



Under the guidance of volunteers, Planting Possibilities clients at Campagna Academy construct decorative garden signs - designing, constructing, painting and adding "inspirational" gardening quotes as a finishing touch.

"Be Well, Do Good Work, and Keep in Touch"

It was a bittersweet Spring. After working for three years at our classroom, garden and greenhouse, and learning simple maintenance tasks around Campagna Academy under Mr. Mark's mentorship, we said goodbye to James as he transitioned on to his new home. James moved to an adult group home, where he and three other adult men live with supervision. James started a garden at his new home with the skills he learned at Planting Possibilities, giving him great pride and a feeling of accomplishment.

Ray, who also worked with Mark for the past year, transitioned to an adult

group home as well. Ray is looking forward to continuing his high school studies and hopes to get a part-time job in the community when he finishes school in a year or so. (The State of Indiana provides special education services until the age of 22 for non-diploma seeking students.)

I truly believe that James' and Ray's lives were enriched by their experiences with us over the past few years. They are both inherently "good workers" who probably never had the opportunity to experience the feel of tools in their hands or to eat the food they themselves grew from seed.

They are fine young men who, despite a rocky start in life, can look forward to living in their new homes with skills that will help them feel good about themselves.

For as much as they learned from Planting Possibilities, we also learned from them. We learned that even those who, at one time, have had their spirits broken, can come along and uplift ours.

To quote Garrison Keillor, "Be well, do good work, and keep in touch."

Mary Anne Neiner
President, Planting Possibilities

Planting Possibilities in the Community

MAKING NEW FRIENDS OVER TEA, SWEETS AND SAVORIES



Our Friendship Garden Tea was a great success! We had a limited amount of seats available and within two weeks we sold all 100 tickets for the April event. We are very grateful to Denyse Buck

who volunteered to plan and host the event. She and her amazing team (Linda Sienkiewicz, Betty Pierce, Judy Nies, Kim Rock and Sister Michelle) provided all the beautiful dishes, interesting teas and tasty treats.

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon of tea and traditional accompaniments of scones, finger sandwiches and bite-size desserts while overlooking Lake Michigan.

We thank Phil Potempa who favored us with an entertaining talk intertwining cooking and farm life; Milan Krusinski of the Indiana Port Authority for providing the beautiful Clipper Room at the Hammond Marina as our venue; Jim DeVault for the relaxing background music, and Carol Yuhas for the pretty floral teapot-themed centerpieces.

Thank you to the following donors and sponsors who helped make Friendship Garden Tea successful.

Catherine Pfister	Carolyn Rathert	Elaine Apple	
Horizon Bank	Centier Bank	Giovanni's, Munster	
Pepino's Italian Restaurant	Chester Potempa	Healing Hands Massage/Linda Jancaric	Pam Pullen
Mark Fortener	Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Navy Pier	Highland Women's Club	Pampered Chef/Diane & Chuck Kowalski
Pamela Masson	Comfort Roast, Whiting	Horizon Bank	Ray and Carol Bakker
Albert's Jewelers	Costco	Jean Sidor	Region Ale House
Judy Allen	Cracker Barrel, Hammond	Kathleen Worley	Ruth Yothment
American Printing – John Yerga	Culvers, Schererville	Nancy Gergets	Sip Coffee House, Highland
Beth Ondas	Devil's Trumpet Brewing	Alice Nebelsiek/Nebelsiek Gallery	Strack and Van Til, Munster
Bosak Auto Group	El Taco Real	Northwest Indiana Symphony	Susan Harmening
Buona Beef, Schererville			Theater at the Center



JOIN US ON JULY 7 TO CELEBRATE LOCAL CHARITIES AT ROCKOPELLI



Rockopelli just gets better and better! Once again Rockopelli has included Planting Possibilities as one of

the local charities to benefit from their free concert. This year, it will be held on July 7 from 2–10 pm in Highland's Main Square Park. The music will be fabulous and we are hoping for beautiful weather as it always has been in the

past. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets to Main Square Park (Ridge Road and 5th St., Highland, IN) for an afternoon/evening relaxing in the summer sun and listening to great local music. A beer tent featuring ByWay Brewing, food vendors, raffles, a silent auction and kids activities will make for a festive day!

This year, we will be selling garden decorations and signs that have been

made by our Campagna Project participants and volunteers. The proceeds from our sales will directly benefit Planting Possibilities.

Heartfelt thanks to Rockopelli founder and producer Joel Ratajack, Jeff and Pam Ratajack for their work behind-the-scenes, and Rockopelli's board members and volunteers who make this event possible. We are thrilled to be a part of Rockopelli!

FINDING BEAUTIFUL GERANIUMS, MUMS AND FRIENDSHIPS AT SARKEY'S FLORIST



Our May 19th geranium sale was a bittersweet day. The "sweet" is that we

were able to enjoy the opportunity to meet and chat with so many of our supporters. However, it was "bitter" because this was our last flower sale at Sarkey's Florist in Highland. After being in business for over 50 years, the florist is closing.

Cindy, whose father started Sarkey's in the 1960's, has decided to retire and sell the building. Cindy got us underway

with our first geranium sale and has been a great supporter from the very beginning. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement!

We are moving our flower sale location to the parking lot of St. Thomas More's Weis Center, located at the corner of Calumet Avenue and Community Park Drive in Munster, Indiana.. We'll see you there for our mum sale in September!

JOINING THE MADNESS: A DIFFERENT KIND OF BRACKET

This March, we participated in a statewide fundraising initiative, "Brackets for Good". Planting Possibilities was one of sixty-four charities from across the State of Indiana chosen to participate in this "March Madness" inspired contest. Each of the eight rounds paired two similarly-sized non-profit organizations

in friendly competition to see which group could raise more money via online donations. The winners of each round continued on to the eighth and final round. Planting Possibilities played through the second round.

We thank those who contributed a total of \$930 in online donations. **A special thanks to our "Anonymous**



Donors" who donated a total of \$600! Since we cannot thank you personally, we hope you are reading this now and know how much your support means to us! Thanks to all who played "Brackets for Good" with us.

BE A PART OF OUR ANNUAL GOLF OUTING ON AUGUST 11

Organize a foursome and sign up for our annual golf outing fundraiser, Golf for Possibilities, on August 11 at Sherwood Golf in Schererville, Indiana. Registration begins at 7am, with a shotgun start at 8am. After a perfect morning of golf, come back to the clubhouse for lunch, raffles, a silent auction and prizes.

Sponsors and golfers may register by completing the form in this newsletter, at golf4possibilities.eventbrite.com, or visit plantingpossibilities.org/golf.

If you or your place of business would like to donate an auction/raffle item or sponsor at any level, please contact Paul Gergets/Event Chair, at

golf@PlantingPossibilities.org.

Come on out and golf, sponsor, or make a donation. We'd be excited to include you as a part of our long list of



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

SPONSORSHIP / DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

Platinum Sponsor (Includes one foursome), \$1500: All benefits of Gold sponsorship, plus registration for four (4) golfers.

Gold Sponsor, \$1000: Your company name/logo on the event Welcome Banner.

Silver Sponsor/Beverage Cart Sponsor, \$500: Your company name/logo on a beverage cart that will travel the course throughout the day.

Bronze Sponsor/Hole Sponsor, \$125: Your company name/logo on a sign at one of the 18 holes.



Saturday, August 11, 2018 at Scherwood Golf Course

(Rain Date: TBD)

600 East Joliet Street, Schererville, IN

Registration: 7:00 AM

Shotgun Start: 8:00 AM, followed by Luncheon

\$120 per golfer - includes 18 holes of golf with cart, 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.

Name

Phone

Email

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.

A BEAUTIFUL EVENING AT THE INDIAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER



On April 7, Planting Possibilities was an honored guest at the Indian American Cultural Center's annual fundraising gala. We were one of this year's recipients of a charitable donation made to local Northwest Indiana charities. The event highlighted Indian customs and cuisine as well as a concert featuring eastern/western jazz.

We sincerely thank the Indian American Cultural Center for reaching out and including Planting Possibilities in their efforts to build a better community for all.

(Pictured: Mary Anne Neiner, Padma Krishnan and Sister Peg Spindler, CSA, of Sojourner Truth House in Gary, IN.)

WHOLE FOODS COMMUNITY SUPPORT DAY

On Thursday, January 11, Whole Foods/Schererville's "Community Support Day" donated 5% of the day's net income to Planting Possibilities. Planting Possibilities was present throughout the event, answering shoppers' questions about our

activities and goals. The donations totaled \$3,094.

Thank you, Whole Foods in Schererville, for your commitment to our community and your ongoing generosity to Planting Possibilities.



Program Updates

NEW GROWING SEASON BRINGS NEW LESSONS AT OUR CAMPAGNA GARDENS



After a cold spring, with plenty of planning time for this growing season, our garden is well under way. The tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, melons and corn occupy most of our garden space. Our scarecrow stands guard over our tender seedlings to keep away the deer, rabbits and geese. Once again, we plan to sell our produce to Alsip Nursery for use in their Farm to Table CSA

subscription-based produce purchase plan.

Thanks to the generosity of the McComis Foundation, we have been able to fortify our poor clay soil with enough nutrients and organic materials to create a very healthy soil! We also were able to purchase temporary fencing to keep out the deer and have

installed automatic sprinklers so that Mark can spend his time with our participants on more interesting activities than dragging hoses around every day.

Speaking of fun activities, through the generosity of Cabela's and others who donated fishing poles, Fridays have become fishing day at Campagna's pond. The little blue gill, which are extremely plentiful and easily caught, are transferred to the aquaponic tank in the greenhouse where basil and lettuce is grown by the students. Additionally, we also raise our own bait in our classroom worm farm. There's a lot that goes on at Campagna to keep the residents busy while giving them a chance to learn while having fun.

Donor Highlights

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

M/M Gary Gardner	Evelyn Roberson	Providence Bank	Dr. & Mrs. Ken Obarski
Tornado's, Inc.	Dennis Hilburger	McComis Charitable Foundation	M/M Sam Van Til
Stanley Lewandowski	Dr. Bennett Leventhal	M/M Kevin O'Neill	William Ference
Daniel Moynihan	Dr. Robert Smoltz	M/M Robert Somerville	Deacon Ed Bodley
Glenn Goodwine	Dr. & Mrs. Art Branco	Kristen Meaney	Brad Hemingway
M/M Rod Pasyk	Dede Morrow	Lisa Heatherington	Mont Handley
Catherine Pfister	Dr. George Cybulski	Derek Janquart	Debra Flahaven
M/M James Hubbard	M/M Ken Braatz	CN Railroad	Carole Kozlowski
Joseph Daniele	M/M James Gingerich	M/M Jerry Yothment	Rachel Delaney
M/M Karl Dytrych	Marilyn Pajor	Rick Bogner	M/M Derek McMichael
Elaine Apple	Linda Moran	M/M Tom Kranc	Eric Neiner
Katie Esser	M/M Frank Lowry	M/M Steven Wisniewski	NWI Hindu Religious Center
M/M Steve Klaubo	Robert Brakley	Mary Jo Gorman	Constance Romano
Eileen Walters	M/M Joseph Janostak	M/M Vincent Dykstra	Sandra Porter
M/M Leonard Rathert	Susan Rousseau	M/M Paul Wheeler	Greg & Kim Ollo/Guru Systems
M/M Gene Fiegle	Karen Anderson	Barbara Gawthrop	
Amy Ooms	M/M Steve Jurczak	M/M Patrick Cronin	

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN O'NEILL, FROM KEN & ANN O'BARSKI



Brian made his home with his brother Terry and his family. He was a very kind soul, known as "Uncle Brian" to many. Brian was a fan of LeBron James and the Chicago White Sox, and a valued member of his community at Comtrea, PSR Day Program in Festus, MO. He is sorely missed by his six siblings, their spouses and his many beloved nieces and nephews.

IN HONOR OF JAMES PATRICK READY, FROM KARL & MARGE DYTRYCH

James and his wife Bobbie lived in the town James loved, Grand Beach, MI, having retired from 30 years as a mason in Chicago. He loved to golf and play cards. James leaves a legacy of four children and four grandchildren who all miss him very much.



Getting Involved

BECOMING A CLIENT

Planting Possibilities is an authorized provider of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VR). Voc Rehab provides individualized services to enhance and support people with disabilities to prepare for, obtain or retain employment. The individual works closely with a VR counselor throughout the process. Through active participation in their rehabilitation, people with disabilities achieve a greater level of independence in their workplace and living environments.

If you know a person with a disability, or if you are a person with a disability, and would like to experience the pride you can feel through working, please contact Planting Possibilities to learn how we can help you achieve your employment goal.

AN UPDATE ON OUR LAND SEARCH

We are actively searching for 20 acres of land in Lake County, Indiana, for our permanent home. Please contact us with any leads.

ARE YOU AN INDIANA STATE TAX PAYER?

Planting Possibilities is participating in the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). Donations of \$100 or more are eligible to receive a **50% Indiana State tax credit**, with Planting Possibilities still realizing the entire amount of your donation. This is a win-win situation for you as an Indiana state taxpayer and for Planting Possibilities.

Your donation to Planting Possibilities	\$100	\$1000
Indiana NAP tax credit (50%)	(\$50)	(\$500)
Indiana state tax deduction (3.4%)	(\$3.40)	(\$34)
Federal tax deduction (28%)	(\$28)	(\$280)
The actual cost of your donation	\$18.60	\$186

How it works:

Planting Possibilities was granted a limited amount of 2017 tax credits to "sell" on a first-come, first-serve basis to individuals and businesses alike. We are thrilled to announce that we have "sold" all of our 2017 allotment, but expect to receive additional credits in 2018. Stay tuned for updates on 2018 NAP purchase opportunities.

If you are interested in lowering your Indiana state tax burden for the 2018 tax year while maximizing your giving power, please consider making a substantial donation to Planting Possibilities. To qualify for participation in the purchase of NAP credits, the minimum eligible donation is \$100, while the maximum eligible donation is \$8,250. Contact us or ask your accountant for additional details.

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP

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

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY BOARD Mont Handley, James Hitz, Adj Kitt, David Wendlinger

STEERING COMMITTEE Beth Ondas, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE Meagan Yothment, Tanner Olló, Ruth Yothment, Bianca Cordova, Beth Ondas

CALENDAR

JULY 7, 2018

Rockopelli Music Festival
Main Street, Highland

AUGUST 11, 2018

Golf for Possibilities
Scherwood Golf, Highland

SEPTEMBER 15, 2018

Fall Mum + Tomato Sale
St. Thomas More, Munster



Planting Possibilities
 PO Box 1805
 Highland, IN 46322

Inside:

- >> "Golf for Possibilities" - Register now
- >> Spring and Summer Growing Updates
- >> Sept. 15 Mum Sale - NEW LOCATION

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 donating their mailing services.


© 2018 Planting Possibilities, Inc.

info@plantingpossibilities.org | 219-237-9353

WWW.PLANTINGPOSSIBILITIES.ORG |   

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

PO Box 1805 Highland, IN



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ 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 Gardeners Circle Levels

\$25	
\$50	
\$75	
\$100	
\$250	
\$500	
\$750	
\$1000	
other - \$ _____	

Please make checks payable to: Planting Possibilities



If you would like to support Planting Possibilities with a financial gift, please donate online at www.plantingpossibilities.org or complete the form below. We thank you sincerely for your support.

