

Better Connections. Better Community.

Spring 2016

**SAVE THE DATE - Tues. June 14th Family Fundraiser 6-9pm**

[Visit us at TotalLink2.org](http://TotalLink2.org)

2016 Vision:

## **The Community Life Project Update**

11 parents attended the Community Life Kickoff meeting at the NSYMCA, where Janice Weinstein, Executive Director of TL2C introduced the overall goal of our project to create a platform for young adults to build a vibrant and connected life. A life that includes lasting friendships, social connection, work, lifelong learning and giving back to their communities. Janice facilitated a discussion that focused on identifying the existing strengths in our community and how we as stakeholders can tap into these resources to foster the connections and opportunities that support our young adults.

Parents shared their family's experiences of inclusion and reflected on a felt sense of ease with people and places where their children are fully embraced (library, community, NSYMCA, Park Center and school). Janice invited parents to participate in the Community Life Advisory Council that will meet six times per year in support of project goals and the young adult Community Life Club.

[Read more...](#)

## **TL2U Micro-Enterprise Lab for Artists**



"Everyone has a medium." Caren Miller shares, "We just need to find it, and when we do find it, we discover hidden talents we didn't even know we had." Caren Miller believes that if an individual – no matter who he or she may be – can experience art using multiple types of mediums in a comfortable,

supportive environment then that student will eventually find one or more of those mediums speaks to him or her in a very unique, personal and powerful way. Art always facilitates learning, physical



and emotional growth, self-confidence, and the discovery of many skills someone may never have known that he or she had.

[Read more...](#)

[Learn more about Caren Miller by clicking here to read her bio!](#)

**Danielle + PostNet =  
Meaningful Employment**

## Upcoming Events

- Micro-Enterprise Lab for Artists
  - Girlfriends Group
  - Movie Night Out
  - Yoga & Healthy Supper Club
  - Guys Night Out, April 15th.
- Look for an email soon!

## Hot Off The Press

- Hardback Yo Yo in the Trib Local



Employment is meaningful to everyone in a different way. Danielle, an employee at PostNet in Lake Forest feels lucky to have found a great job, working for a supportive boss in her community. "I feel really happy about working for Jerry at PostNet" Danielle shares, "I really like asking for any jobs they have for me to do."

Danielle will be the first to tell you, "My job has taught me a lot of skills and a new work ethic." Jerry, owner of PostNet in Lake Forest expresses gratitude for Danielle's work contribution, "Danielle has given us an opportunity to trust that we have someone else to lean on to do work that needs to be done, when we're too busy to finish it in a timely manner. Her work ethic is one that we can all learn from; in that even when we're uncomfortable learning to do something new, we can learn to do it, whatever it is."

Danielle is a great fit on the PostNet team- we all work hard and stay on task in a calm, cool and collected manner.

[Check out all that PostNet in Lake Forest has to offer by clicking here!](#)

## GBS Freshman English Class Connects with the Community

*Written by: Mr. Smith's Freshman English Class*



The Glenbrook South Freshman English class has been offered an opportunity to host a Bowling Night for TL2C Clients on May 10th to get out and have a good time! "We chose TL2C" said Austin Smith, Freshman and Junior English teacher at GBS, "because we know they have strong ties to GBS. It is a good opportunity for us to get involved in the organization and help them out, because they have helped many GBS alumni. Many of their clients are working at places that we benefit from."

TL2C came to Mr. Smith's Freshman English classroom and helped the students understand the organization's mission and how they help their clients. The students met Lindsey Cogan and Nick Betsoleiman, two GBS graduates and Sarah Weinstein, a GBN graduate whom all have received employment services from TotalLink. "When they came in the classroom," said Claudia Tardif, student at GBS, "it helped me see why we chose this specific organization to help."

When thinking about the project, Margo Drivas, a GBS student, says, "After meeting the clients, "I realized

## GBN Boys Lacrosse Teams Up with TotalLink



On February 26, 2016 the GBN Lacrosse teams held a fundraiser for TL2C. Coach Justin Georgacakis, a.k.a. Coach Geo, encouraged the busy Lacrosse teams to participate in a Lift-a-Thon to kick off their season. Coach Geo is known for his

how close to home this organization is for me because I have family friends whose sons both have special needs. It makes me happy to know that when they are older they can be helped to find jobs and have good, healthy social lives. This organization can make a difference in the client's lives and make them feel good about themselves and reach their dreams."  
Hope to see you all on May 10th!

### St. Patty's Day Celebration at Healthy Supper Club!



We hope to see you at Spring 2016  
Yoga and Healthy Supper Club!

[Click here to register!](#)

### Girlfriends Group



As Girlfriends Group winds down another successful session, Elyse Bandes shares some of her thoughts on the group! This is Elyse's second time facilitating Girlfriends Group with Lynn Demma co-facilitating. Elyse describes the group as young women who get together twice a month for fun

generosity with both his team and trying to help out others. He tries to instill good morals in his athletes. His players were encouraged to go out into the community and try and get local businesses and families to sponsor each player based on what they were able to lift. The players told that they were raising money for a local non-profit that helps people with disabilities to find and maintain employment. The event began with a brief introduction from TL2C and then the team began lifting. Some of the GBN athletes were so pumped up after hearing about TL2C that they were telling us they would try and get us a list of businesses for us to talk to. We are appreciative of both Coach Geo's and the LAX team's generous donation. Check out a home game and cheer on the team!

[Click here: LAX GBN Game Schedule](#)

### Pitching In for our Community...

HardbackYoYo is commemorating the 8th Annual World Autism Day on April 2nd and month long Awareness of Autism, by selling hand decorated, upcycled BLUE "AWARE" CANDLES. Check out Brian Martin's HardbackYoYo Etsy Shop to get your candles for \$10 each with a \$1 donation of each purchase going to TotalLink's employment and social programs. Light a candle and start a conversation about Autism this April.

[Etsy.com/shop/hardbackyoyo](https://www.etsy.com/shop/hardbackyoyo)



### 1200 Shermer Road...

Here We Come!



activities. They always have a theme, focusing on friends...how to make, keep and nurture lasting friendships.

One of Elyse's favorite memories from this session was decorating mason jars. The ladies also wrote down notes of special meaning and put them in the jars, which they all took home for a keepsake! Each session the young women discuss and decide what service project they would like to participate in... Pet Beds were a big hit and will be donated to an animal shelter of choice on May 1st. Elyse sums up her interview by saying, "The no pressure atmosphere has really shown an increase in comfort level and confidence among the girls, it's been awesome to watch!"



TotalLink2 Community  
New Address as of 4/1/2016  
1200 Shermer Road Suite 109  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
[info@totallink2.org](mailto:info@totallink2.org)

On April 1st, we are moving to a new location in Northbrook. Please change our address in your contact information. Our phone number and email address will remain the same.

**Our new address is: 1200 Shermer Avenue Suite 109, Northbrook, IL 60062**

Our office space is on the first floor of the Bank of America Building on Shermer Rd. near Waukegan Rd.

A dark brown banner with several interactive elements. At the top is a blue button with a white envelope icon and the text "Join Our Mailing List". Below that is a yellow button with the word "Donate" in blue. Underneath are logos for Maestro, MasterCard, VISA, American Express, Discover, and BANK. At the bottom is a white button with the text "Like us on Facebook" and the Facebook logo.