



# TRIALITY

Empowering people with disabilities.

## 2010 Board of Directors

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## ADMINISTRATIVE

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 Pleasant Valley, MO 64068  
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 FAX: 816.781.9271

## ADULT DAY SERVICES

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## COMMUNITY LIVING

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## TRIALITY TOTS

6600 A Royal  
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[www.trialityinc.org](http://www.trialityinc.org)

## Triality Tots Gets TeachSmart® Board

Triality Tots Early Intervention Center is excited to implement a system that is designed to support educators in providing an interactive learning environment, leveraging the latest technology and research-based learning materials. The TeachSmart® Learning System Interactive SmartBoard is the first comprehensive interactive whiteboard software package developed specifically for early childhood and the only pre-kindergarten educational software accredited by SMART™ Technologies.

Bobbi McDougle, Director of Children's Services shares, "One of the most exciting enhancements is that parents of children at Triality Tots will have

the opportunity to be engaged with their child's learning in a whole new way. Portfolio's now have the ability to record the creation of children's work to share with parent's at conferences and meetings throughout the year."

Most importantly, it is a new way to get young children excited about learning. Unlike traditional computerized learning, the TeachSmart® learning system asks children open-ended questions and provides opportunities for exploration, not simply cause and effect. This system also supports the teacher's efforts. By streamlining planning and documentation, teachers have even more time to spend



interacting and teaching children. One critical part of implementing this system is that it compliments and enhances our curriculum, but does not replace or change it. This exciting technological tool actually extends the learning that was already occurring at Triality Tots and provides new opportunities to engage children. For children with special needs the SmartBoard is an adaptive tool that opens the world of computers.

## A Message from Wendy

"Because that's the way it's always been done", is a phrase I hear more than I would like to as Executive Director of Triality, Inc. Effecting change in the status quo is a responsibility shared by self-advocates, families, caregivers, service coordinators and policymakers alike. Triality's efforts to do just that led the Board of Directors towards the establishment of a Community Living program so

that people with disabilities can have a home of their own. Triality has also embraced an Employment First philosophy which represents our commitment that people with disabilities who want to work are entitled to a job in the community like you and I.

Triality's staff work diligently with individuals, families and funders to ensure that services are designed to meet their needs, ensure their

safety and wellbeing while helping them to achieve their dreams. In times such as these, we have to break out of the box, be creative and help build a quality life for people with disabilities one person at a time.

If you are interested in learning more about how to make this change for your family member, please contact our office 816.781.0177 or email [mriley@trialityinc.org](mailto:mriley@trialityinc.org).

## Calendar of Events

Trick or Trot	10/24/2010
Adopt-A-Family for Christmas	11/2010 - 12/2010
Thanksgiving Lunch	11/17/2010
Holiday Lunch	12/17/2010

## Triality Expands Choices Offered Through Day Program



Jimmy is excited to be the first person to participate in Community Employment assessment services

Exciting changes by the Department of Mental Health now allow people in day programs to have jobs! In addition, Triality received one of two grants awarded by the Missouri Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities (MPCDD) designed to break down barriers of segregated program models and promote an Employment First philosophy within an inclusive community-based program. This philosophy espouses that everyone has gifts and talents that add value to the workforce. This choice has been a long time coming. Many people in our day program have expressed their desire to work but have run

into dead ends due to funding restrictions. Today, Jimmy is blazing a new path as he declares "I want a job."

While the general population struggles with nearly a 9.5% unemployment rate, in Missouri only about 9% of people with disabilities have a job. We can do better. Our challenge is to explore each person's abilities, interests and dreams and then find ways to create meaningful opportunities for both the individual and the employer. We must look at jobs differently...break them down into tasks. One might think that the timing could not be any worse to expand into the job market. At Triality, we believe the timing could not

be better. Most of the people we are looking to place are not interested in full time. Maybe only a couple hours a day or a few hours a week.

We need your help! If your business has had to tighten it's belt and you find yourself doing more with less, perhaps we have someone who can help. Sometimes taking just one task off your plate can ease job stress and you would be promoting a sense of purpose, belonging and self-esteem to a person with disabilities. If you would like to learn more about how you can get involved, call Danielle Allen at 816.781.1888 or email [dallen@tralityinc.org](mailto:dallen@tralityinc.org).

## Triality Introduces Community Living Services

Established in April 2010, Community Living services are now provided to six residents of Clay and Jackson counties. Community Living assists adults with disabilities to live independently *in their own home* when a little bit of extra help is needed.

Triality is able to offer support as much as desired 24 hours a day/7 days a week

or less, if that is all that is wanted and necessary.

Community Living staff are available to help in finding a home, locating furnishing and décor, selecting a great roommate, and general needs such as grocery shopping. Our primary goal is to support decision making, providing a safety net, and listen and observe. Communicating one's wants

and needs directly can be challenging for some and Triality is here to help and be a resource along the way.

If you are interested in learning more about Community Living and our services contact John Allen, Jr. at 816.781.0177 ext. 222 or [jallen@tralityinc.org](mailto:jallen@tralityinc.org) for more information.



Philip has his own apartment and receives support through Community Living

## We are on Facebook!

Triality has joined the social networking site, Facebook, to keep our clients, friends, and families connected. If you are already on Facebook, "Like" our page to get updates on upcoming events and happenings in our

children and adult programs, major announcements relative to our mission, and advocacy opportunities to help make a difference in the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities.

New to Facebook? Sign up

to get connected and then search for Triality. Remember to share and encourage your friends and family to join us for all the latest and greatest at news about Triality!

[www.facebook.com/Triality](http://www.facebook.com/Triality)



## Early Intervention Makes a Difference!

Studies show that 90% of brain development occurs between birth to five years of age. It is important for children who have developmental delays to receive early intervention services. What is Early Intervention?

Early intervention addresses basic and new skills in five key areas including physical, cognitive, communication, social/ emotional, or self-help. Physical skills can include tasks such as reaching, crawling, and walking while cognitive focus on thinking, learning, and problem solving. Communication plays a key role in a child's growth through listening and understanding when interacting with family,

friends and caregivers. Social/ emotional intervention helps with feelings of safety, security, and overall happiness. Intervention also helps to build self-help skills such as eating and dressing which are very important as a child ages.

Triality Tots is privileged to serve as an Early Intervention Center. Just one example of early intervention success includes a young girl name Savannah. In July of 2009, she began attending Triality Tots. Although almost 2 years old when first enrolled, Savannah only knew five words and struggled with the ability to tell her family and teachers what she needed. She often had challenging times

interacting with other classmates, teachers, and family members.

Through the early intervention support, communication between the family and lead teacher, and on-going care, Savannah has made tremendous strides in her developmental growth. Her physical skills improved 69% over the course of one year, she has over 100 words in her vocabulary, communicates well with her classmates and family, and enjoys joining in classroom activities

The most exciting part is seeing Savannah come out of her shell, play and be a carefree young girl with the world at her fingertips.



## Home Visitation is Grows to Five Counties

Home Visitation is a free program to families who are income eligible at home with their young child(ren) ages birth to three years. Home Visitation has been offered for the last seven years to 35 families in Clay and Platte counties. Triality is excited to announce that as of July 2010, we now provide services to over 135 families in five counties! We have expanded to include Jackson, Cass and Lafayette. A Parent

Educator will be a resource to help parents better understand their child's development and provide assistance accessing community resources. This program also offers the opportunity for families to get together in playgroups and events in each county. The goal of the Home Visitation program is to connect parents with information and resources to ensure their child has every opportunity for school readiness.

### **Objectives of Program:**

- Improve the child's development.
- Increase parent's understanding of child development.
- Connect with health care resources.
- Assist parents who are adapting to changing roles.

Contact Amy Gorton at 816.476.4011 or [agorton@tralityinc.org](mailto:agorton@tralityinc.org)



Did you know how important you are to Triality? Volunteers play a key and critical role in supporting Triality staff so we can provide exceptional service at both the adult and children programs. From Triality's Board of Directors, staff, families, and clients, we thank you.

We cannot say thank you enough for the extra pair of caring arms to cuddle the

babies at naptime and the set of eyes you keep on the kiddos while on outings or just around the Triality Tots Center. We cannot forget the hard work you do to help clean up after a great day of finger painting fun! What would we do without you?!

We cannot forget about the great things you do for our friends in Liberty. The extra time you take to join us at

## To Our Volunteers

Special Olympics activities or the great trips to the zoo, tell us how much you care. We thank you for doing so much without expecting anything more than our appreciation and joy in return.

### **Volunteers, we thank you!**

Interested in volunteering? Call 816.781.0177 for more information and opportunities.



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## 6th Annual Trick or Trot 5K Run/1.5 Mile Walk October 24, 2010

Triality is excited to announce the upcoming 6th Annual Trick or Trot to be held in North Kansas City, Missouri.

Trick or Trot helps Triality provide a vast array of services and care for adults with developmental disabilities and children who have special development or health care needs. Our goal is to help the person identify and develop their individual gifts and talents no matter their age. Through various programs including specialized education, speech and occupational therapy, therapeutic/adaptive recreational activities, job skill development, and transportation assistance, Triality is able to help "empower people with disabilities to lead fulfilled lives in a welcoming and unbiased society."

REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN  
8:00 AM  
Chris Cakes @ 8:30 am

5K RUN & WALK BEGINS  
9:00AM

It's Halloween time and costumes are a must! Runners, walkers, friends, and family comes dressed up for fun and prizes!

**DIRECTIONS**  
Highway 210 (Armour Road) to Howell Street. North to Norclay Center Gymnasium.  
2601 Howell Street  
North Kansas City, MO 64116

**COURSE**  
Course begins at 25th Avenue on west edge of sidewalk to Norclay Center. Course is certified by USA Track & Field #MO10004GB

**PRIZES**  
Top 3 runners in each age/gender division  
Plus prizes for best Halloween Costumes!

**REGISTER ONLINE**  
(Early Bird by October 15th)  
Check out our website for more information on registering.

[www.trialityinc.org/index-3.html](http://www.trialityinc.org/index-3.html)

\$5 Per Pet  
(don't forget the costume!)



Chris Cakes Pancakes  
FREE for Registered Run/Walk Participants  
Not registering? \$5 for all you can eat pancakes and sausage!

Come and join us for our  
6th Annual Trick or Trot  
5K Run/1.5 Mile Walk!

Contact Sasha Lewis for more information  
[slewis@trialityinc.org](mailto:slewis@trialityinc.org) or  
816.781.011 ext 220

