

# THE LINK

TotalLink2 Community Newsletter | Winter 2021



Better **Connections**. Better **Community**.

## Essential Worker Recognized as Ambassador of the Week



Nick loves to work on holidays. As an essential worker in the produce department at Mariano's, Nick likes to dress up in costume when working on the holidays and take pictures with the customers.

Last November, Nick received special recognition from Mariano's as their Ambassador of the Week, recognizing his outstanding performance and dedication and maintaining high standards of excellence in customer service.

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**Nick has been working throughout the pandemic. "I was happy to do my part to help others," he said.**

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In addition to Nick, TotalLink2 Community is proud of our other essential grocery store employees who continue to serve the community throughout the pandemic. We would like to thank Harrison at Trader Joe's in Glenview, Josh and Evan Ernsteen at Jewel in Deerfield, and Sean at Mariano's for their dedication to their jobs.



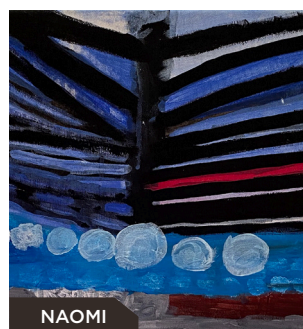
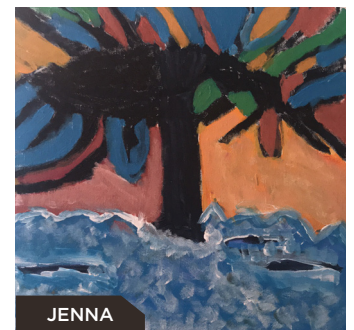
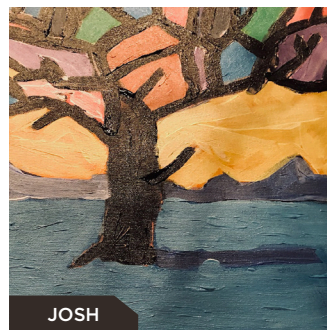
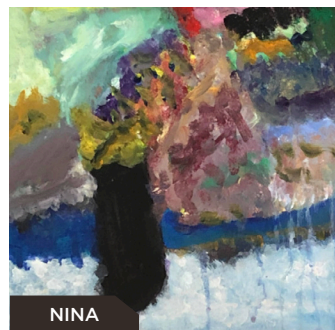
TotalLink Welcomes  
**RENOWNED ARTIST ANASTASIA MAK**

Last December, TotalLink welcomed renowned Expressionist painter Anastasia Mak to teach a five-week virtual painting workshop for TotalLink artists. Participants joined together on Zoom to learn painting techniques as well as learn about other Expressionist artists.

Check out the fantastic work as each artist created his or her own version of a stained glass tree.



Anastasia Mak is a Contemporary Expressionist Artist who creates her art in her studio in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood. She has exhibited internationally in galleries and art fairs. Her pieces are known for their non-realistic "signature skies," and infusing bright colors and high contrast into her pieces.



The Anastasia Mak Painting Workshop was sponsored by the ComEd Powering the Arts Grant.



# TotalLink Introduces New Programs for TEENS AND PARENTS

## FEATURED STAFF MEMBER NICK BETSOLEIMAN



TotalLink is so fortunate to have such a wonderful community of dedicated staff members. We are excited to introduce you to Nick Betsoleiman, TotalLink's Social Media Coordinator.

**Q. How long have you worked at TotalLink2 Community?**

I have worked at TotalLink for almost five years now. It will officially be five years this summer!

**Q. How did you first get involved with TotalLink?**

I first got involved with TotalLink2 Community about eight years ago. I was working with them as an employment resource to help me look at some different job opportunities. Emily Raming was my job coach.

**Q. What is your current role at TotalLink?**

My current role with TotalLink is Social Media Coordinator.

**Q. What is your favorite part about being involved at TotalLink?**

My favorite part about being involved at TotalLink is being a part of the social programs.

**Q. Tell us a bit about yourself. What is one fun fact that most people don't know about you?**

One interesting fact about me that you probably don't know is that I wanted to become a full-time sports broadcaster. Recently, I was thinking about possibly becoming a head coach or manager in either the MLB, NFL, or the NBA!

My other recent mini dream job on the side would be to hopefully one day run for President of the United States of America!



**Third Thursday of the month at 7pm on Zoom: February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24**

The new **Parent Connection** program aims to connect parents of children with disabilities with parents of young adults with disabilities. The five-part series will be facilitated by Jonathan Rauwerda, a behavioral analyst and Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional with over twelve years of experience in the disability world. The program will focus on parent-chosen topics and give parents the opportunity to meet others with similar experiences.



**heART Words  
Sundays, 1-2:30 pm on  
Zoom, March 7 - May 23**

**Dinner with Friends  
Mondays, 5 pm on  
Zoom, March 8 - May 24**

The TotalLink **Teen Time** programs will invite high school-aged participants into two of our most popular virtual social programs, Dinner with Friends and heART Words. The programs are designed to provide engagement and social connections and the opportunity to meet new people.

**For more information about any of TotalLink's programs, please visit our website at [www.totalink2.org](http://www.totalink2.org) or email Emily Raming at [eraming@totalink2.org](mailto:eraming@totalink2.org).**



[www.totallink2.org](http://www.totallink2.org)

# Oh, My Goodness



## SHOP TOTAL GOODNESS

Proceeds from the Total Goodness products directly support the TotalLink Maker's Lab, a creative learning environment where students work individually and collaboratively to create products using a variety of tools and materials.



[www.totallink2.org/shop](http://www.totallink2.org/shop)

#GiveTheGiftOfGoodness



New this Spring!

## VIRTUAL MAKER'S LAB

Join us as our Maker's Lab goes virtual this spring. Spend your Sunday afternoon with facilitator Joan Martin for this hands-on virtual workshop.

Two five-week sessions will be offered with a different project completed each session.

For complete information, visit [www.totallink2.org/virtual-makers-lab](http://www.totallink2.org/virtual-makers-lab)

### SUPPORT TOTALLINK2 COMMUNITY

Help to continue to provide vital programs to young adults with disabilities.

Donate today at [www.totallink2.org/donations](http://www.totallink2.org/donations)

