

# MINNESOTA MONTHLY ANNOUNCEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2021



## FUN DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

Sept 6: Labor Day  
Sept 11: 9/11 Remembrance Day  
Sept 19: Talk Like a Pirate Day  
Sept 21: International Peace Day  
Sept 25: Comic Book Day

TALK LIKE A  
PIRATE DAY!

## DSP week is September 12-18!

We want to take time to say a special thanks to our DSP and SC Crew for all of the work you do. Each of you are working to create a world where people live with meaning and purpose. You are truly exceptional people doing important work! We believe our crew exemplifies this spirit of service with each and every shift, and each and every life they touch. Thank you, DSPs, from the bottom of our hearts.

To kick off the week, a special message thanking DSPs can be heard on KTIS radio, 98.5 FM, Monday and Tuesday, September 13-14, approximately every :15 after each hour, beginning at 6:15 a.m., with the last message around 5:15 p.m.



Investing in your education just got easier through the Mains'l alliance with Rasmussen University. With an up to 15% Corporate Grant available for select programs, qualified employees can gain new skills and knowledge while still working.

With online programs featuring affordable options and curriculum taught by instructors experienced in your field, getting your degree while working is not only possible—we encourage it. Learn more at [rasmussen.edu/corporate](https://rasmussen.edu/corporate).

## August Compass Award Winners

Jennell Brengman  
Amanda Steffen

There are now 2 ways to nominate someone! Do what works best for you!

1. Call Recognition and leave a voicemail: 763-494-4553 ext. 222
2. The form can be found and submitted through the website: <https://www.mainsl.com/compass-nomination/>

# Services Gatherings: Discovery Through Conversation

Earlier this year the MN Services Team started holding quarterly Service Gatherings. This was born out of overwhelming feedback we received from our Direct Support Professionals (DSP's) during our virtual COVID updates: people would like a chance to gather for connection to others and the agency. The gathering was created for the purpose of learning, staying connected, and staying informed on our vision.



At the end for July we held our second Services Gathering, “We are better together: Discovery through Conversation,” where we explored what it takes to have difficult conversations. We looked at recognizing when a discovery conversation is needed, learned how to shift context from blame to shared accountability, provided tips to stay in a discovery conversation when emotions are high, and practiced conversation skills. We identified the difference between a culture of blame versus a culture of accountability, and defined Mains’l’s value of shared accountability. We all learn from shared experiences and plan to improve together through partnership and collaboration!

Especially now, staying connected is important to and for all of us. Please keep an eye out for the next Services Gathering dates and information. If you attend, you might just be a winner of a \$25 gift card.

## Do You Accept the Challenge?

We have a goal to reach legislators in every district we work in before the end of the year. Will you help us reach our goal?

It is important for our legislators to understand the experiences and needs of people with disabilities and the people who support them. One way to do that is to invite them to talk with us and share our stories.



The Advocacy Team at Mains’l is here to partner with you to connect with your legislators. Please email [advocacy@mainsl.com](mailto:advocacy@mainsl.com) or call 763-416-9146 with your name, address, and best way to contact you if you want to be part of the advocacy movement! We hope to hear from you soon!

## Training Opportunity: The Importance of DSPs



Please join us for this wonderful training opportunity that discusses the importance of Direct Service Professionals in the lives of people with disabilities, the relationship between DSP’s support and peoples independence, and how people should be supported. Alva Gardner is our guest trainer who uses her unique, lived experience as a woman with a disability to infuse the training with impactful and real-life examples. This training is open for everyone at Mains’l. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

## COVID 19 Update

We have revisited hero pay for service positions based on new recommendations. A positive work site that has an exposure due to staff will go on hero pay for 5 days starting on the date of the positive test result. If someone we support tests positive we will pay hero pay for 10 days. Please continue to maintain our COVID practices and be safe. Also, at home testing kits are now available through pixel for ages 2 and up. Follow this link to get started [HERE](#).

## Check out the attached flyers!

- Action for Happiness Calendar: September
- The Importance of DSPs Training Flier
- Wellness: 5 Ways to Cope with Pandemic Re-entry Anxiety