

GROWING WITH CAMPAGNA ACADEMY

OUR BRAND-NEW GREENHOUSE, HOOPHOUSE & HORTICULTURE CLASSES

Boy, have we been busy!

Although it might not seem that we would have a lot to do over the winter, we were busy with all the behind-the-scenes tasks that help us grow - in more ways than one.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we were approached by **Campagna Academy** - a children's residential facility in Schererville, IN - to collaborate on a planting education program for their residential population challenged with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Our HUGE NEWS is that we received a **\$25,000 grant** from the Lake County Community Fund at **Legacy Foundation** to purchase a greenhouse and implement a horticulture educational program at Campagna Academy this spring. We are very excited to tell you that our brand new greenhouse has been built!

We also have a hoophouse, donated by **Alsip Home and Nursery Center** of St. John, IN. We use the science lab in the Campagna Center, a former charter school on Campagna's campus, to hold our twice-weekly classes. **Mr. Jim Hitz**, a horticulturalist and a member of our Professional Advisory Committee, teaches the classes. He is assisted by board



members Mark Neiner and Brad Hemingway, and volunteers Jeff Overhage and Joe Janostak.

Our class planted **about 2,000 heirloom tomato and pepper seeds** earlier this spring that grew under lights in our classroom. The students helped nurture and care for the seedlings under the direction of Mr. Hitz. The plants were moved into the covered hoophouse to "harden," and then were planted in our huge garden next to the structures.

We are planning our first-ever **Open House** on **Thursday, August 28** from 4-6pm to showcase our hoophouse, greenhouse, and field of tomatoes. Watch for your postcard invitation for that event.

I cannot begin to tell you how excited we are to have a greenhouse on the ground and a training program in operation! This never could have happened without the support you and others in our community have generously extended. We offer our most humble thanks for helping us Plant these Possibilities!

Most Sincerely,

Mary Anne Neiner
Founder, Planting Possibilities



HEIRLOOM TOMATOES & PEPPERS

WE'VE BEEN BUSY GROWING!

Well, we're at it again with the tomatoes! We have 8 varieties of tomatoes and 4 varieties of peppers in the ground. They were grown from seed through our Campagna Project under the care of our Campagna

SUBSCRIPTION

In addition to our planned sales, you can enjoy our tomatoes by subscription at a pre-paid price. You'll be able to choose:

SIZE OF THE BAG

We'll have a variety of sizes

TYPES OF TOMATOES

Choose specific types, or go potluck

FREQUENCY

Every week, or every other week

ONE-TIME SPECIAL ORDERS

For that big batch of salsa, spaghetti sauce, or tomato juice

...DETAILS COMING SOON!

students, our aides and our teacher /horticulturalist.

We plan to sell our crop to local restaurants, local consumers (you!), and maybe make some spaghetti sauce!

This year's growing season will culminate with our **annual Mum and Tomato Sale on Saturday, September 6, 2014.**

As always, we'll have tomatoes, peppers and several sizes and colors of those beautiful mums to keep your yards looking vibrant up until the first frost.

And, new this year, you'll have the opportunity to buy our tomatoes and peppers while we harvest them through a subscription program. We have been told that our first tomato crop last year produced the best tasting tomatoes that some of our buyers have ever had. That's high praise!

Watch your mail in August for a reminder postcard about our tomato subscription program and September mum sale.



SPRING PLANT SALE

GERANIUMS + HEIRLOOM TOMATOES + PEPPERS

We had yet another successful flower sale this May. We sold our usual selection of beautiful geraniums in a variety of sizes and colors, large patio combo pots for those who like to leave the flower arranging to the professionals, and beautiful hanging baskets of ivy geraniums.

We also sold some of our heirloom tomato plants grown from seed at our Campagna Project. It was a great day - we were able to visit with so many generous supporters!

A big THANK YOU to **Sarkey's Florist of Highland** who graciously allows us to use their yard for our flower sales each spring and fall. Please think of them for your future floral purchases, and watch for your postcard announcing our **September 6th Mum & Tomato Sale!**



SPRING THAW

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ATTENDED!

On Saturday, March 1, we had our spring event, optimistically named SPRING THAW. How could we have anticipated two feet of snow on the ground and a mini-blizzard that evening!



Despite the winter weather, we did have a great time! The ballroom at Innsbrook Country Club in Merrillville was the perfect setting.

Our evening was Spanish-themed, beginning with a salsa tasting contest. There were ten entries of very different flavors and ingredients. Casa Del Mar, a Mexican

restaurant in Munster, IN, was voted to have had the best salsa of the evening. Chuck Pullen brought in the second place salsa, and Gus Esparza came in a very close third place with his tasty entry.

After a dinner of enchiladas and other Mexican

favorites, we hit the dance floor with salsa lessons and dancing.



We thank everyone who attended our SPRING THAW event, with a special thank you to Bill Ference, our Emcee for the evening; Scott Wielgos, our DJ; and our salsa dance teachers, Eve Gomez and Krystal Quagliara. You helped make our evening a big success!

We want to thank our very generous sponsors and donors for SPRING THAW:

American Machine Works, Inc., Lansing, IL (owners Joe and Pam Yerga, Munster)

George Cybulski, MD, Neurological Surgery, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL

Providence Bank, South Holland, IL

Wasson & Diane Beckman, Munster, IN

Tortillas Nuevo Leon, Hammond, IN

Raymundo Garcia, El Taco Real, Hammond

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP



From left to right: Brad Hemingway, Beth Sciackitano, Meagan Yothment, Marge Dytrych, Ruth Yothment, Chris Eller-Esparza, Mary Anne Neiner, Mark Neiner

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Karen Anderson, Joseph Daniele, Paul Gergets, Brad Hemingway, Rob J. Hanrahan III, Mark Neiner, Mary Anne Neiner

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Karl Dytrych, James Hitz, Adj Kitt, David Wendlinger

STEERING COMMITTEE

Marge Dytrych, Chris Eller-Esparza, Faye Gaiser, Beth Sciackitano, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment

WANT TO HELP? JOIN US!

Contact Mark at admin@plantingpossibilities.org or 219.237.9353

ROCKOPELLI 2014, ALL-AGES MUSIC FESTIVAL

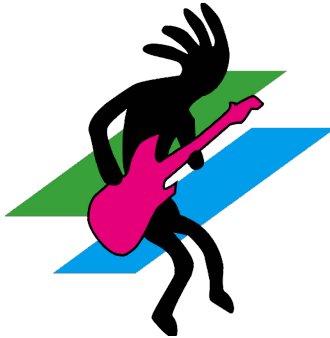
JULY 13, HIGHLAND MAIN SQUARE PARK, 2:30-9PM

This very fun event is a fundraiser for Planting Possibilities produced by Joel Ratajack. This is the third summer that Joel, an Indiana University student from Munster, has produced this music festival.

With the help of his music-loving family and energetic friends, Joel brings together several local bands, fun activities for kids and local food vendors to create a family friendly day of music and fun in a great outdoor venue.

Headliner bands Nomad Planets and Dirtymac will be joined by other well-known local bands in donating their musical talents to make Rockopelli music fest an unforgettable day.

Joel has raised \$15,000 for Planting Possibilities with his first two events. We are deeply grateful that he shares Planting Possibilities' vision and puts so much time and energy into helping us turn our vision into reality.



Please come and be a part of Rockopelli! The first band will start playing at 2:30pm at the gazebo in Highland's Main Square, located on Ridge Road at 5th Ave in Highland, IN.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and spend a fun-filled afternoon-into-evening listening to music and enjoying the outdoors.

Visit www.rockopellifest.org for more information.



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 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

SPECIAL THANKS!

Many people and businesses helped us construct our hoophouse and greenhouse for our Campagna Project. Special thanks to **Rich Christakes** at **Alsip Home and Nursery** of St. John, IN, for donating the ribs for our hoophouse. Thanks also to **Chuck Pullen** and **Matt Pullen** for our great construction team!

Several local businesses have donated their time, talents or parts to complete our greenhouse:

- **Red Fulte of Calumet Electric Supply Corp.** (East Chicago, IN) donated the electric panel and meter pedestal
- **Louis Diaz of Cornejo Electric Co.** (Munster, IN) connected the power
- **Joe Yothment of Meyer's Company, Inc.** (Griffith, IN) hooked up our water service
- **NIPSCO** donated their hook-up service

Two more special people who are being very, very generous with their time are **Joe Janostak** and **Jeff Overhage**. They help our wonderful teacher, **Jim Hitz** and his helpers, **Mark Neiner** and **Brad Hemingway**, with the twice-weekly classes at the Campagna Center. We are so lucky to have this great team!

One more special shout-out to the staff at Campagna Academy - their maintenance staff has gone above and beyond to help us get our project up and running. **Thank you, Dawn Greene and Chuck Jones!**

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING COMPANIES & INDIVIDUALS FOR THEIR SUPPORT

Abuelo's Restaurant,
Merrillville
Karl & Marge Dytrych
Carolyn Lestrina
Evelyn Roberson
Trish Alt
Chris Eller-Esparza
Dr. Pamela Masson
Ed & Catherine Salata
Patricia Bannon
First Financial Bank
Randy & Kay Massow
Theresa Schoon
Wasson & Diane Beckman
Ted & Rosemary
Frankowski
Patrick & Cathy McAndrews
Deborah Smith
George & Mary Behrens

James Gingerich
Drs. Greg & Janet McComis
Bob & Debbie Somerville
Thad & Irene Bembenista
Roger & Marilyn Glennon
Joan McInerney
Sourlis Glass Studio
Ken & Lois Braatz
Glenn Goodwine
Kristen Meaney
Arlene Stiglitz
Marilyn Branco
Ann Gregorovich
Monosol
Jennifer Szafasz
Margie Branigan
Guru Systems
DeeDee Morrow

Whitney Trimble
M/M John Camer
Jim & Susan Harmening
Jeff & Teri Overhage
Dr. Nancy Trimboli
Alice Cannon
Brad & Amy Hemingway
Marilyn Pajor
Chuck Turman
CDE Body Shop, Inc.
James Hitz
Beth Palmer
Sam Van Til
David & Leane Cervan
James & Sons Jewelers,
Schererville
Rod & Pam Pasyk
Larry Veracco

Rose Collazo
Susan Kearney
Dr. Amy Pullen
Scott & Nikki Wielgos
Patrick & Cathy Cronin
Carolyn Kerbey
Laura Pullen
Annette Wisniewski
Curtis Dainton
Knights of Columbus, Msgr.
Weis Council
Carolyn Rathert
Alice Wohler
Christina Dick
Dan & Mary Kretz
Pamela Riesmeyer
Joe & Pam Yerga
Dyer Construction Co.

UPCOMING

JULY 13

Rockopelli Music Festival
Highland Main Square

AUGUST 28

Open House
Campagna Academy

SEPTEMBER 6

Annual Mum & Tomato Sale
Sarkey's Florist



Planting Possibilities
PO Box 1805
Highland, IN 46322

READ INSIDE

- Our collaboration with Campagna Academy in Schererville
- We're growing 2,000 heirloom tomato and pepper plants
- Rockopelli 2014: Local bands, local food, local charities

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 at www.plantingpossibilities.org and follow us as we grow!

Please come and see what you've helped us build!
We will showcase our hoophouse, greenhouse and our "Field of Dreams."
Hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks will be served, as well as
recipes featuring our own heirloom tomatoes!

Campagna Academy
7403 Cline Ave, Schererville, IN 46375

4-6pm

Thursday, August 28, 2014

OPEN HOUSE

You are cordially invited to our