in Wilmington, Trinity Barkery and its product line, Fritters for Critters, have expanded north into New Lenox. The new site (pictured at right) is next to Petals & Twigs gift shop. The site offers the same wonderful treats,

accessories, toys and apparel as the original Barkery in Wilmington.

The launch of Trinity Barkery 2 was celebrated with Bark Bash in October.

Dogs and their owners enjoyed games, treats and prizes. Left: dogs play musical sit (a take on musical chairs). Right: Ryan and Ashley attended with their pup, Justice.



**Fritters
for
Critters**

www.frittersforcritters.com



Pet pictures with Santa
1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 4
240 W. Baltimore, Wilmington
Treats! Decorate cookies and frames!

Dec. 31

New Year's party at Trinity's new Social Center

Jan. 2

Petals and Twigs Winter Clearance Sale

Holiday Office Closings**Dec. 25**

Christmas Day

Jan. 2

New Years

Jan. 16

Martin Luther King Day

Feb. 20

Presidents Day

Maintenance orders filled this year

"It's always something!" How often do we say this about home repairs?

Multiply that times 120, and you may come close to understanding the work of Trinity's Maintenance staff. The department's 10 full-time employees are called in to tackle everything from a plumbing problem to a worn-out garage door. They maintain about 100 of the 125 homes and apartment units Trinity operates. And, they perform upkeep and repairs at Trinity offices and businesses.

Trinity homes are as unique as the persons living in them. They range from a two-flat on Chicago's North Side to a family-style home in the suburbs, to a farm-style house in a rural area.

The Maintenance staff is comprised of a director, a supervisor, an assistant, a secretary and six field personnel. For 2016 (as of November), they had received 4,309 work orders for 120 sites, and completed 4,222 of them.

Almost all of these work orders came from the greater Will County area. And, the numbers do not include the planned projects the crew completes throughout the year. Projects include, but are not limited to, remodeling kitchens and bathrooms, laying tile, fixing drywall, painting, replacing heat or air conditioning units, or working with plumbing, phone lines, gas lines, septic systems and electrical systems.

Prevention is key

Monthly preventative maintenance tasks are an ongoing part of the job. The State of Illinois has many requirements for the homes and programs, so the crew checks about 25 items at each site. As if that were not work enough, the crew also maintains over 150 vehicles. They don't perform extensive repairs but rather tasks, such as changing a headlight, replenishing fluids and checking for broken or worn parts.

Another part of the job is donation pickups. These tasks often take place at far-flung locations. And, the crew completes moves throughout the organization. Both pickups and moves can be urgent or last minute, putting everything else on hold. And, most moves require heavy lifting, courtesy and patience.



Neither rain nor sleet...

Every day is a new adventure in "Maintenance". Some weeks the staff feel like moving men. Many of the tasks are "dirty jobs", and sometimes the weather is an added challenge. But, the work must be done and they do not complain. They are committed to keeping the persons Trinity serves safe and comfortable. Trinity is proud of, and grateful for, all of the good work they do across so many sites.



New, unique link for AmazonSmile!

It is now easier to locate Trinity and provide support while you shop.

You don't have to click on Trinity's link every time!

This is TRINITY's own link:

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2194838>

Please click on it to go directly to smile.amazon.com. You will automatically be asked if you want to support Trinity Services Inc.

You can still search for Trinity even if you lose this link. Every time you shop, Trinity will receive 0.5% of the price of all eligible smile.amazon.com purchases. Please bookmark and use the link so you don't accidentally shop at www.amazon.com instead of smile.amazon.com.

Department Contacts

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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 Ladislav in the Development office at: sladislav@trinity-services.org.



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Lowe's team donates spruce-up

The Lowe's Heroes program donated their time and skills to update a Trinity home in New Lenox. The Lowe's team at 2480 E. Lincoln



Lowe's employee Alana Garcia.

Hwy. spent the equivalent of a whole week painting and landscaping.

Each year, the program renovates a home in New Lenox. This is the third year it chose a Trinity home. And, Lowe's donated \$2,500 for materials. Trinity is very grateful for this support.

The volunteers painted over the home's original brown color with a brighter taupe. On a shaded walkway on the side, grass seldom grew. Now it is now covered with mulch and attractive stepping stones. They also added plants and installed walkway lights. They placed matching storm doors at the home's two front entrances, buried drain tile in the backyard, power washed sidewalks, installed new house numbers, painted the fence, and painted and sealed the backyard deck.

Practice makes fun at Trinity Links



Trinity Links in Lockport held a disc golf tournament Nov. 2. Left: Golfers watch as Chris (far left) aims for the second basket on the course. Above: Victoria takes a practice throw as Elise watches.

Article series, TSI response

By now, all Trinity families should have received correspondence from Art Dykstra regarding the series of articles recently featured in the *Chicago Tribune*. The series focused on the developmental disabilities service system in Illinois.

If, for some reason, you did not get this information and would like to receive a copy of Art's letter to the editor following these articles, please contact Sherry Ladislav at sladislav@trinity-services.org or 815-717-3750.

ShopTrinity

Petals & Twigs

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

Oh Fudge!

Delicious, homemade fudge in many flavors for all occasions. 815-722-3923
www.ohfudge.org

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.besafenow.com

Cherry Hill Books and Media

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

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Publications, training materials and resources for disability and nonprofit professionals. 815-320-7242
www.cherryhillhightide.com

All Area Custom Designs

Custom designs for corporate, school, and sports apparel, or personalized items. 815-726-8323
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The costumes were a delight at the Trinity Family and Friends Halloween Party. Pictured are, top: Karen and Lolita; above right: Karen, Sue and Jeanie; right: Dana and Michael; and, above: Scott and Dan.

Style and humor jazz up Halloween



Center now open for fun, socializing

In the same complex as the Old Plank Studio, Trinity opened a new social center. It is a venue for all the people Trinity serves to get together and participate in themed, structured activities.

The two-story building offers plenty of open space on the lower level and a lounge upstairs for playing cards and video games, or socializing.

Structured activities include parties, movies, hobby groups

and more. And, the center is a meeting spot for folks going on outings.

In November, a crochet club started up and a group of people went on a fall colors hike on the Wauponsie Glacier Trail. Activities for December include:

- Painting club
- Book club
- Wreaths Across America
- Christmas concert
- Christmas shopping
- Gingerbread house making
- Holiday karaoke
- Ice skating
- Christkindlmarket
- College football night.





9 to 6 Mon. – Fri.
9 to 5 Sat., 11 to 4 Sun.
815-485-5976

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