



The Trillium Times

"Connecting People with Communities"

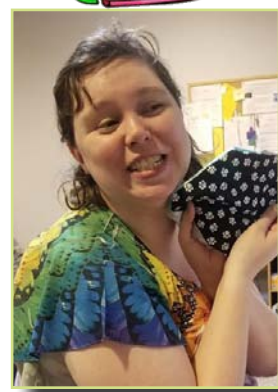
Quarterly Newsletter

Trillium Services | Paragon Associates | Trillium Works!

2020



Jenny Nemeth and her helper Riley making masks!



Katie Hanson with her finished product!



Homemade Mask-Making



During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Department of Human Services asked for service providers to wear face masks. Since there were no masks available for purchase, we created a Trillium Mask Makers Group!

Our team of over 40 mask makers went into mask-making mode for a few weeks and made over 1000 masks! We had everyone from service recipients, direct service professionals, and management on our team to get this massive project done. We even created a Facebook Group to communicate what was needed, troubleshoot sewing machine problems, and show off our fun patterns and designs.

Several people donated materials to our cause. We stocked all of the supplies, and our wonderful team would pick up supplies and drop off their handmade masks to be distributed.

We had a goal of being able to provide at least two masks per person (for each person we support and employ) – and we have met that goal! On our best week, we were able to create 400 masks and were even able to make a whopping 185 masks in one day!

We could not have reached this goal without the help of our fantastic and dedicated mask makers – a HUGE "Thank You" goes out to our Trillium Mask Makers Team and those who donated materials!



Some masks made by our volunteers!



Right: Joni Tazzell dropping off her contribution to the mask stock!

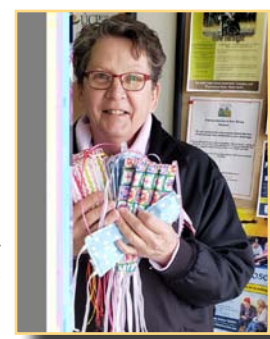


Table of Contents

In the Spotlight	Page 2
Getting Crafty	Page 3
Spreading Joy	Page 3
Providing Remote Service	Page 4-5
Fun Around the House	Page 6
The Great Outdoors	Page 7
Congratulations	Page 8



Hand Sanitizer Donation



Jim Snell and Kenny Lee dropped off a large batch of hand sanitizer that Jim's company, Clover Valley Candles, made and donated to us!

Thank you for your thoughtful donation to help keep our employees and the people that we support safe!



Left: Kenny and Jim



In The Spotlight: Essential Workers



Katie Johnson at SuperOne!

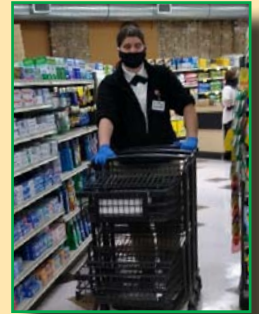
Katie Johnson

Katie Johnson works at SuperOne, which is an essential service that provides food and products to the people of Duluth and surrounding areas.

Katie has been working at SuperOne for almost two years, and has done an amazing job of continuing to work throughout all of the changes happening in the world.

She has been taking proper precautions like wearing a mask and gloves, washing her hands, and staying six feet away from customers.

She says she still enjoys working and is glad that she can help out. Nice job, Katie!



Micah at work!

Micah Saarela

Micah Saarela is an essential worker at Cash Wise Liquor in Duluth!

He has been working for just over six months as a stocker and already has had his hard work and determination recognized by receiving an "Employee of the Quarter" award!

Micah is very proud of the work that he does and the ability to support his community. He makes sure that customers have all the assistance they need and has been diligent in sanitizing the store to keep the customers and employees as safe as possible.

Thank you for your hard work to keep everyone safe, Micah!



Employee of the Quarter - Congratulations, Micah!

To our amazing Trillium Services and Trillium Works! staff:



THANK YOU!



We want to let our employees know how much we appreciate each of you! The pandemic has definitely thrown us a curve ball, and you all have continued to deliver high-quality services to the people we support.

We are extremely grateful to have such inspiring people working hard for us. We will continue to make decisions with your and the people we support's best interests in mind.

Thank you for all of your dedication, compassion, and resilience during this time. We couldn't get through this without each and every one of you!



Christine Rogers showing off the vanity that she made!



Skip Mortensen working on his craft kit!



Getting Crafty!



Recently, Home Depot contacted us about some extra craft kits that they had on hand! These fun kits were a hit and provided some creative fun for people during COVID-19.

Craft kits included block calendars, vanities, trucks, string art, and a scarecrow planter!

Thank you, Home Depot, for your very generous donation!



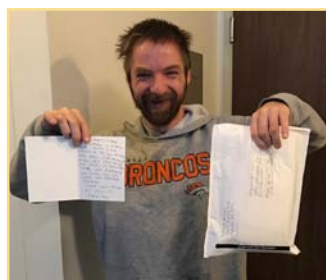
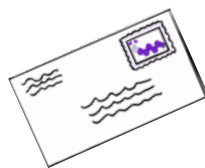
During the Stay at Home Order, we decided to try to spread as much joy to our friends, family, and neighbors as possible!

Sidewalk and window art greeted people as they took walks in the neighborhood.

We also had a few people write letters to seniors and frontline workers to brighten their days!



Wanda Facciotto, Joanne Polo, Susan Belsvik, Michelle Avis, and Emily McDonald did sidewalk art to bring some cheer to the neighborhood!



Brandon Anderson wrote letters to seniors at Edgewood Vista. He and Tim Gaskill completed and sent 40 cards!

Deb Weber, Ronelle Lathrop, Molly Haraldson, and Laurie Seidemann decorated their window!



Brandon Phillips made and sent cards to residents at local nursing homes to brighten people's day!



Hallmark was giving away three "Thank You" cards for people to send to essential workers of their choice! Deb Weber, Ronelle Lathrop, Molly Haraldson, and Laurie Seidemann chose the Duluth Police Department, Starbucks, and their mail carrier! Above: Deb and Ronelle with the cards!



Megan Helmer and Rebeccah Ahlrich made Amish Friendship Bread starters and "Ding Dong Distanced" friends and family! They left the bread starters at their doors and waved from a distance!





Providing Remote Services



Trillium Works! has been implementing remote services since the start of COVID-19, so we can remain safe and also stay connected. Check out how those we support have been staying busy during the state's "Safer at Home" order!



Staying Fit and Healthy



Laurie



Laurie Seidelmann has been keeping herself busy during COVID-19 by working out! She and Theresa Williams meet on Zoom three times a week for workout sessions.

The two have gotten a routine down on which parts to target on which days of the week (Wednesday is leg day, Fridays are cardio, etc). They try to mix up each workout by doing some standing and some on the floor. Each session they try to do new things to keep it fresh and fun.

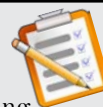
It has been a great way to stay healthy, keep busy, and stay connected!

"I am staying safe and having fun!" –Laurie



Right: Theresa

Building New Routines



Angel Hathaway works at McDonald's as a lobby attendant, but is not working at this time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Liz Glesner and Angel meet every week to talk about what going back to work might look like, how to increase and maintain stamina, and what Angel's daily work routine looks like, so she can be ready as soon as McDonald's needs her to go back to work.

Keep up the good work Angel!



Angel and Liz



Focusing on the Arts



Leaslin

While Leaslin Frazier has been home with her mother during the "Safer at Home" order, she still checks in with Trillium Works! twice a week! She fills them in on what she's been up to and how she's been keeping busy.

Leaslin has been a huge help in the kitchen, but is also taking walks and getting out and enjoying each day. Lately, Leaslin has been reading her poems during her weekly Tuesday meeting. On Thursdays, Leaslin puts on a show for Violin Day. She's passionate about her poetry and music, and puts care and time into both.

She has been able to devote her time during this to really work on her passions!

"I love to play the violin!" –Leaslin





Game Time

Sarah Kamp has been meeting with Theresa Williams through Zoom. They have gotten creative on ways to pass the time!

Sarah updates Theresa on what she has been up to, but they also try to have a little fun. They play games and have scavenger hunts, but also try to work on building skills through those games.

It is a good way to stay connected and stay busy! Sarah is anxious to get back to work, but enjoys being able to connect with others in new ways!



Sarah

"Doing activities with Theresa on Zoom is fun." -Sarah



Dance Party



The "Safer at Home" order didn't slow Mindy Bolgrien down! She decided she wanted to have a weekly Zoom Dance Party.

Mindy has some great moves, and is even teaching Theresa Williams a thing or two! The two love to have a good time and laugh and most importantly – keep active.

It is a way to spend some time together and keep their minds off of what is going on around the world.



"I love dancing and being active." -Mindy



Job Club

As day-to-day routines have changed and many people have lost their jobs or have reduced work hours, we are all trying to adjust to a new lifestyle.

Trillium Works! Virtual Job Club has been a great opportunity for service recipients to gather as a group, interact with people outside their homes, and learn about employment related topics. How can I actively work towards my employment goals at home? What tools and resources are available? What are some of the different avenues to continue looking for work? How can I be ready to return to work when the time comes?

Discussing questions like these has provided an environment for service recipients to continue thinking about their employment goals and the ways that they can still work towards them while spending more time at home.



If you are in Trillium Works! and would like to learn more about Virtual Job Club, please let your Trillium Works! Supervisor know! We would love to see you!





Trillium Services Annual Picnic



It is with great sadness that we have decided to cancel our Annual Picnic for 2020.

As much as we love putting on this fun event every year, we decided that it would be unwise to do so at this time. The health and safety of our stakeholders is our top priority and we feel this is the best option at the present time to keep everyone safe.

We look forward to resuming the Picnic in 2021 and hope everyone has a safe, happy, and healthy summer!



Wanda Facciotto, Joanne Polo, Susan Belsvik, and Michelle Avis helped Emily McDonald with some Disney Princess food creations!



On days we weren't able to get outside, we made the most of our days indoors! We had a lot of different activities going on - baking, Zoom parties, church, karaoke, and crafts!



Sarah Seethoff had a Zoom Birthday party!



Collin Maurer video chatting with family!



Mark Schuman had a comfy spot for virtual Sunday church service!



Jim Benko did some Elvis karaoke!



Sarah Seethoff playing BINGO with her Women of Today group!



Tim Gaskill and Rebeccah Ahlrich made Hand Sanitizer!





Spring is in the air! We have been getting outdoors as much as possible (while following social distancing guidelines!) to get some fresh air, exercise, and enjoy hobbies (new and old)!

We can't wait for some warmer weather to get some of our favorite summertime activities started!



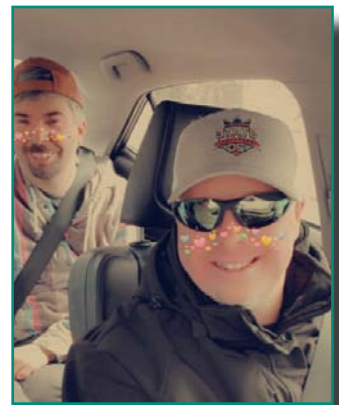
Mike Reynolds hiked Enger Tower!



Deb Weber and Ronelle Lathrop went walking!



Left: Austin did some geocaching!



Brian Koski and Jesse Miller took a ride for a change of scenery!



Kate Wallin got out on her bike!



Right: Andrea Jackson getting some sun!



Jim Benko and Mike Maki went agate picking on the shore of Lake Superior!



Tim Anderson doing some bird watching up the shore!



We're on TV!

Over the winter we worked with Comstock Creative to film FOUR wonderful commercials!

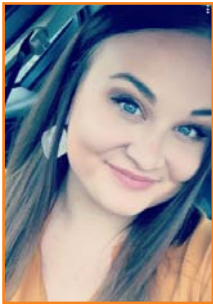
Our goal was to highlight what fun, fulfilling work Direct Service Professionals do! You can watch them on any KBJR associated channel (CW, MyNetwork, NBC) until June 19th! You can also view them on our Facebook pages.

Thank you for all the fantastic people that were featured in the commercial - you are the reason they turned out so perfectly!

- Kinsey Klasnich



Here are some stills from two of our commercials!



Haley Francis graduated from UW-Superior with Bachelors of Science in Social Work!



Jessica and Krystal Pluntz-Kinney had a 7lb 3oz baby boy, Jaxon Lee Pluntz-Kinney, on January 12th!



Liz Glesner and Becca Brazeros welcomed a 7lb 3oz baby boy, Eli Robert, on April 29th!

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