



Learning, Growing and Keeping With Our Mission

As I put together this issue of the newsletter, I started to realize just how busy we really are at Planting Possibilities! All the events and activities in this newsletter have occurred since our last newsletter in November.

Our team of weekly volunteers keep our Campagna Project rolling along with year-round, bi-weekly activities for our students. A few of them also double as committee members for various other events/activities. Our behind-the-scenes support volunteers are always updating our website, keeping you informed through social media, and making sure we present ourselves professionally - electronically and in print. Our job coaches are out with clients at their places of employment, preparing them for the day when they can "fly solo". Our

volunteer Chamber of Commerce representatives are out making contact with prospective employers or corporate partners. Our board members always have Planting Possibilities in the back of their minds, coming up with new ways and means for us to connect with our community.

On top of all of this, we've started a new business this year providing mowing/landscaping services. We will also make a few appearances at Munster's Community Market over the summer and fall to test that market.

Every year we grow - literally and figuratively! This year we are trying out a couple new varieties of heirloom tomatoes, a few varieties of peppers, basil, and some different herbs, eggplant, and a selection of sweet corn. We have

two new tillers this year, so tilling was made easier. Our older students enjoy using the power equipment, and they are a big help!

We have our big goal of buying property and building our job training center - that will take time to accomplish. But on our way to that larger goal and as we reach smaller milestones along the way, we define Planting Possibilities as an organization truly dedicated to improving the lives of adults with autism and other developmental disabilities right here in Lake County, Indiana.

We are pleased and humbled that you are partners with us on our journey!

Mary Anne Neiner
President, Planting Possibilities

Planting Possibilities in the Community

ENJOYING A CUP OF TEA AT THE TEA PARTY



May 5 was a beautiful day to view Lake Michigan from the Hammond Marina as we sipped tea, laughed with friends and enjoyed a lovely afternoon at our Friendship Garden Tea. Graciously hosted by Denyse and George Buck, our tea party was attended by 100 women, all there to support Planting Possibilities while enjoying an afternoon with friends.

Dr. Louise Chickie-Wolfe was our guest speaker. She shared her experience with the Munster Junior Historical Society and their collaboration with the last working farm in Munster. Thank you, Dr. Chickie-Wolfe!

We thank Denyse, her team, and the Hammond Port Authority for hosting such a nice event at a beautiful venue.

INTERN JAMIE

This past semester Jamie Rex, a senior Communications/Public Relations student at Purdue Northwest, chose Planting Possibilities as her Public Relations class project.

Jamie wrote several press releases and feature articles for us, recorded a radio commercial for our geranium sale and did some general



marketing-related work for us over the semester. She was mentored by our IT specialist, Ruth Yothment.

Thank you, Jamie, for bringing a fresh perspective to Planting Possibilities. We are so happy that you are staying on as part of our team!

Congratulations on your graduation!

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors: Judy Allen, Joseph Daniele, Kris Kucer Dombrowski, Karl Dytrych, Marge Dytrych, Paul Gergets, Mark Neiner, Mary Anne Neiner, Carol Wachala. **Professional Advisory Board:** Rich Christakes, Mont Handley, Brad Hemingway, James Hitz, David Wendlinger. **Steering Committee:** Beth Ondas, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment. **Communications Committee:** Bianca Cordova, Beth Ondas, Jamie Rex, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment.

FUN NIGHT WITH THE KNIGHTS

Marian Council 3840 of The Knights of Columbus hosted "An Evening of Comedy Sketches" to benefit Planting Possibilities on January 19 and 20 at their event hall in Cedar Lake. Rob Kranc and his cast of characters (literally!) had the house in stitches as they revived old Vaudeville routines.



We sincerely thank Rob Kranc and the Marian Council Knights of Columbus for supporting our work.

THE BILL & KALI SHOW

Mark and Mary Anne Neiner had the pleasure of speaking about Planting Possibilities on two podcasts with local hosts Bill & Kali. You can listen to the podcasts on "The Bill and Kali Show" Facebook page. It was fun making new friends and telling more people about what Planting Possibilities is all about! Links to the podcasts can be found on our website under the "Newsletters and Media" tab and on our YouTube channel.

WHOLE FOODS

Whole Foods Market in Schererville held its quarterly Community Support Day on April 18, and 5% of their sales that day was donated to Planting Possibilities - a total donation of \$3450.

Thank you Whole Foods for your continued support!

MOWING POSSIBILITIES

Planting Possibilities started a lawn mowing service this spring. With the donation of an SUV to carry our workers, the purchase of a couple new lawnmowers (thanks to Tom Bannon for his Facebook birthday fundraiser) and a

trailer (financed by last year's Tea Party), we have two employees mowing lawns one day a week. We are starting slow and hope to gear up to three days a week for the 2020 mowing season.

Watch for us around town!



A CHILLY GERANIUM SALE



Once again, we weathered chilly weather for our May 11 geranium sale. But, with our new sale location on Calumet Avenue in Munster, our higher visibility helped counteract the unseasonably cool weather. As always, though, the flowers were

beautiful and helped get everyone in the mood for summer!

Thanks to all who support our flower sales. You are our sunshine on cloudy flower sale days!

GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES

**Saturday, August 10, 2019
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.

Donor Highlights

These generous donors help us accomplish our mission on a daily basis and allow us to prepare for an expanded future. Thank you for being a part of Planting Possibilities!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Tom Alexander	Comfort Roast Coffee House, Whiting	Knights of Columbus Marian Council 3840	Karen Neiner	Janet Rettig
Judy Allen	Devil's Trumpet, Merrillville	Tom and Jayne Kranc	Cathy Nunn	Riah Salon, St. John
Alsip Nursery, St. John	Karl and Marge Dytrych	Chuck and Diane Kowalski	NWI Symphony	Evelyn Roberson
Karen Anderson	El Taco Real, Hammond	Lady's Gourmet Popcorn, Griffith	Kappa-Kappa-Kappa Hammond Alpha Associates	Connie Sena
Elaine Apple	Kathleen Esser	Dr. Bennett Leventhal	Kappa-Kappa-Kappa Gamma Nu Chapter	Dr. Robert Smoltz
Lena Apple and Cathy Kimball	Federal Signal	Levin Eye Care Center, Whiting	Greg and Kim Ollo/Guru Systems	Bob and Debbie Somerville
Raymond and Carol Bakker	Debra Flahaven	Little Italy Restaurant, Dyer	Kevin and Mary Ellen O'Neill	Starbucks, Schererville
Tom Bannon/Carol Celeste	Keith and Faye Gaiser	Lost Marsh Golf Course, Hammond	Marilyn Pajor	Strack and Van Til
Susan Bannon	Gamba Restaurant, Merrillville	Linda Moran	Mark and Mary Pallok	Texas Roadhouse, Dyer
Beecher Manor	Giovanni's Restaurant, Munster	Kaaren Mashura	Mary Ann Patterson	Theatre at the Center, Munster
BMWC Constructors	Glenn Goodwine	Pamela Masson	Violet Patterson	Towle Theater, Hammond
Bosak Motor Group, Highland	Sarah Graddy	The McComis Foundation	Pepino's Italian Restaurant, Schererville	Donna Utley
Dr. and Mrs. Art Branco	Steve and Amy Hadley	Steve Monroe/Anita Pickens	Catherine Pfister	Wheel of Fortune
Centier Bank, Highland	Susan Harmening	Diane L. Morrow	Providence Bank	Patricia Wheeler
Jerome and Jo Ann Chandler	Amy Hemingway	Munster Garden Club	Carolyn and Leonard Rathert	Whole Foods Market, Schererville
Andre and Michelle Ciucki	Dennis Hilsburger	Richard and Winnie Mycka		Ruth and Jerry Yothment
CN Railroad	Steve and Luanne Jurczak			
Patrick and Kathy Cronin	Al Kalemba			

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM



GAIL URBAN | Gail Urban was a kind and gentle soul who was very involved with the special needs community in Northwest Indiana. She worked as a direct service provider for Respite Care Services, working extensively with adults with disabilities. Gail was a ball of energy whose enthusiasm and kind spirit rubbed off on everyone around her. You are missed, Gail.



KEN GUST | Ken Gust, of Munster, spent much of his life mentoring youth sports. He coached baseball, umpired Little League baseball, and was a basketball and volleyball referee. He also enjoyed golfing and playing pinochle. He was an educator by profession, and truly an educator at heart. Ken was a loving husband, father and grandfather. Carolyn and Leonard Rathert offer Ken's wife, Susan, their sincere condolences.

We also offer our condolences to the families of Janet Lowry and Patrick Cronin, supporters of Planting Possibilities.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Communications - Steering Committee member Beth Ondas and her husband Scott on the birth of their baby boy Trevor! Much happiness and best wishes to the Ondas Family!!

How You Can Help

SUPPORT US WITH AMAZON SMILE



You can donate Amazon's money to Planting Possibilities every time you make a purchase through Amazon.

AmazonSmile is operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. When you shop at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

How it works: Visit www.smile.amazon.com to register. Select Planting Possibilities as your charity of choice. Each time you shop through Amazon, sign in with smile.amazon.com and 0.5% of any purchase will be credited to Planting Possibilities. *As of May 2019, we have earned Amazon Smile contributions of nearly \$300!* Thank you for taking this opportunity to help us!

DO YOU PAY INDIANA STATE INCOME TAX?

Planting Possibilities is participating in the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). **This means that every donation of \$100 or more, made between July 1 and December 31, 2019, is eligible for a 50% Indiana State tax credit.** Planting Possibilities still realizes the entire amount of your donation! This is a win-win situation for you as an Indiana state taxpayer and for Planting Possibilities. You do not need to itemize your federal taxes to get your 50% Indiana tax rebate. But, if you do itemize, your savings are even greater.

Examples (based on 28% tax bracket; varies per your situation)

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)
Actual cost of your donation	\$18.60	\$186

Planting Possibilities has a limited amount of tax credits to "sell" - \$4274 (for maximum donations of \$8,548 to receive the 50% tax credit). Therefore, we must offer these credits at a first-come, first-serve basis to individuals and businesses alike.

Minimum eligible donation is \$100, maximum eligible donation is \$6,000. We must reach 60% of our allotted tax credits by December 31, 2019.

Please email maryanne@plantingpossibilities.org or call Mark at 219-237-9353 with any questions.

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.

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.



DATES TO REMEMBER

AUGUST 10, 2019

Golf for Possibilities
Scherwood Golf

AUGUST 12, 2019

Chipotle Dine to Donate
Highland | 4pm - 8pm

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

Fall Mum Sale
St. Thomas More



Planting Possibilities
PO Box 1805
Highland, IN 46322

Inside:



- >> An update on our growing season
- >> Golf for Possibilities: August 10
- >> Fall Mum Sale: September 14

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.

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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 Address: _____

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.