



EXPANDING OUR REACH WITH NEW ACCREDITATIONS

We are very proud to announce that Planting Possibilities is now licensed by the State of Indiana as a provider of Medicaid Waiver and Vocational Rehabilitation services for the purpose of vocational training.

We also received CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) accreditation for Community Employment Services (Employment Supports and Job Development) and Community Integration.



This means that every Lake County resident with a disability who receives services because of that disability will now have access to Planting Possibilities vocational

training and job coaching services, regardless of their financial means. Our job coaches, aides and trainers will be paid through those programs. Acquiring these accreditations was a huge undertaking, but necessary in order to reach as many people as possible.

One of the main components of vocational training is having access to many different types of jobs. Believe it or not, not everyone wants to work in a greenhouse! During the winter months, we expose our students to other activities that could spark interest in different vocations. We will be making connections with other local employers who are willing to offer part-time jobs to our clients while we work with them to become proficient in their skills and work more independently.

In the meantime, though, our daily garden tending and our semi-weekly horticulture classes at Campagna Academy will not change. That program is staffed by volunteers, and will continue to be so. Our garden is doing great and our participants and volunteers are proud of the fruits (or should I say vegetables) of their labor.

We hope your gardens are growing well. Keep watering and weeding so you, too, can enjoy the fruits, vegetables and flowers of your labor!

Most Sincerely,
Mary Anne Neiner
President, Planting Possibilities

RECAP: PALM TREES & POSSIBILITIES

RAISING FUNDS WITH A TROPICAL TWIST

If you weren't at our Palm Trees & Possibilities fundraiser this spring, you missed a fun evening!



The room was filled with Hawaiian shirts, floral dresses and a riot of tropical ferns, flowers, and colors.

Dinner, live music by 'Got Issues' Scott Wielgos and Al Kulasa, and after-dinner fun followed the tropical theme of the evening. Congratulations to Carolyn Di Buono of Indianapolis who won first place in the salsa tasting contest!

Innsbrook Country Club's ballroom felt like a tropical resort decorated with dozens of palm trees, hibiscus trees and colorful centerpieces. Our silent auction raised an additional \$2,300, highlighted by a hockey stick signed by the 2015 Stanley Cup Chicago Blackhawks team.

Thank you to all of you who attended and enjoyed the evening with us!

RECAP: MAY GERANIUM SALE

SUMMER BLOOMS

I'm happy to say that we had our 5th annual geranium sale on a beautiful May 14th. Yes, that's right, we've been selling the most beautiful geraniums available for five years! We've settled into the Saturday after Mother's Day, so mark your calendars for next May. This is one of our favorite days of the year – when we have a chance

to say hello and chat with our Planting Possibilities friends and loyal supporters who come every year to both of our flower sales. Yes, we are thrilled to see you!

Keep watering those geraniums - they'll keep blooming right into fall, when you can replace them with fall-colored mums.



UPCOMING: SEPTEMBER MUM SALE

ADDING COLOR TO YOUR YARD THROUGH THE FALL SEASON



Did I say mums? You bet! Now that you've had a full summer watching your geraniums bloom non-stop, you can replace them with the most beautiful mums available. This marks the 5th year of our mum sale, and provides another day to meet and chat with Planting Possibilities' friends and supporters.

Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 17**. Start looking around your yard now to decide what colors you'd like to enjoy through the fall. We will see you on September 17 at Sarkey's Florist in Highland.

AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAGNA PROJECT

TENDING THE GARDEN



I am happy to say that this June, unlike last June, it did not rain 28 days out of 30. And, thanks to the generous donation from the McComis Foundation and the donated services of Walters Excavating Company, our garden is much healthier than it was last year!

We were able to add black dirt and other nutrients to our soil and a fence around the perimeter to

keep out the deer, geese and rabbits – all of whom enjoyed the vegetable smorgasbord we offered them last year. Our horticulturist, Jim Hitz, also suggested that we plant more compactly, using only $\frac{1}{4}$ of our garden area. In the remaining area we broadcasted soybean seeds to serve as ground cover and to create more nutrients for the soil. We used the smaller planting area more effectively and will, in fact, have a much larger and more diverse harvest this year than last. Look for our produce at Alsip Nursery's farmers market this summer!

Early this spring, after we planted our seeds under lights and were waiting for them to grow, we kept busy with other activities that might inspire different interests. After a random conversation about bridges, Mark Neiner, having a background in construction and recalling a past school project, had the students make their own

bridges. All the bridges were tested to see which ones held the most weight.

Another winter activity was learning how to repair drywall dents and repaint the patches to blend in with the rest of the wall. Before nesting season this spring, the students put together a purple martin house that was mounted on a pole and is out near our garden. It may not always be gardening season, but we are never for a loss of interesting and diverse activities!



ROCKOPELLI

MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016



THIS AUGUST: ROCKOPELLI 2016

ROCKIN' AWAY THE SUMMER

This year's Rockopelli music festival will be held at Highland's Main Square Park on **Saturday, August 13**, from 3-10pm.

Rockopelli is produced by Joel Ratajack of Munster to benefit local charities. Rockopelli 2016 will feature new local bands and a

whole new look, but will remain an all-ages event with activities and great new music for kids and adults alike.

Keep in touch with the band line-up and planned activities at rockopellifest.com and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

Over the past five years, Rockopelli has donated more than \$38,000 to Planting Possibilities. We are extremely grateful for Rockopelli's support and hope that you will come out and see us on August 13!

THIS SEPTEMBER: GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES

SPONSORS AND GOLFERS NEEDED

Get your foursome together and sign up to Golf for Possibilities on **September 10** at Scherwood Golf in Schererville, Indiana. Buffet breakfast and registration begins at 7am, with a shotgun start at 8am. After a perfect morning of golf, come back to the 19th Hole for lunch, a chance to win some great door prizes and silent auction items.

Complete the registration page in this newsletter, or visit plantingpossibilities.org/golf to register yourself, a foursome, or secure a sponsorship. If you or your place of business would be interested in donating an auction item, or sponsoring at any level, please email Paul at golf@plantingpossibilities.org. We've love to be able to include your name on our welcome poster and other promotional items, and to include you in the long list of local businesses and individuals who

support our vision of building a greenhouse and training center of our own to job train adults with autism and other developmental disabilities in Lake County, Indiana.





Saturday, September 10, 2016

(Rain Date: Oct. 1st)

Scherwood Golf Course

600 East Joliet Street, Schererville, IN

Registration & Breakfast: 7:00 am

Shotgun Start: 8:00 am. Followed by Luncheon

\$120 per golfer - includes 18 holes of golf with cart, buffet breakfast, buffet lunch, beer, prizes and more!

Register to golf or as a sponsor online at: www.golf4possibilities.eventbrite.com

or mail payment to:

Planting Possibilities

P.O. Box 1805

Highland, IN 46322

Golfer/Sponsor/Donor Registration

Golfer/Sponsor/Donor Name: _____

Phone: (Cell) _____ (Home) _____

Email: _____

If you are registering as part of a twosome/foursome, please provide both/all names.

Include name, phone number and email address for each golfer.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
1)	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____	_____
4)	_____	_____	_____

Sponsor/Donor Level: (please circle one)

Platinum (\$1500)

Gold (\$1000)

Silver (\$500)

Bronze (\$125)

Friend

*Platinum sponsorship includes a golf foursome.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

Alsip Home & Nursery

Karen Anderson

Michael Anderson

Elaine Apple

Michael & Rebecca Bennett

Ken & Lois Braatz

Carnivale Restaurant, Chicago

Catholic Diocese of Gary

Children's Museum of Indianapolis

CN Railroad

Convention Plant Rental, Hammond

Pat & Kathy Cronin

Luis Diaz

Eads Elementary School, Munster

Sally Fairbanks

Steve & Linda Fairbanks

Gene & Brenda Fiegle

Keith & Faye Gaiser

Paul & Joyce Gergets

Glen Goodwine

Ann Gregorovich

Lisa Heatherington

Joe & Cookie Janostak

Derek Janquart

Steve & Luanne Jurczak

Carolyn Kerbey

Carole & Gary Kozlowski

Tom & Jayne Kranc

Maggie Leslie

Melvin & Gail Lolkema

Cori Mathis

McComis Charitable Foundation

Kristin Meaney

Dr. Bradley Merk

Munster Theatre Company

Karen Neiner

Nuevo Leon/O.M. Distributors

Kevin & Mary Ellen O'Neill

Ted & Marilyn Pajor

Providence Bank

Jeff & Pam Ratajack

Dave & Roseann Rosin

St. Thomas More School, Munster

Dr. Robert Smoltz

Joe & Joyce Stodola

Tornados, Inc.

Towle Theatre, Hammond

Charles Turman

Walters Excavating, Schererville

Paul & Patty Wheeler

Whole Foods Market, Schererville

Scott & Nikki Wielgos

Jim & Judy Wilkins

WXRT Radio, Chicago

Zanies Comedy Club, Chicago

We are very grateful to Sarkey's Florist in Highland for allowing us to take over their yard for our annual geranium and mum sales. Please remember them when you order flowers for local events and occasions.

THANK YOU, EADS ELEMENTARY AND ST. THOMAS MORE MUNSTER STUDENTS PLANTING KINDNESS

Eads Elementary School and St. Thomas More School in Munster, Indiana, participated in an end-of-the-school-year walkathon benefiting Planting Possibilities. The students brought in walkathon sponsorships ranging from pennies to dollars per lap walked around the Munster High School football field.

We were overwhelmed when they presented a combined donation of \$5,000 to Planting

Possibilities! YOU ARE AWESOME!!! We so enjoyed the students' energy, songs and smiling faces. They most certainly are "Planting Kindness One Student at a Time".

We will pass on your kindness by helping young adults with disabilities learn not only how to garden, but how to be proud of their accomplishments.



THIS AUGUST: OPEN HOUSE

COME SEE WHAT YOU'VE MADE POSSIBLE

We cordially invite you to our Open House on **August 25**, from 4 – 6pm at Campagna Academy's Campagna Center, 7403 Cline Ave, (½ block north of Cline Ave) in Schererville, Indiana.

Come and see our classroom, garden and greenhouse. We'll have samples of our vegetables for your pleasure, and tours of our grounds. You have helped us achieve so much! Please come to see - and taste! - what we have accomplished together.



SALUTE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

WE COULDN'T DO THIS WITHOUT YOU!

Our Campagna Project would not be a success without the continued gift of time and talents from our dedicated volunteers. Every week they come to class to help Mark and our horticulturalist, Jim Hitz, present interesting and fun information and activities to

our students. We are extremely grateful for their kind hearts and green thumbs! Thank you Judy Allen, Kathy Leiberman, Carol Wachala, Joe Janastak, Terry Metz, James Leslie, and Dan Moynihan.

– CALENDAR –

AUGUST 13

Rockopelli Music Festival 2016

AUGUST 25

Open House at Campagna Greenhouse and Garden

SEPTEMBER 10

Golf for Possibilities

SEPTEMBER 17

Mum Sale



PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Allen, Rich Christakes, Joseph Daniele, Marge Dytrych, Paul Gergets, Brad Hemingway, Mark Neiner, Mary Anne Neiner, Carol Wachala

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

Karl Dytrych, James Hitz, Adj Kitt, David Wendlinger

STEERING COMMITTEE

Beth Sciacitano Ondas, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meagan Yothment, Tanner Ollo, Ruth Yothment, Bianca Cordova, Beth Sciacitano Ondas



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:
 Planting Possibilities

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



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

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.