



GROWING... GROWING... GROWN!

Another year of growing! Not only have we grown vegetables in our greenhouse and garden, but we've grown as an organization.

We are happy to share that in the last few months, we have helped several of our clients obtain their first part-time jobs!

Their path to employment is different than others. They need help getting their foot in the door. As a CARF Certified Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab) provider, Planting Possibilities recruits local employers who agree to have our clients "shadow" their employees to discover what potential jobs entail.

Some employers hire our clients to work part time at their business. Then, our job coach accompanies the client to their job and works alongside them to demonstrate

what is expected in the workplace.

Our job coach starts developing the fundamental behavioral skills our clients need to be successful at their new jobs. Appropriate work behavior can include subtle skills that our clients may not have noticed, such as being on-time and dressed appropriately, staying on-task even if something else seems more interesting, following instructions from a supervisor even if that task isn't the preferred task, or limiting breaks to the assigned schedule. Once the basic skills are developed, our clients can increase their work hours and start to develop skills for specific tasks.

We are still working toward the goal to have our own property where we can teach job skills to adults with autism and other

developmental disabilities. In the meantime, we are very thankful for the local employers who allow us to train our clients at their place of business.

There is a road to success. We are honored to walk down that road with people who otherwise may not have had the opportunity to go there.

We are proud of our work and humbled that you continue to support our mission. With the new year fast approaching, we can look back and know that, together, we've had a successful year.

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy Holiday,

Mary Anne Neiner
President, Planting Possibilities

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY

RECAPPING OUR SUMMER EVENTS AND PREVIEWING OUR UPCOMING PROGRAMS

ROCKOPELLI MUSIC FESTIVAL

Despite a light morning rain, Saturday, August 13 turned into a perfect day for Rockopelli. A combination of vendors, kids activities, hot air balloon rides and live music brought out a fun crowd to enjoy the evening in Highland's Main Square.

For the fifth consecutive year, Rockopelli's producer, Joel Ratajack, brought together this music festival to support Northwest Indiana charities. Rockopelli

generously donated \$5,000 raised from this event to Planting Possibilities. We are deeply appreciative to Joel Ratajack, the Ratajack family, Jonathan Pasyk, Bianca Cordova and the entire Rockopelli team, as well as the bands that generously donate their talent. We can't wait for the day when we can commemorate our partnership with Rockopelli by incorporating their name into our future botanical garden!



ANNUAL MUM SALE

Although September felt more like summer than fall, we held our annual mum sale at Sarkey's Florist in Highland. It's always a fun day to visit with you and choose exactly the right color mums for your gardens or porches. Thank you to all who support our flower sales. We appreciate your generosity and hope you enjoyed adding fall color to your yard!

GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES

After enjoying a hearty breakfast, fifty golfers loaded clubs, goody bags and cigars onto their carts and teed off! They played 18 holes at Scherwood Golf Course, then met up again at the clubhouse for lunch, a silent auction and prizes. Prizes were also awarded for the longest drive, longest putt, closest to the pin and to the foursome with the lowest score. From our oldest golfer (94 years old) to our youngest golfer (26 years old), everyone enjoyed the day. Thank

you to our golfers and our sponsors. Many golfers took home some very nice door prizes and auction items. The Cornejo brothers, fired by their love of sports memorabilia, really cleaned up at the silent auction tables! Whoever went home with the autographed picture of Chicago Cub Kris Bryant is really happy now, too. Thank you also to the Gergets family and the golf committee for organizing a fun and successful event.





CHILI COOK-OFF

For the fourth year in a row, Planting Possibilities participated in the Munster Chamber of Commerce Touchdown Chili Challenge. Once again our guest chefs were Bob Crist and Dave Lerner, while Eric Neiner and Joe Hemingway hosted our guests and served the chili. This year, we are very proud to say that we won First Place judge's award for our smoked white chicken chili with heirloom tomatoes! Thanks to Bob and Dave for cooking for us again this year and creating the award-winning recipe - also to Brad Hemingway for our award winning decorations.

AN UPDATE ON OUR CAMPAGNA PROJECT

TENDING THE GARDEN



This was our third year at Campagna Academy, and we had another productive season in the classroom and in the garden. We're excited to continue our horticultural education program for youths with autism and other developmental disabilities at our learning greenhouse into the new year. About 12-15 students attend the year-round, semi-weekly class.

We fenced in our garden this year so we didn't have to share our veggies with the local wildlife. Our garden was smaller, but we grew a more diverse crop. We planted our usual heirloom tomatoes, a variety of peppers, sweet corn, eggplant, pole beans, sugar snap peas, cauliflower, cucumbers and hops. After we picked ripe produce from the garden, we used the produce in different recipes to show our students how to use their garden's harvest.

In our greenhouse, we had a hydroponic garden where we grew lettuce, basil and celery. We even put a few bluegill in our water tank that the boys caught while they fished in Campagna's pond!

This past spring Wm. Walters Excavating, Schererville, graded the

entire garden area to improve drainage. Dyer Construction Company delivered four semi loads of beautiful topsoil from Lowell. Mr. Melvin Lolkema graciously plowed in the leaves and topsoil. The Schererville Public Works Department continues to bring truck loads of leaves to add organic matter to the existing barren clay. After this year's harvest, a cover crop of crimson clover, cereal rye and buckwheat was planted to add organic matter and a little nitrogen. Finally, based on laboratory soil tests from samples taken by our students, we applied 800 pounds of 6-24-24 fertilizer to alleviate the shortage of potassium and phosphorus. The students are tilling in the fertilizer this fall while the soil is dry. Just because the crop is in, the work is not done!

We are very grateful to Wm. Walters Excavating, Dyer Construction, the Town of Schererville and Mr. Melvin Lolkema for helping us build the long-term health of our garden. We also thank The McComis Charitable Foundation for the financial support that allowed us to purchase fencing, fertilizer and seeds. As always, we are thankful for the guidance of our horticulturist Jim Hitz and for the hard work of our dedicated volunteers who, week after week, help our students take pride in the fruits of their labor.



THIS SPRING: SOMETHING IS BREWING...

FUNDRAISER AT BYWAY BREWING

Save the date for **Saturday, April 22, 2017** for a fun night out with Planting Possibilities. For something a little different, we'll shake the winter doldrums off in the brew room at Byway Brewing in Hammond!

This fun evening will feature music, heavy appetizers and craft brews. Watch Facebook for more information. Invitations will be in the mail in March. We hope you will join us for this fun event!



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

WE THANK THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS AND COMPANIES FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT

AAC Orthodontics, Dr. John Lisac	Family Fun Center	Innsbrook Country Club	Providence Bank & Trust
Marian & Donald Adamczyk	Dr. George Cybulski	Intrigue Salon - Dyer	Evelyn Roberson
Alsip Home and Nursery	Dante's House of Pizza /Danny Z's	J & M Golf	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rodriguez
American Community Bank	Doc's Smokehouse and Craft Bar	Cookie and Joe Janostak	Tom & Kay Rogan
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Anytime Fitness - Schererville	Fair Oaks Farms	Leo's Garden Center	Al Saltanovitz
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Baseball Card Exchange	Gene & Brenda Fiegle	Terri Livingston	Scherwood Golf Club
Best-Tronics	Paul Gergets	Luxury Nail and Spa	Bonnie Serna
Paul & Linda Biegel	James and Catherine Gingerich	Magic Salt of NWI/Mike Anderson	Skyzone
Michael & Julie Blanford	Patrick & Carolyn Gorman	Eric & Kristina Miller	Robert & Deb Somerville
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Chicago White Sox	Hooters - Schererville	Perry & Beth Palmer	Jerry & Ruth Yothment
Julie Click	Horseshoe Casino	Violet Patterson	Rose Yothment
Crown Brick Supply	Houlihans	Pet Haven Pet Shop	Beatrice Zeilenga
Crown Point	Indianapolis Colts	Catherine Pfister	

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.

SPECIAL DONATIONS



IN MEMORY OF ANNA BIANCARDI PULLEN

Anna Biancardi Pullen was a loving and devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend. She was one of seven siblings in a family that moved to America after WW2 to live the American Dream. She will be fondly remembered as the one who always wanted to hold the babies. Anna is remembered in memorial donations to Planting Possibilities from the following individuals:

Mike and Carmella Rowe

Evelyn Roberson

Jim and Alexis Dedelow

Mike (Jr.) and Kerri Rowe

Patrick and Cathy
McAndrews

Donna Dunn

MARRIAGE ANNOUNCEMENT

In honor of the new bride, Mrs. Beth Sciackitano Ondas!
- From Susan Reister

Editor's note: Beth is a Planting Possibilities Steering Committee Volunteer and has been very generous of her time and talents to our team. Congratulations and wishing you a happy marriage, Beth!



HOLIDAY WISH LIST

We plan to expand our garden in 2017, and we need your help. Here are a few items from our holiday wish list:

- 5 Garden Rakes
- 5 Garden Hoes
- 1 Tractor

If you can help, you can buy on Amazon with the link below:

Amazon Wish List

<http://bit.ly/plantingpossibilities>

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP

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STEERING COMMITTEE

Beth Sciackitano Ondas, Meagan Yothment, Ruth Yothment

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Meagan Yothment, Tanner Olo, Ruth Yothment, Bianca Cordova, Beth Sciackitano Ondas



Planting Possibilities
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 Highland, IN 46322

INSIDE...

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- >> Our Clients' New Jobs
- >> Campagna Program Update
- >> Spring Fundraiser (April 22)

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


P.O. Box 1805 Highland, IN

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Please make checks payable to: Planting Possibilities



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.