

## A Great Year for Planting Possibilities

It's been a very successful year for Planting Possibilities! We had our first harvest, we were featured in the summer edition of The Purdue Alumnus magazine, and we won 2<sup>nd</sup> place (People's Choice) in the Munster Chamber of Commerce Chili Cook-off - using our own tomatoes and peppers—as well as Best Decorated Booth, thanks to Brad's creative touch and the fabulous mums from our fall mum sale. Above all, we have begun to transform our vision into a reality (see our exciting news below)!

As you read through this newsletter, I know it will seem like all I'm doing is thanking a lot of people. Well, that's exactly what I'm doing! There are countless companies and individuals who support us in hundreds of different ways. To each of you, I send a heartfelt THANK YOU! Our success is your success. We are humbled by your faith in us and we promise you that we will continue to earn your support. Know that each and every one is deeply appreciated.



Members of our wonderful team!

I would especially like to thank our Board of Directors and our Steering Committee. They continually step up to the plate and get things done, with their only compensation being their own personal sense of satisfaction in being part of this vision. You are the best!

Wishing each of you a holiday season surrounded by the love of your family and friends, and a New Year filled with Possibilities!

*Mary Anne Neiner*

*Founder, Planting Possibilities*

## What's Next in 2014? Our BIG News!



This isn't our hoop house, but it's what one looks like!

We are very pleased to announce our collaboration with **Campagna Academy** in Schererville, Indiana!. We will be working together to develop a gardening education program for residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Alsip Home and Nursery of St. John** has very generously donated the ribs for a hoop house to be erected on Campagna's campus. We have applied for a grant to provide some funding to purchase the additional hardware, lumber, cover and connections needed for hoop house completion. Additionally, we plan to purchase learning and gardening tools for the students. We send our thanks to **Elena Dwyre of Campagna Academy** for offering us this opportunity.

Our project will begin with planting tomato and flower seeds indoors, under lights, in March. By May they will be moved outdoors to the hoop house and garden. The students will care for the plants and monitor their growth throughout the growing season.

This collaboration is a direct result of the generosity of our supporters. We thank each and every one of you who have faith in our mission and continue to support us. We hope to invite you all to see our hoop house full of plants this summer!

# 2013 Tomato & Pepper Project

Mark and Brad had a busy summer coordinating the care and harvest of 600 tomato plants at our Highland and Schererville gardens. Five local restaurants used a portion of our 3,000 pounds of tomatoes, and we thank them for supporting our efforts. Please keep them in mind when dining out!

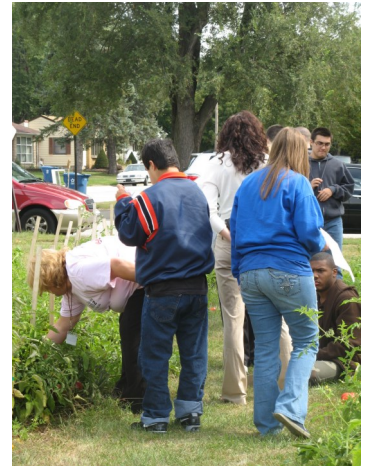


**The Cottage on Dixie, 18849 Dixie Highway, Homewood, IL**  
**Jelly Pancake House, 399 E. 81<sup>st</sup> Ave., Merrillville, IN**  
**Anthony's Café, 2936 Highway Ave., Highland, IN**  
**Maritza's Cafe, 2945 Jewett Ave., Highland, IN**  
**The Scrambled Diner, 250 W. 81<sup>st</sup> Ave., Dyer, IN**

Our gardens had many visitors! Students from the Northwest Indiana Special Education Cooperative and West Lake Special Education Cooperative learned about tomato plants, and a few students were even brave enough to eat a tomato right off the vine!

Our first harvest was abundant, and we were able to share over 500 pounds of our tomato crop with the Northwest Indiana Food Bank located in Gary.

**We are very grateful to Wasson Beckman of Calumet Harbor Lumber Company and Sawmill, Chicago, who cut and donated 600 oak stakes to support our gigantic plants. This was a gift that will keep on giving, as we will be able to use them for several years in our gardens.**



## Celebrate Springtime With Us This March!



We invite you to join us, shake off that winter chill and prepare for the **Spring Thaw!** Spring Thaw is our spring fundraising event, which will take place on March 1 at Campagna Academy in Schererville, IN. We have a fun evening planned to start the spring growing season, including some fun with salsa to warm up our palates for our summer tomato and pepper crop! We also hope to show you the first phase of our 2014 growing project at the Campagna Academy. Mark your calendar & watch for more details soon!

## Get Involved & Join Us In Our Vision!

There are many ways in which you can help us as we continue to grow. Here are a few things we'd like you to consider.

- Volunteer to help with fundraising or gardening
- Join our Operations Committee — we need people knowledgeable in fundraising, education and horticulture
- Join our Board to help us plan and organize our future
- Make a donation — please use the form on the next page or visit our website at [www.plantingpossibilities.org](http://www.plantingpossibilities.org)
- Does your employer have a matching gift program? We are happy to complete the necessary paperwork to allow personal donations to double or more! Here are a few companies that currently support us by matching employee donations: ArcelorMittal, CN, Bank of America, Pfizer
- Do you shop online with Amazon? Register your current Amazon account at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), select Planting Possibilities as your desired charity, and we will earn .05% of your online purchases.

### Planting Possibilities Board of Directors

Karen Anderson | Paul Gergets | Brad Hemingway  
 Rob J. Hanrahan III | Dr. Michael Livovich | Mark Neiner  
 Mary Anne Neiner

### Planting Possibilities Steering Committee

Marge Dytrych | Chris Eller-Esparza | Faye Gaiser  
 James Hitz | Adj Kitt | Beth Sciackitano | Ruth Yothment  
 Meagan Yothment

## Golf for Autism 2013



The September Golf for Autism outing organized by Beth Sciackitano was a BIG success! Beth generously donated \$10,000 from this event to Planting Possibilities. Beth has been a Steering Committee member since our inception and personally organizes the golf outing with the generous help of her wonderful family and fabulous friends. We are extremely lucky to have Beth on our team!

*Thank you, Beth, for your generous spirit and kind heart.  
Thank you, also, to the 120 golfers and the following donors:*

### Gold Hole Sponsor

**United Brotherhood of Carpenters, Local #599 Carpenters**

### Silver Hole Sponsors

The Gross Family, Chicago

Con Fab Systems, Inc.

### Bronze Hole Sponsors

Pekron Consulting

The American Group of Constructor

Chemtrade Logistics

Knights of Columbus MSGR Weis Council 10596

Teri Harrington & Christopher Grotte

Gus Bock's Ace Hardware - Dyer

Great Lakes Roofing

Cesare Battisti Lodge #27

Gaiser Tire Service, Inc.

Chuck's Compressors

The Cottage on Dixie

Superior Construction Company

Safety Management Group

Safety Training & Tracing, Inc.



### Donors (in no particular order)

Amex Nooter

Eric Neiner

Chip & Jan Sobek

Katie & Niall Hardiman

James Szyszka

Ryan Seydel

Myrna Rodriguez

Joe Buchler

Vanessa Chandler

Kim & Adam Stiener

Hooters-Merrillville

Solan-Pruzin Funeral Service

Mark Lindsey

Coopers Hawk

Niko's Steak House

Outback Steak House

Sam's Club

Blackstone Woodfire Grill

Don Pablo's

Dairy Queen - Crown Point

The Divine Chef-Chris Peters

Ruth Yothment

Yoga on 45th-Rose Oprisko

Station 21

Tequila Restaurante

Carriage Court Pizza

Lucrezia

Gelsosomo's Pizza

Giovanni's

Crown Brewing

Chicago White Sox

Els for Autism

Judy Gresko

Auto Zone-Merrillville

Matt Przewoznik - Flat Rock

Hooters-Schererville

Social 219

Houlihan's

Theo's Steaks & Seafood

Taco Trader

Culver's, Schererville

Gino's Steakhouse, Schererville

Cold Stone Creamery, Dyer

Sanfratello's Pizza

Porter Pipe & Supply

Liss Carstar/Charlotte Hess

Sidney Rice

Indianapolis Colts

Geoff & Meghan Walker

Tim Springer

Tom Sidote

Derek Haskins - Elite Golf & Promotional Group, LLC



Planting Possibilities is a 501(c)3 nonprofit eligible for company matching programs. Your contribution is tax-deductible in accordance with applicable law.

Or donate online at [www.plantingpossibilities.org](http://www.plantingpossibilities.org)

**P.O. Box 1805 Highland, IN**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Circle one of the following: MasterCard    Visa    Discover

Planting Possibilities  
Gardeners Circle Levels

- \$25
- \$50
- \$75
- \$100
- \$250
- \$500
- \$750
- \$1,000
- other -\$\_\_\_\_\_



Please make checks payable to:  
Planting Possibilities

**Please keep Planting Possibilities in mind as you plan your end-of-year giving.**



PO Box 1805  
Highland, IN 46322

Read Inside:

- 2013 Year in Review
- Announcing our spring fundraising event
- Our BIG News!

Planting Possibilities is a registered 501(c)3 with the mission to provide job-skills training, employment and volunteer opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities in Lake County, IN.

Our Special Thanks to Guru Systems, Inc. of Munster for generously donating their mailing services.



Visit our website [www.plantingpossibilities.org](http://www.plantingpossibilities.org) and follow us as we grow!

