

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE March 4, 2020 MEDIA CONTACT Jennifer Mackethan Jennifer.Mackethan@TrilliumNC.org 1.866.998.2597

Trillium celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month *Event aims to encourage environments that welcome people of all abilities*

GREENVILLE, NC- Trillium Health Resources hosted an event today to ask everyone in our region to #BeInclusive as part of <u>Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month</u>. The campaign seeks to bring attention to the inclusion of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities (I/DD) in all areas of community life, as well as awareness to the barriers that people with disabilities still sometimes face in connecting to the communities in which they live.

Trillium's event broadcast speakers from the <u>sensABLE snacks food trucks</u>, a joint venture with Easterseals UCP (ESUCP). Launched through funding provided by Trillium, the trucks offer a hiring opportunity for the <u>Transitions to Employment</u> program that is managed by ESUCP. In addition, Seth Sherman with the <u>Nir Family YMCA</u> in Wilmington promoted their adaptive classes that involve those with I/DD and shared about free activities available to the public. Chloe Hudson with <u>Vocational Rehabilitation</u> also offered what steps employers can take if they wish to hire individuals with I/DD and help increase the number of inclusive workplaces.

Nick, currently a volunteer and soon-to-be paid intern with sensABLE snacks, commented on how much he has gained, "Some of the tasks I do are making out the grocery list, restocking items on the truck and other things. I have learned how to prepare for adulthood. I am thankful for sensABLE snacks and so happy this will be my first job."

Throughout the month of March we will post ways our communities can #BeInclusive on <u>social media</u>. One example is to support the <u>Ainsley's Angels race</u> in Jacksonville this Saturday, March 7. Trillium is proud to be an annual sponsor for this event that truly exemplifies the inclusive spirit, where runners compete while pushing riders in specially-adapted jogger chairs.



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 26 counties in eastern North Carolina. Trillium's mission is transforming lives and building community well-being through partnership and proven solutions. We help every community and individual we serve to reach their fullest potential. By coordinating care across multiple systems, we achieve improved health outcomes, quality of care, and efficient use of resources. Trillium remains focused on delivering the right services, in the right amount, at the right time. For more information, visit www.TrilliumHealthResources.org.



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