



THRIVE ON THE MOVE

INTRODUCING TOM

TOM, which stands for Thrive On the Move, is the self-advocate group at Thrive Community Services. The mission of TOM is to educate and showcase abilities and skills we can bring to our community, while moving beyond past barriers that came with being labeled as having an intellectual or developmental disability.

TOM strives to create relationships with new people, seek opportunities for personal growth, educate their community about their abilities, and continue to build volunteer opportunities.

TOM is a proud member of The Alliance, a statewide team of self advocacy groups in Illinois.

- Michael Hanlon, President
- Brittany Kane, Vice President
- Jeanne Hardesty, Secretary/Historian
- Hector Renta, Treasurer
- Glenee Brooks
- Laura Gale
- Tiffany Greene
- Becky Guild
- Josh Kain
- Shelley McMillian
- Tiffany Miller
- Tasha Norris
- Amanda Shumaker
- Luella Thompson
- Geoff White

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SELF ADVOCACY GROUP LIVES ON THROUGH RE-BRAND

TOM President Michael Hanlon sits down with Sally Fischell, Participant Advocate of Thrive and discusses the change in name for the Client Advisory Board.

Michael: Why the change in name for Client Advisory Board (CAB)?

Sally: Our advocates meet monthly to discuss up and coming items at Thrive and what is on the horizon. They really felt it was time for a new name seeing as KCCDD changed their name to Thrive and wanted to show that the advocates were ready to *Thrive* as well.

Michael: Why TOM?

Sally: After receiving several ideas we took a vote and chose THRIVE ON the MOVE (TOM). It describes who we are and how we are keeping active.

Michael: What is on the horizon for TOM?

Sally: Our group is flourishing! Our plans involve getting out in the community more, introducing ourselves and contributing by sharing our knowledge, experience and skills, while asking questions and gaining new skills.

Michael: What is one thing TOM is excited about?

Sally: The advocates worked together to create, design and order shirts for the group. While the advisory group has had shirts before, they have never sold shirts before. The group is excited to learn the process of organizing a shirt sale. More details to come!



Are you a Thrive Superfan?



@ThriveGalesburg

JUST ASK SHELLEY

Shelley is here to advocate and educate. She answers questions from staff and participants of Thrive, as well as from readers of the newsletter.



Shelley McMillan, Self Advocate

Shelley enjoys singing and visiting friends and family.

I had an informative conversation with Pamela Green, CEO of Thrive. We discussed questions that were sent to me by my readers. Thank you readers and please keep your questions coming. When asked if there is a possibility of opening a dining room Pam stated that "The agency is looking for some new spaces and right now the old dining room is being used as a classroom. However there is an area on the side porch of Unit 9 that could be used for a smaller lunch area." This is exciting news and I will follow up on this information.

Someone had asked if it would possible to shorten the week at Thrive. Pam said that Thrive feels it is important to ensure services are available five days a week. "We are here for all of our participants and accomodate each individuals choice."

Do you have a question for Shelley? Submit to tom@thrivegalesburg.org

ROBBIE'S FOOD CORNER

Robbie knows food and shares his favorite local restaurants.

We went to Olive Garden for lunch. I had a cheese bake called ziti le forno. Then I had a soup with potatoes, kale, and chicken in it. I also had breadsticks, iced coffee, and two ice waters. That was my first time eating there. It was in Moline. The food was really good and so was the iced coffee. I think the next time I eat there I'll probably get the eggplant parmigiana. It comes with a side of spaghetti. The employees were really nice. They put cheese in our soup. They have a lot to choose from on their menu. The atmosphere was really neat. Hopefully I get to eat there again soon. It is one of my favorite places to eat.

Do you have a restaurant you want to see TOM review? Submit your suggestions to tom@thrivegalesburg.org



Robbie Hielt, Self Advocate

Robbie is a food critic extraordinaire. He knows a good burger when he tastes one! When he isn't finding the next best restaurant in Galesburg, you might catch him participating in the Community Play Project or hanging out at the library.



TOM Shirts Are Here!

Show your support of TOM by purchasing their shirt created by TOM advocates! Proceeds will go towards providing opportunities for advocates. Each shirt is \$15 and features our "TOM" cat.

To order a shirt or if you have questions, contact Brittany at tom@thrivegalesburg.org to order by May 31.

MICHAEL'S MOVIE MADNESS

Michael is a movie fanatic, both new and old, and discusses his favorites or least favorites.



Michael Hanlon, President

*Michael is an active member of TOM.
He loves art, theater, and is a
singer/songwriter!*

Blue Beetle



Hey there moviegoers and movie watchers, this is Michael for Michael's Movie Madness. I recently saw the movie Blue Beetle. It was a fun-filled film filled with action, comedy, and family love. The Blue Beetle has to choose its host and be a good person, not evil. In the movie, Kord had a real villain of a woman who was as evil as they come. The Blue Beetle is a great superhero movie. There is so much emotion in this film that you just want the hero to win and the villain to lose. I hope you enjoy this film as much as I did. I give it four stars and two thumbs WAY up.

Do you have a movie you want reviewed? You can reach Michael at tom@thrivegalesburg.org!

Wanna be "In the Know"?

Be the first to know when TOM releases a new edition of our newsletter!
Subscribe at thrivegalesburg.org
Questions? Sally Fischell, Advocacy Specialist 309-344-2600 ext 1216

POETRY SLAM WITH GLENEE

Some words from Glenee's heart

My New Classroom

I like my new classroom
I get to make art things
I like my new peers
Who have become my new friends
I like my new staff, they listen to me when
I Speak Up & Speak Out,
because of the new changes
I am THRIVING at community services



Glenee Brooks, Self Advocate

Glenee loves to create. She is an artist in many ways. She enjoys writing, making collages, and acting.



Participants loved greeting guests at the 17th annual Thrive auction!

HOWL2GO™

A night of dueling pianos! *Friday November 8*

Mark your calendar for a
night supporting Thrive!
Tickets on sale this
summer!

A LOOK THROUGH MY EYES



Brittany Kane is the Vice President of TOM. She is excited to share a little about herself with you!

I am Brittany Kane, and I am very excited to be part of the TOM program. I take my responsibilities very seriously and can't wait to help with the leadership of TOM.

I tell people what TOM is and how I am learning how to advocate for my friends and family when they need me.

I am very excited for the opportunity to lead my fellow advocates. This new role will play a very important part in my life, and I am very excited to guide others.

With the help of THRIVE and TOM I am learning how to voice my opinions and figure out what is important to me. I am also working with the Community Employment Specialist from THRIVE to find employment in my community.

You can reach Brittany at tom@thrivegalesburg.org.

Brittany Kane, Vice President

Brittany has been an active member of TOM for 3 years. She loves group activities and recording the fun times through photography.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT CORNER

A chat with Employment Specialist Morgan and Job Coach Tamie

Q: What is the first thing to know about the employment program?

A: In 2021, we restarted and revamped our employment program. We're focusing on what kind of employment our individual's are interested in, and we collaborate with local businesses to find the best match, and to ensure our individual's success.

Q: Where do you find the people for your program?

A: We have an internal referral process through Thrive, and we also receive referrals from the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Q: Do you have any ongoing training for participants?

A: We have bi-weekly job club, where we go over social skills, mock interviews, work on resumes, and applications.

Q: What's your favorite part of the job?

A: Seeing our individual's gain self esteem through each success.



**Interested in having a
self-advocate
visit your
class or organization?**

Contact us at tom@thrivegalesburg.org
or call 309-344-2600 ext. 1216

