



## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **“See Me for Me”: Trillium Health Resources Celebrates National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** March awareness focuses on similarities rather than differences

**GREENVILLE, NC:** -- In the month of March, Trillium Health Resources joins organizations across the country to celebrate National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (DDAM). This month raises awareness of the daily experiences of individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD), the contributions they make to our communities, and advocates to increase social involvement.

[The National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities \(NACDD\)](#) has been coordinating DDAM since 1987. According to the NACDD, over 5 million Americans are estimated to have at least one developmental disability. North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper identified that approximately 185,000 of these individuals live in our state. Under the theme “See Me for Me,” the NACDD invites everyone to look beyond an individual’s disability and see the value they possess in their personal talents, interests, and goals. Trillium supports this principle by working to meet the needs of individuals with I/DD as well as promote inclusiveness within each of the communities it serves to help them live the fullest lives possible.

Trillium coordinates various [support services](#) to members with I/DD through the Provider Network. Utilizing various assessments like the [Supports Intensity Scale® \(SIS\)](#), care coordinators help members receive the right services in the right amount at the right time.

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Social support for individuals with I/DD is also vital. An important event Trillium sponsors to combat potential isolation is the [Ainsley's Angels Run With Your Heart 5K/10K/15K race](#) in Jacksonville, NC on Saturday, March 3. Ainsley's Angels of America provides individuals with I/DD the opportunity to participate in athletic events where one or more runners and one rider complete an endurance course together using specialized racing wheelchairs. While the runners assist with the physicality of the race, it is the rider who receives the spotlight and accolade. Through the work of regional ambassadors and the support of local volunteers, riders are able to experience the excitement of endurance events along with their community partners.

Trillium also helped launch specialized inclusive programs with the [Autism Society of North Carolina and Easterseals](#). The summer and afterschool programs are open to children and adults with I/DD along with any siblings of all abilities. Children with I/DD can experience the socialization and educational opportunities of a traditional summer camp. The supported environments provide appropriate levels of supervision, while children can develop independence and social skills.

To bring awareness to the ways in which individuals with and without disabilities can interact, the NACDD has divided the month into four weekly themes:

- “See Me as Your Classmate”
- “See Me as your Coworker”
- “See Me as Your Neighbor”
- “See Me as Your Friend”

In the next few weeks, Trillium will share the initiatives currently employed to advocate for individuals with I/DD in each of these areas.

### **ABOUT TRILLIUM HEALTH RESOURCES**

Trillium Health Resources is a leading specialty care manager (LME/MCO) for individuals with substance use, mental illness and intellectual/developmental disabilities in 24 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is to transform the lives of people in need by providing them with ready access to quality care. We take a person-centered approach to health and wellbeing, coordinating care across multiple systems to achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care and efficient use of resources. Trillium is investing in innovation to meet the unique needs of the individuals and communities we serve, and remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit [www.TrilliumHealthResources.org](http://www.TrilliumHealthResources.org).

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