



WE'RE BUSY GROWING AGAIN!

SEE WHAT WE'RE GROWING - AND HOW MUCH WE'VE GROWN

Here we are again – another growing season! As I write this, there are racks of seedlings in the greenhouse that will be ready to transplant outside into our 1/2 acre garden in a few weeks. Some have already been moved outside under the hoophouse shade cloth for their transition to outdoor weather.

This year, instead of our whole garden being tomatoes, we've planted a variety of veggies. We'll still have Roma tomatoes for our friends at The Cottage on Dixie in

Homewood, IL (they're a farm-to-table restaurant that serves original dishes made with locally grown foods). But, we've added a variety of foods that we'll sell on Saturdays at the Farmer's Market at Alsip Nursery and Home Center in St. John, Indiana (page 3). Green beans, kale, peas, squash, cucumbers, and of course tomatoes and peppers, to name a few.

We are also very proud to say that we are, once again, the recipients of a \$10,000 grant from the Lake County Community Fund at the Legacy Foundation. We are proud and humbled that the Legacy Foundation considers Planting Possibilities an important part of Lake County. We will use this money to fund our Campagna Project again this year (page 4).

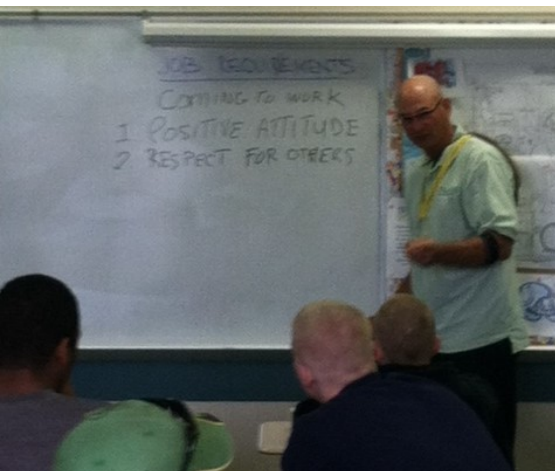
We have a busy growing season ahead, with activities for everyone! We started out the spring with our annual geranium sale on Saturday, May 16. Then, on Friday June 19, Joel Ratajack produced the fourth

annual Rockopelli, a music festival benefitting Planting Possibilities (page 3). We'll help close out the summer on Saturday, September 12 with a golf outing at Scherwood Golf Course. Finally, we'll welcome the fall with our mum sale on Saturday, Sept. 19 at Sarkey's Florists in Highland.

As we head into summer, enjoy tending your own gardens! Send us pictures of you in your garden –whether you grow flowers or food, we want to see what you like to grow! You can email them to maryanne@plantingpossibilities.org, post them on our Facebook page, or mail them to our P.O. box. We'll share them on our webpage and maybe in our fall newsletter.

Happy growing!

Most Sincerely,
Mary Anne Neiner
Founder, Planting Possibilities



THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GERANIUMS IN TOWN

REVIEWING OUR ANNUAL GERANIUM SALE

Thank you for making our May geranium sale (always on the Saturday after Mother's Day) another good day for us! This year, even though we ordered more geraniums than last year, we had very few left over. Typically we sell the remaining flowers during the week after the sale through word-of-mouth. This year, those who couldn't come on Saturday and wanted to come by to pick out their geraniums the following week were disappointed to see that there were very few left. That's a good problem for us to have! We

donated the very few leftover flowers to Campagna Academy to put around their new sign and to St. Thomas More Church – a major supporter of Planting Possibilities.

Thank you, once again, to those of you who supported this sale and bought (from what we keep hearing!) the most beautiful, healthy geraniums you have every purchased. Thank you also to Cindy at Sarkey's Florist for providing us with such a nice location for our sale!



PAINTING POSSIBILITIES

CREATING ART AND MEMORIES

In March and April we did something a little different to help people start thinking about spring by hosting painting parties. The first one sold out quickly, so we added a second date. Local water colorist Alice Nebelsiek Piorkowski led us through the process of creating our own versions of her original works. The first one was a garden shed in the spring,



surrounded by flowers. The second was a basket of flowers on a potting table. Everyone went home with their completed, matted watercolor. It was amazing that so many people can look at one thing and see it so differently! It was also amazing to see that even people with absolutely no artistic talent (like me!) could be coached through the process and end up with a reasonably nice piece of work. I also took away another lesson from this event: even if you think you can't do something - with a little help from a friend, you probably can.

OUR NEW SPECIAL OLYMPICS TEAM

WE MADE IT TO REGIONALS!

Our Special Olympics adult basketball team finished up our inaugural season at the Regional competition in Valparaiso. This was our first season, so we concentrated on learning the fundamentals and worked on skill-building. We will continue to practice basketball until softball season starts in July.

Thanks to volunteer coaches Slavko Tomich and Joe Daniele for dedicating every Monday evening to our

team! And an extra special thanks to Coach Slavko for the great uniforms and warm-up shirts!





Rockopelli



FOURTH ANNUAL ROCKOPELLI MUSIC FEST CELEBRATING LOCAL MUSIC AND LOCAL CHARITIES

June 19th turned out to be a fantastic day for a music festival—Rockopelli, that is! Produced by Joel Ratajack and his family and sponsored by St. Thomas More Church and Alsip Home and Nursery, the 4th annual Rockopelli music festival was held once again at Highland’s Main Square Park. Joel’s band, Region Rat, was one of the many acts that performed, including Hot, The Muddsharks, Sudden Departure, Yellow Days, King Hippie, and Scott Wielgos. The event raised approximately \$10,000 for Planting Possibilities. In addition to the live

music, the stylists at Texture Pointe Hair Salon in Highland returned to offer \$10 haircuts for their Cut-A-Thon. James Leslie, aka “The Autistic Eye,” a photographer with autism, sold samples of some of his work. Alice Nebelsiek Piorkowski, a local water colorist, sold framed prints. Among the many other items sold by other vendors were Perfectly Posh products, jewelry, home décor, purses, accessories, and bakery items. There were also many items available to bid on at the silent auction. Some of the items included a Fender electric guitar, Cubs and White Sox gift

baskets, kids baskets with games and movie tickets, and signed sports memorabilia. And what’s a festival without a few games? Some of the kids activities included flowerpot painting, face painting, and water balloon tosses and a beanbag tournament for adults. We would like to sincerely thank the Ratajack family for once again putting on a spectacular outdoor event that continues to help wonderful individuals acquire the skills they need to lead independent, self-sufficient lifestyles.



FARM TO TABLE MARKET

VISIT US ON SATURDAYS AT ALSIP HOME & NURSERY

Later this summer we will begin selling our produce at Alsip Home & Nursery’s Saturday Farm to Table Market in St. John, Indiana. Alsip has generously asked us to participate in their market and suggested veggies that would be the most popular items. So, instead of our past giant garden full of only tomatoes and peppers, we branched out this year (no pun

intended)! We planted peas, beans, squash, cucumbers, onions and kale, along with tomatoes and peppers. Look for us and our fresh veggies at Alsip Nursery’s Saturday Farm to Table market this summer: 10255 Wicker Ave, St. John, Indiana. Thanks to Rich Christakes of Alsip for his generous support of Planting Possibilities.

AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAGNA PROJECT

PUTTING OUR MISSION INTO ACTION

Our garden is coming along with summer, as well as our horticulture education program that we started last year at Campagna Academy. Campagna Academy is a residential campus for children and young adults in Northwest Indiana. One of the cottages at Campagna houses young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. These young men, along with several other young adults with disabilities who live in the community, attend our semi-weekly classes.



Last year, we received a \$25,000 grant from the Lake County Community Fund at the Legacy Foundation to build an educational-size greenhouse and create a horticulture program for those residents. Alsip Home & Nursery donated a hoophouse. Campagna donated a science

classroom for our use and the space for our ½ acre garden.

This year, we received another \$10,000 grant from the Lake County Community Fund at the Legacy Foundation to continue our program. Mr. Jim Hitz, a local horticulture consultant and former teacher, teaches our classes, leads the students through educational and productive activities, and advises us on our gardening practices. We have a small army of volunteers who regularly help out at these classes. This program would not be a success without this group of people. We are deeply grateful to Mark Neiner, Joe Janostak, Marcia Sanchez, Carol Wachala, Kathy Leiberman, Marge Dytrych, Terry Metz, Judy Allen, Loni Dorall, and Donna Utley for their ongoing commitment to this project.

We are also grateful to Campagna Academy for providing us a place to put our mission into action. The residents we work with at Campagna are young adults with disabilities who are on the cusp of aging out of their supported living situation and joining the adult world. Most of them have never had a tool in their hands, or had the opportunity to participate in



work activities. It is our task to help prepare them to be desirable employees by having them experience the satisfaction of participating in meaningful work activities, achieving short-term goals that lead to long-term success, and showing them the courtesy and respect they will be expected to show a supervisor.

Although we are extremely thankful to have this opportunity to work at Campagna, it is still our goal to own our own property. We continue our search for 15 to 50 acres of land in Lake County, Indiana where we can expand our work and involve even more young adults with autism and other developmental disabilities in meaningful daily activities.

UPCOMING ANNUAL MUM & TOMATO SALE

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 AT SARKEY'S FLORIST

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 19** for our annual Fall Mum sale. These mums are as beautiful and healthy as the geraniums! Once again we will be at Sarkey's Florist in Highland. Our sale will be timed perfectly for you to get that splash of fall color in your yard before the temperature drops!



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING LOCAL COMPANIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

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

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THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS

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THANK YOU TO OUR ROCKPELLI SPONSORS

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			Glenn Yaeger

-CALENDAR-

SEPTEMBER 12

Golf for Possibilities
Sherwood Golf, Shererville, IN

SEPTEMBER 19

Annual Fall Mum Sale
Sarkey's Florist, Highland, IN

SATURDAYS UNTIL OCTOBER 10AM - 2PM

*Farm to Table Market
Alsip Home & Nursery, St. John, IN*

Golf for Possibilities



Saturday, September 12, 2015

Scherwood Golf Course

600 East Joliet Street, Schererville, IN



Price includes 18 holes of golf w/ cart, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, beer, prizes and more!

Registration & Breakfast: 7am

Shotgun start: 8:00 am

\$120 per golfer

Be a sponsor and advertise your company!

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See our website or contact Paul Gergets for information regarding available promotional considerations.

**50/50 Raffle
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Register online at www.PlantingPossibilities.org/event/golf

Or fill in the form below and mail with payment to:

Planting Possibilities, P.O. Box 1805, Highland, IN 46322

Make checks payable to **Planting Possibilities, Inc.**

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Exp. (Mo/Yr): ____/____ Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____

FOR MORE INFO: Contact Paul Gergets (219) 793-4454

Golf@PlantingPossibilities.org *or* www.PlantingPossibilities.org/event/golf



IN MEMORIAM

MEMORIAL DONATIONS FOR VIOLA NEINER

These memorial gifts were made to Planting Possibilities in memory of Viola Neiner, 93 years old. She lived a very full, very long life. She was the mother of Mark Neiner.

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|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Patricia Bannon | Sue & Jim Harmening | Dr. Fotinos Panagakos |
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| Tom & Julie Garmisa | Tom & Nancy Mellon | |
| Nancy & Bill Gauthier | Jennifer Naylor | |

MEMORIAL DONATIONS FOR JEFF OVERHAGE

These memorial gifts were made in memory of Jeff Overhage. Jeff was one of our Campagna Project volunteers. He passed away last fall. His enthusiasm and kind soul will be missed.

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Mr. & Mrs. David Deerdruff | Mary Jo Gorman | Ms. Teri Overhage |
| Ms. Katie Esser | Mr. & Mrs. Richard Mills | Mr. & Mrs. Ken Somenzi |
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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. Please contact Mark Neiner at admin@plantingpossibilities.org or 219.237.9353.



Planting Possibilities
 PO Box 1805
 Highland, IN 46322

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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



Planting Possibilities
 Gardeners Circle Levels

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

Please make checks payable to:
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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



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 Circle one of the following: MasterCard Visa Discover
 I would like to volunteer, please contact me: Yes No

If you would like to support Planting Possibilities with a financial gift, please fill out the following form and mail back to us at the address noted below. We thank you sincerely for your support.