



The Trillium Times

Connecting People with Community

Direct Support Professionals Week

Each year we look forward to DSP appreciation week. The week gives us a chance to celebrate all of the amazing DSPs that work at Trillium. This year's celebration included free car washes from Tommy's Express, donuts and coffee, and a grill out and game day. We also had our 10th annual block party held in the office parking lot. This event included prize drawings, food from The Rambler, and massages by The Well.

All DSPs were entered into daily drawings for a variety of prize options. DSPs also earned entries for one of the nine grand prize options when they attended the different events during the week. We had a great time showing our appreciation to the DSPs at Trillium and look forward to continue showing our appreciation all year round. Thank you to the DSPs for all you do each and every day!

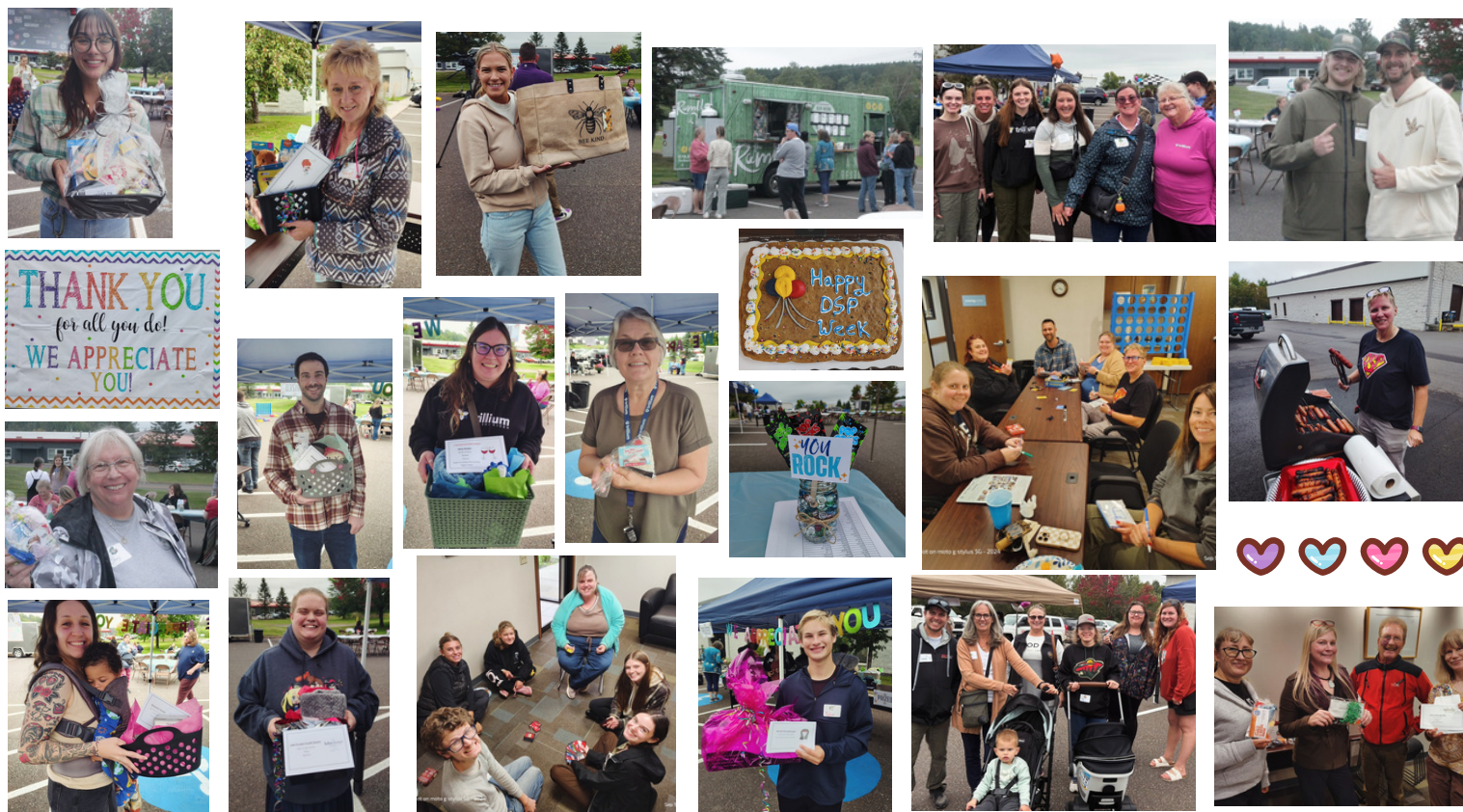


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Introductions



Hana Nelson

My name is Hana Nelson and I am a new Supervisor in Community Living. What drew me to Trillium was my desire for a career where I could not only make a positive difference, but to also be a part of a place where employees are genuinely cared for and heard, just as much. I was most recently an Employment Coordinator in Trillium Works! before this exciting transition!

I am a mom to two rambunctious boys who love to join me on hiking "adventures" and "explorations" as we call it. Random and sporadic day trips to find waterfalls are one of our favorites! Along with being a mom, I do enjoy my free time spent with friends where we will have game nights, day trips away, wrestle matches, and more!

Hello! My name is Haeli Pettis and I am a Program Manager with Trillium Works! I have worked with Trillium for almost 2 years. Being at Trillium has helped me find my purpose and given me the opportunity to work alongside awesome co-workers and service recipients, as well as getting to know some amazing families/advocates! When I am not working, I love spending time out in my community. I also enjoy swimming in Superior (during the summer), going to the gym, reading, all Minnesota sports and being with my family and friends. It is such a privilege to be a part of such a wonderful team here at Trillium!



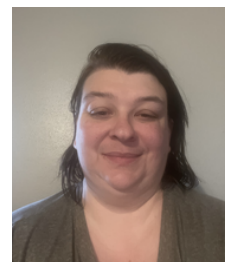
Haeli Pettis



Mary Paschke

Hi, I'm Mary Paschke. After taking 3 years off I decided it was time to get back working, so I came into Trillium Works! in September to find a job. Shortly after coming to Trillium Works! I got a job with ISD 709 Duluth School District washing dishes at Homecroft one day a week. Then a spot opened up at Lester Park Elementary 2 days a week. I decided I wanted to work more so I changed schools and I really like the kitchen staff and the kids.

Hi! I'm Jen. I used to be with Trillium then moved out of state. However I have returned to Minnesota and have been with Trillium Works! since October! I am currently doing day supports getting used to my community again and working on getting more fit! I am excited to be back!



Jen Carlin

Introductions

Hi, I'm Claire Moutaque and I came into Trillium Works! in September from VRS, after finding a job at HomeGoods. I work 3 days a week doing maintenance. I really love my job and my coworkers. When I'm not working, I love to hang out with my family.



Claire Moutaque



Brianna Bertrand

Hi, I'm Brianna, I recently moved to the Duluth area. I love dressing my American Girl Dolls, completing puzzles and reading with my mom. I am a part of the Collective group and Book Club and have joined some Nature Rocks! events. I look forward to getting to know more people in the upcoming year!

I recently returned to Trillium Works! and have started my own business, Chris' World of Junk, which involves buying previously enjoyed merchandise and finding a new home for it. Some of my favorite foods include spaghetti, chinese, and hamburgers. I enjoy spending time outside, gardening, running, snowshoeing, and traveling. I also enjoy board games and watching sports, especially the Huskies and the Twins.



Chris W



Abby Ramberg

Hello my name is Abby Ramberg. I have been with the Trillium VRS program since June of 2022 and recently joined Trillium Works! in the beginning of October. I am currently working as a dishwasher at both Lowell and Congdon Elementary schools. I enjoy working in kitchens and getting to know my co-workers. I hope to move into food service someday!!

Jake's Trip to Kansas City

Jacob finally made his trip to the #RedKingdom, hitting up Kansas City, Missouri, to see his favorite squad play live at Arrowhead Stadium! The trip started with a massive win: friends hooked him up with passes to an exclusive tailgate party, completely immersing him in the electric team energy (and amazing food smells!) He watched his favorite players Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce—plus he was able to wave at his biggest idol, Taylor Swift. Even though the home team didn't snag the W, the sheer joy of Arrowhead and the whole experience meant the loss didn't take away from his dream trip. He finished the trip checking out the Royals' Kauffman Stadium and crushing the local BBQ circuit—because what's KC without BBQ.



Kate's Trip to Disney World

Kate had so much fun on her trip to Disney World! She spent a whole week riding roller coasters, trying new foods, meeting the characters, shopping, and swimming. She made it to all four Disney Parks! It was a great way to spend Halloween out of the cold!



Day of Caring

This year for United Way's Day of Caring we went to ConnectAbility to help clean and repair donated medical equipment. This equipment is available at no cost to anyone who needs it. We had a great time learning about their program and helping them out.



Painting at Sampo

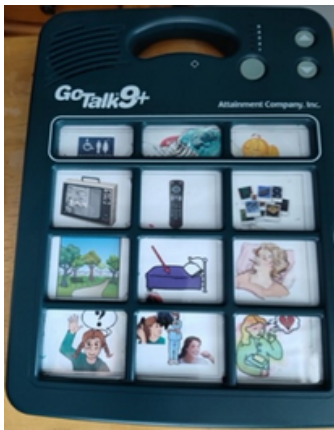
This year we volunteered out at Sampo to help scape and paint the large sauna. This is our second year helping refresh some of the buildings around our beloved picnic location.



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN ACTION:

Assistive Technology refers to a device, equipment, software or tool that helps people complete tasks more easily, safely, or independently. They can be low-technology, such as pencil grips, visual schedules, timers or alarms, suction bowls, adapted utensils, and large-print books. Some are software based or high-technology, such as communication devices, talk-to-text apps, and screen magnifiers.

Here are a few examples of people using Assistive Technology:



This is Shannon's Go Talk device. Shannon has customized this device the way she wants it. An example is Shannon will press the TV button, and the Go Talk says "TV" indicating to those around Shannon she wants to watch TV.

Jenny uses a grabber at work to reach the cardboard boxes at the bottom of the bin. By using this Jenny is able to work more independently and doesn't have to depend on a coach helping her out.



TLCPCP GATHERING

The Gathering presented by The Learning Community for Person Centered Practices took place over three days in July. The Gathering is held each year somewhere in the United States. This past July it was held in Minneapolis, and several members of the management team were in attendance.

The theme of the 2025 Gathering was Sharing, Learning, and Growing together. Attendees had an opportunity to choose from organized workshops or attend more informal get-together is where people hosted discussions and had brainstorming sessions around person-centered ideas. The best part of The Gathering is the collection of people who are all focused on promoting and living the principles around supporting people to have their best lives. The group who attended came back with inspiration, ideas, new connections, and energy to keep doing good work.

We are excited to announce that the Gathering for 2026 will also be held in Minneapolis. It will be during the week of July 13-17. More details are still to come! Each year they offer scholarships for people with lived experience to travel and attend the conference. If this is something you are interested in please let your supervisor or director know.



DONATION DRIVE

This year we collected donations for two different organizations. Life House Duluth and First Witness Child Advocacy Center. We were happy to be able to collect a variety of items for each organization and delivered them just before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who contributed!



Upcoming Events



**ADVOCACY
IN ACTION**

*Disability Services
Day at the Capitol*

March 24, 2026

If you are interested in
attending

contact Melissa at

mweber@trilliumservice.com

People Planning Together

What is PPT?

People Planning Together, also called PPT, is a training for self-advocates taught by a self-advocate. During the training, participants will create a Person Centered Plan.

Why should I come to this training?

The class helps people identify what is meaningful to them and what they want in their lives. Through activities and discussion, people in the class get a deeper understanding of what is important to them and for them. They use this information to develop a plan with meaningful outcomes for their life, and who can help them implement it. Through a grant, this class will be offered for free.

Watch for upcoming dates.



February 13, 2026

Proctor High School

Register at

<https://www.midwayfellowship.org/nts.html>

Upcoming Events

WINTER TUBING

JANUARY 19, 2026 12:30PM-2:30PM

LEIF ERICKSON PARK

HOLIDAY SNOWFLAKE AND VALENTINE CARD CRAFTING!

JANUARY 29, 2026 2PM-5PM

DEERFIELD COMMUNITY ROOM

4131 MEADOW PARKWAY, HERMANTOWN 55811

ICE FISHING FRIDAY!

FEBRUARY 20, 2026 3PM-7PM

PARK POINT, BAY SIDE

BRING ON THE BOWLING!

MARCH 17, 2026 3-5PM* TENTATIVE TIME

INCLINE STATION.



Do you have a story you would like to share or an announcement you want to make in the newsletter?

Contact Melissa with possible entry ideas.

mweber@trilliumservice.com or 218-722-5009

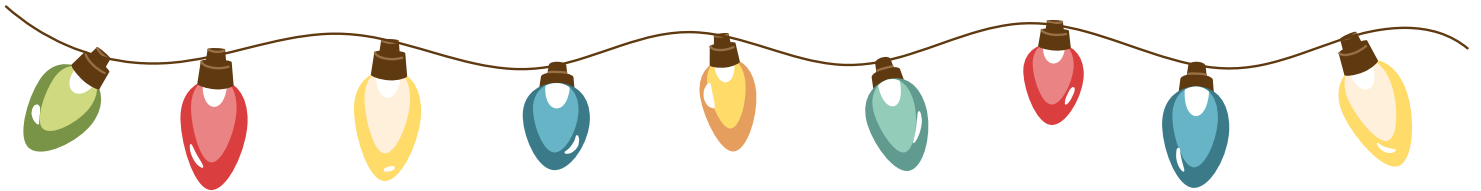


VOLUNTEER

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



A group of us teamed up with the Duluth Women of Today, volunteering at Breakfast with Santa in Fredenberg. They helped in the Santa shop where children came to shop for Christmas gifts for their parents. This is the 3rd year Trillium has helped out at this event. A special thank you to Amanda B, Katie H, Hank B and Elina R.

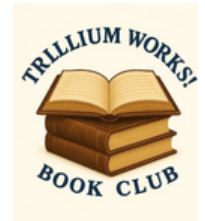
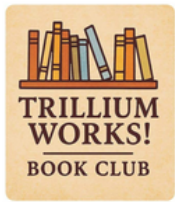


GIFT WRAPPING FOR SALVATION ARMY

For a few years now we have made it a tradition to wrap gifts at the mall with Salvation Army. This year we had 20 of us over 2 separate days. This is always a fun experience. Many of the people that come to get gifts wrapped stick around and chat for a while. It is also fun to see everyone's creativity as they show off their wrapping or ribbon tying skills.



Trillium Works! Book Club



What an amazing 2025 we have had at Book Club! We read so many great books;

1. A Boy Called Christmas by Matt Haig
2. Through the Looking Glass by Lewis Carroll
3. The Borrowers by Mary Norton
4. The Princess Bride by William Goldman
5. Holes by Louis Sachar
6. The Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell
7. Peter Pan by H.M. Barrie
8. The Secret of the Old Clock (Nancy Drew #1) by Carolyn Keene
9. Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

We have one book planned for the beginning of 2026.

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell. We will choose more selections, as a group, when we are close to finished with it.

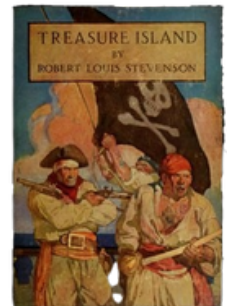
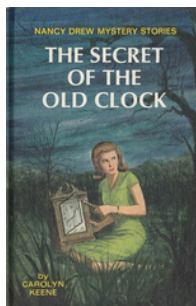
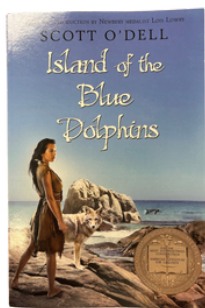
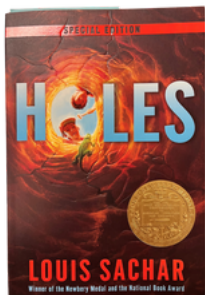
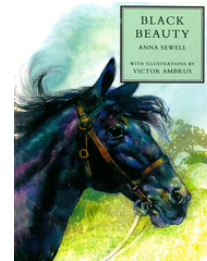
Book Club is always looking for new members and would be excited if you joined.

Book Club meets every other Tuesday at 3:00pm at the Trillium Office.

Future Meeting dates:



1/13/2026
1/27/2026
2/10/2026
2/24/2026
3/10/2026
3/24/2026
4/07/2026
4/21/2026



If you have any questions, please contact Josh Howie at jhowie@trilliumservice.com.

The Collective

The Holiday celebrations are in full swing for the Trillium Services Collective! We have had a blast this December with Christmas Jeopardy, ornament decoration, and a special visit from Jolly 'ol St. Nick! The fun continues into the New Year with a variety of winter themed crafts and activities! The Collective is a fun weekly event open to all people who receive services through Trillium Works! We meet every Wednesday at Salem Lutheran Church at 3-4:30!

Interested in joining? Contact Haeli Pettis with any questions at hpettis@trilliumservice.com
We would love to see you at The Collective!




PEOPLE PLANNING TOGETHER


Calling all self-advocates! We have an unique Person Centered Planning opportunity coming in the new year. This is a training developed by and for people who experience life with disabilities. The training walks people through the process of hands-on discovery of the things that matter most to them. They work to discover their Important TOs. They work to discover their Important FORs. Through the course of the class they tell the story of what they want their lives to look like, what the balance between Important TO and Important FOR is, and what supports they need and want to move forward toward the life they love.

This training is led by people with disabilities who have typically thinking supporters to assist them as needed. Support for participants is provided by the trainers as well as the people they bring to help them. Participants leave the training experience with an individually developed plan they can use to guide conversations with their families, friends, or support teams/circles in their day-to-day lives.


Henry and Jeff had the opportunity to become People Planning Together facilitators. They traveled to Minneapolis for 2 days this summer to experience what it was like to participate in the training. When the second day came to a close, they were tired, but so excited to share what they had learned. Henry and Jeff have spent time reviewing slides, practicing activities, and sharing their stories and experiences. In October a special guest named Bob Sattler joined us at the Trillium office to observe Jeff and Henry deliver the training for the first time. Jeff teamed up with Jake and Melissa and Henry choose Jennifer to support him to deliver the training. Jeff and Henry did a great job on their first run with People Planning Together.




My name is Jeff, I love music and I'm a funny guy. I grew up in Floodwood and live in Duluth now.




I'm Jake, I love fishing, hiking, sailing, and pretty much anything outdoors.



I am Melissa, I love spending time outdoors gardening, hammocking, or kayaking. I love animals and the Green Bay Packers.



My name is Henry; I'm a very artistic person. I live in Duluth; I love to be outdoors and have fun.



My name is Jennifer
I have been a Person-Centered Planner for over 20 years.
I love my family, fishing, and the Minnesota Vikings.

If you want to see the skills of Jeff or Henry in action you can sign up for one of their next training courses. Dates to be announced soon

Trillium Works! in Action



Trillium Works! would like to congratulate Karson for getting hired at Northern Tool + Equipment.

Karson has been a great addition at Northern Tool + Equipment as he has much knowledge about tools.

He is always willing to assist customers at finding the right equipment for their projects and also enjoys assisting his co-workers with projects.

Karson's favorite part of his job is helping customers.



Ivy's Taste of Duluth

Buffalo Wild Wings

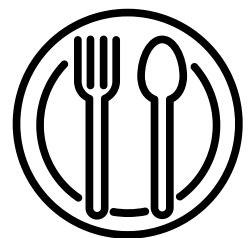
I had the buffalo chicken wrap, it was not bad but I wouldn't get it again. I also had the wings which are always good. I would recommend going there.

Applebees

I had the chicken wonton tacos which are my favorite. I highly recommend it.

Burger King

I had a whopper jr. with no onion and fries. I would not recommend it.





Kickball

We had a lot of fun this quarter! We had another big turnout for kickball with almost 30 people playing! The final score was 27 to 14. Everyone loved it and had a great time! With how successful our kickball events have been going we're thinking about having several games a year now, with the possibility of some basketball and flag football games, too!



Hayride

We also went for a hayride out at Countryside Rides. It was a little chilly but everyone huddled up on the trailer to stay warm and then we hung out at the big bonfire afterwards to socialize and warm up. Everyone was in the Halloween Spirit and had a great time! We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events!

Contact

Joe Travis, Jake Peterson, or Ali Wiemer with any questions or to sign up!

jtravis@trilliumservice.com
jpeterson@trilliumservice.com
awiemer@trilliumservice.com



In the Spotlight



SECOND HARVEST
NORTHLAND



Second Harvest has provided our Service Recipients with a great volunteer opportunity over the years! They have been awesome to work with and this year have been so welcoming to Ryan, Deb, and Autumn. These three individuals love volunteering at Second Harvest and work hard every week and always have a smile on their face while doing so 😊

Quote

"I love that I can be independent there and my favorite thing to do is bag the potatoes." - Autumn



John Good Smith
April 19, 1959 ~ December 4, 2025

We had the honor of being a part of John's Self Determination Project in the early 2000's. He came up to Trillium to teach us about self-determination, advocacy, and disability rights. He was an impactful trainer and we are grateful to have known him and to see his philosophy reflected in our day to day work. He will be greatly missed.

Congratulations!

Engagement



**Congratulations to
Ruth and Brian
on their wedding day
12/6/25**



**Congratulations to
Emily McDonald and Jesse Demoure
for their engagement!**

**Eryn Flores and Arlen
welcomed Baby Hazel
October 17, 2025**



**Trillium Services
4629 Airpark Blvd
Duluth, MN 55811**