



A GREENHOUSE FULL OF POSSIBILITIES

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT GROWING SEASON!

The crop's all in, the shade cloth from the hoophouse is stored for the winter, the leaf mulch is spread out over our half-acre garden to loosen the soil for next growing season, and the greenhouse is the winter home of lettuce and houseplants until spring comes.

Time to start planning next year's garden!

Planting Possibilities has had another tremendous growing year – in more ways than one. Our Campagna Project was a great learning experience, not only for the students but also for us. We are extremely grateful to the Legacy Foundation for their generous grant. Without it, we would not have a greenhouse, our giant garden, or our classroom in the Campagna Center from

which we teach our horticulture classes!

This year we've also expanded our Board of Directors by adding three additional board members - Rich Christakes, Joseph Daniele, and Marge Dytrych. We also added a wonderful, dedicated group of Garden Volunteers who helped tremendously with the Campagna Project.

From our Board of Directors, Steering Committee and Garden Volunteers, we have gathered a group of wonderful, talented people who keep Planting Possibilities growing - but we are always in need of more volunteers. We invite you to join us in whatever capacity works best for you.

We are so very thankful for all our supporters who show their faith in us through financial gifts, support of our flower sales, and attendance at our events including this year's Salsa Fest and Rockopelli Music Fest. During this holiday season, we ask that you please keep Planting Possibilities in mind as you contemplate your holiday giving. You are the fertilizer that keeps us growing!

Also, please keep us in your thoughts during the upcoming winter. We are busy planning our garden and our events for next year! If you have a great idea about a spring or summer project for us, please email or call us - we'd love to hear from you.

Wishing you a happy holiday season, a short winter and an early spring!

Most Sincerely,

Mary Anne Neiner

Founder, Planting Possibilities

YEAR IN REVIEW: CAMPAGNA PROJECT

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES, GROWING OUR COMMUNITY IN 2014

This past February, Planting Possibilities was awarded a nearly \$25,000 grant from the Lake County Community Fund by the Legacy Foundation to fund the construction of a teaching greenhouse and the implementation of a horticulture education program for youths with intellectual and developmental disabilities residing at Campagna Academy.

We held our classes taught by Jim Hitz twice a week in our classroom at the Campagna Center. The students planted and maintained our half-acre garden along with our team of dedicated volunteers.

Jim also helped guide the students through a landscape design and plan for landscape restoration at their residential cottage, where the students then helped remove the old plants and plant each new plant. They were also responsible for tending to their new landscape through the fall.

The half-acre garden produced many vegetables which were used in various dishes at local restaurants.

Pepino's, a Schererville restaurant owned by board member Joe Daniele, hosted a field trip where the students created their own handmade pizzas with tomato sauce made from the tomatoes they had grown.

Tomatoes from our garden were sold at our flower sales and at a roadside stand at Campagna Academy, generating enough revenue to cover the cost of seeds and other growing expenses. **The Cottage on Dixie** in Homewood, IL purchased and used our tomatoes in several dishes throughout the season, providing the funds for us to purchase the plants for our students' landscape restoration project.



Through late fall and into early winter, we will use the greenhouse to grow lettuce for use in Campagna's cafeteria and to house and nurture a few house plants. These small projects are a great way to keep interested Campagna students engaged until the 2015 growing season begins, as well as to explore future income-generating projects.

Finally, as an incentive or reward for the Campagna students who participate in our program, Mark Neiner brought together approximately 10 local youths with developmental disabilities to play basketball together every Monday with the Campagna students. Coach Slavko Tomich and Assistant Coach Joe Daniele volunteered to help get the team ready to be a Special Olympics team in time for the upcoming basketball season.



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS & BUSINESSES WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN BUILDING OUR GREENHOUSE & THE CAMPAGNA PROJECT

Chuck Pullen and Matt Pullen
Shadehouse installation

Don Elzinga, Ace Cleaning
Greenhouse layout

Don Boyle and Jay Boyle, Carpentry
Greenhouse construction

Jose Cornejo, Cornejo Electric
Greenhouse electrical supplies

Luis Diaz
Greenhouse electrical installation

Joe Daniele, Pepino's Restaurant

Rich Christakes, Alsip Home and Nursery

Brad Keene, Schererville Public Works

Campagna Academy Management & Staff
For their exceptional support!

CUTTING THE RIBBON FOR OUR GREENHOUSE

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VISITED US AT OUR OPEN HOUSE!

On Thursday, August 28 we welcomed over 100 guests to our first Open House held at Campagna Academy in Schererville.

Our board members and volunteers proudly gave tours of our greenhouse, hoophouse, our half-acre garden, and our classroom. Guests sampled different varieties of

our tomatoes and other treats. The weather was perfect for a stroll through our garden and to experience the “greenhouse effect” in our greenhouse! Thank you to those who took the time to come and see what you have been supporting. We hope you had as much fun as we did!



ROCKIN' OUT FOR A GOOD CAUSE

THIRD ANNUAL ROCKPELLI MUSIC FEST RAISED \$15,000

July 13 was a perfect day! About 500 people came to enjoy the beautiful weather and listen to local music at this year's Rockopelli Music Fest at Highland's Main Square. The event was produced by Joel Ratajack and his family with catering provided by Pepino's Restaurant of Schererville.



In addition to the great music, a few vendors sold art and other handicrafts. Many local businesses and individuals donated items for a silent auction and raffle baskets, and many items attracted lots of attention, such as a hockey stick signed by 10 of the Chicago Blackhawks and sets of White Sox and Cubs tickets. Other events and activities included face painting, bean bag contests, and a cut-a-thon staffed by the stylists of Texture Pointe Salon in Highland who offered \$10 haircuts to benefit Planting Possibilities.

We are deeply grateful to Jeff, Pam, and Joel Ratajack, as well as the Rockopelli committee, for devoting their summer to organizing and putting together this event which raised over \$15,000 for Planting Possibilities this year. You are our Partners in Possibilities!



PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Anderson, Rich Christakes, Joseph Daniele, Marge Dytrych, Paul Gergets, Robert J. Hanrahan III, Brad Hemingway, Mark Neiner, Mary Anne Neiner

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Karl Dytrych, James Hitz, Adj Kitt, David Wendlinger

STEERING COMMITTEE

Faye Gaiser, Beth Sciackitano, Annette Wisniewski, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meagan Yothment, Tanner Olo, Ruth Yothment, Beth Sciackitano

JOIN US AND HELP US GROW!

We are seeking board & committee members. Please contact Mark Neiner at admin@plantingpossibilities.org or 219.237.9353.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN NWI THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As you consider how you will give back this holiday season, please keep in mind the needs of those within your Northwest Indiana community. Here are a few simple ways that you can make a difference with Planting Possibilities, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit charity in Lake County, Indiana. Remember, many employers offer matching funds to double your contribution; please check with your employer.

UNITED WAY

Even though Planting Possibilities may not appear on your local United Way's list of charities they support, you can still designate us as the charity you wish your United Way contribution to support. Just provide our name and contact info, and they will contact us to process your request.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

We're joining this national online campaign on December 2 to celebrate the season of giving! Follow us on Facebook or Twitter to learn more.

MONETARY DONATION

We are in need of funds to purchase items for our greenhouse, as well as land. Please return the attached form or visit our website.

VOLUNTEER, OR JOIN OUR BOARD

Do you have administrative, gardening, or development skills? Know someone with special needs? Just looking for a way to get involved in NWI? We have a place for you. Specifically, we are looking for people to join our fundraising, governance, and finance committees. Sign up on our website, www.plantingpossibilities.org.

SHARING OUR HARVEST ANNUAL MUM & TOMATO SALE

This past September, we had another successful fall mum sale. We changed things up a bit this year and held our sale at TWO locations - **Sarkey's Florist** in Highland and **Campagna Academy** in Schererville. And thanks to the generosity of **Pepino's Restaurant** in Schererville, we were able to extend our sale and connect with our supporters for an additional two weeks in the parking lot at Pepino's.

Despite the chill in the air this fall, the mums were beautiful! We would like to thank all of our volunteers



as well as everyone who purchased mums and tomatoes. Along with our geranium sale in May, this is a critical annual fundraiser that helps us prepare for our future home. Please plan ahead to purchase your 2015 geraniums and mums for your home or business from us as well!



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

I would like to volunteer, please contact me: Yes No

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

Planting Possibilities Gardeners Circle Levels

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



Please make checks payable to:
Planting Possibilities

A NOTE OF THANKSGIVING...

As we head into Thanksgiving, we want to take this most appropriate time to thank everyone who supports Planting Possibilities.

We are very thankful for all who provide financial gifts as well as those who generously give their time and talents.

Our semi-weekly classes at Campagna would not have been nearly as successful without the volunteers who regularly came to help with the classes and the tomato fields: Joe Janostak, Jeff Overhage, Carol Wachala, Kathy Lieberman, Maria and Derrick Sanchez, Marian LaPointe, Marge Dytrych, Joe and Dominick Daniele, and Brad and Joe Hemingway.

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING LOCAL COMPANIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Please, remember their support while shopping for local products and services.

Ace Cleaning, St. John	Cottage on Dixie, Homewood, IL	Meier Automotive, Hammond
Alsip Home and Nursery, St. John	Dedert Corp., Homewood, IL	Meyers Companies, Griffith
American Claim Service, Evergreen Park, IL	First Savings Bank of Hegewisch	Pepino's Restaurant, Schererville
Calumet Electric Supply, East Chicago	Great Lakes Roofing, Calumet City, IL	Plus One AV, Frankfort, IL
Chipotle, Munster	Hilbrich Holiday Travel, Schererville	Providence Bank, Munster
Chiropractic Sport & Spine Center, Schererville	Insulation Fabricators, Hammond	Schererville Glass, Schererville
Choices Brokerage, Homewood, IL	Jeff Tucker State Farm Insurance, Munster	Sysco Food Service, Des Plaines, IL
Collision Damage Experts, Hammond	Kusiak Construction, Highland	Five Guys, Munster
Cornejo Electric, Hammond	Leary's Carpets and Floors, Hammond	Guru Systems, Inc., Munster
	MauiWowi, Munster	Texture Point Salon, Highland

Matching funds/grants: ArcelorMittal, BP, BP Fabric of America, CN, Pepsico

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS FOR SUPPORTING PLANTING POSSIBILITIES

Karen Anderson	Gene & Brenda Fiegle	Roslyn Malouhos	Robert Smoltz, M.D.
Elaine Apple	Paul & Joyce Gergets	Colleen Neiner	Dave & Marci Spurlock
Ron & Noreen Bickel	Jim Gingerich	William & Dorothy O'Brien	Joe and Joyce Stodola
Don & Chris Boyle	Sandra Goldman	Kevin & Mary Ellen O'Neill	Mike & Sandy Stoffregen
Cherie Buday	Roger & Patricia Hale	Kevin & Brenda O'Shea	Christine Watt
Larry Cabrera	Brad & Amy Hemingway	Tom & Maggie O'Sullivan	Paul & Patty Wheeler
Jerry & Susan Caccappolo	James E. Hitz	Rod & Pam Pasyk	Gavin White
Robert & Wendy Carlson	Joe & Cookie Janostak	Pi Sigma Phi, Chi Chapter	Tim & Amy Wiess
Curtis & Elaine Dainton	Arla Jones	Pi Sigma Phi, Upsilon Chapter	Annette Wisniewski
Maurine Damerval	Steve & Luann Jurczak	Oylntho Ramirez	Alice Wohler
Luis Diaz	Kappa Kappa Kappa, Griffith	Meg Randle	Jerry & Ruth Yothment
Nancy Doktysz	Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Weis Council	Lt. E. Blake Ratajack, USN	Rose Yothment
John Dreixler	Chuck Kreisl	Katrina Schreiber	
Barbara Dubec		Gene Sessa	

-CALENDAR-

NOVEMBER 23 11AM-5PM

Sarkey's Florist Open House
8944 Highland, IN

DECEMBER 2 #GIVINGTUESDAY

www.plantingpossibilities.org

MAY 16, 2015

Spring Flower Sale, Sarkey's Florist

JULY 2015

Rockopelli Music Fest
More details to come!



Planting Possibilities
PO Box 1805
Highland, IN 46322

INSIDE...

- >> Our new greenhouse of possibilities
- >> Year in review: Campagna Academy project & partnership
- >> Looking ahead to 2015

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

- Our special thanks to **Guru Systems, Inc.** of Munster for generously donating their mailing services.

WWW.PLANTINGPOSSIBILITIES.ORG



Celebrate summer at Rockopelli!

JULY

May 16 - Purchase your geraniums at our flower sale.

MAY

Watch your garden grow!

JUNE

Plant your garden.

APRIL

Start thinking about spring bulbs & your garden.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Order spring bulbs through our website.

MARCH

Dec. 2 - Participate in #GivingTuesday on our website.

DECEMBER

Florist Christmas Open House. Possibilities at the Sarkey's

NOVEMBER

Nov. 23 - Support Planting bulbs & your garden.

Spend the winter thinking of spring and planning your garden!

CHASE AWAY THE WINTER WITH PLANTING POSSIBILITIES

Support Sarkey's Florist at their Christmas open house! 5% of sales before tax will benefit Planting Possibilities. Sarkey's Florist, 8944 Erie St. Highland, IN 46322

SARKEY'S FLORIST CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE SUNDAY, NOV. 23 11AM - 5PM