

Adapting During The Current Crisis

Well, we've made it to summer. What a long, strange trip it's been!

Due to the pandemic, our Planting Possibilities horticulture classes stopped meeting in early March – right when we had hundreds of vegetable plants starting to grow under grow lights in our classroom, right when they needed our students and volunteers to tend to them every day. Then, suddenly students and volunteers were banned from campus activities.

Thanks to a skeleton crew of devoted volunteers, we kept the plants growing and got them planted in the garden the first week in June. Except for having to re-plant the corn crop a second time due to very wet ground, everything seems to be growing on schedule! As the campus lockdown ends and students are coming back to the classroom and the garden this summer, we

will continue to tend our garden and keep things growing.

Our newest endeavor "Mowing Possibilities", our mowing service, was seriously impacted by the lock-down this spring. Thanks to Mark, our mowing supervisor, all of our mowing customers' lawns were taken care of until our mowing team could be re-assembled and work as a team again. By mid-June, we were back to work and anxious to get back into a mowing routine.

One big disappointment was that we had to cancel our Tea Party that was to have been held in April. We missed the opportunity to spend a couple hours at the beautiful Hammond Marina overlooking Lake Michigan, sipping tea and snacking on sweet and savory treats. Next year...

We also retooled our geranium sale and our upcoming golf outing to accommodate the

current health crisis. We are excited to open up our Golf for Possibilities VIRTUAL outing to friends and supporters wherever they reside! See the insert for golf outing details.

Perhaps the point of this is to let you know that we, like so many of you, have not had a great year so far. We've had to forgo or alter our fundraising efforts and scale back our job training program. We will go forward, gear up and get back up to speed as soon we can. We are very grateful to our ongoing supporters and sponsors, but we know that many of you are also struggling this year. We wish you a speedy recovery from this year's setbacks, and hope all of you were able to stay healthy and safe.

Onward and Upward!

Mary Anne Neiner

President, Planting Possibilities

Planting Possibilities in the Community

SPRING SALE: DELIVERING 650 PLANTS TO ALMOST 100 HOMES

Our re-imagined May geranium sale was a big success! Because of social restrictions, we chose to go to a pre-order and delivery format. Instead of mailing out postcards, all of our advertising was done by email and social media. (If we don't have your email address, and you don't follow social media, email us at admin@plantingpossibilities.org so we can put you in our email database.)

Our fabulous volunteers made no-contact deliveries of about 650 plants (tomato plants, pepper plants and geraniums) to almost 100 homes in Lake County.

Special thanks to Ruth Yothment for her many, many hours of logistical planning that made this all work!

'DIME AT A TIME' RETURNS TO WHOLE FOODS SCHERERVILLE



Shop at the Schererville Whole Foods Store until September 1, bring your own bag AND bag your groceries.

Whole Foods will donate 10 cents to Planting Possibilities for each bag that you re-use at the check-out.

DATES TO REMEMBER

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30

Dime at a Time at registers
Whole Foods | Schererville, IN

AUGUST 1 - AUGUST 16

Virtual Golf for Possibilities
Golf ANYWHERE | 18 holes or minigolf

SEPTEMBER 12

Rockopelli
Central Park | Griffith, IN

SEPTEMBER (Tentative)

Mum and Tomato Sale
TBD

UPDATE ON THE SEPTEMBER MUM AND TOMATO SALE



At the time that this newsletter goes to press, we are still uncertain how we will handle the September mum sale.

Our decision will be based on the health situation in early August.

Again, please make sure we have your email address so you don't miss out on our

beautiful mums this year – no matter which way we go with the sale.



ROCKOPELLI IS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT GRIFFITH'S CENTRAL PARK



Rockopelli, an annual music festival that supports Planting Possibilities, is planned for Saturday, September 12 at Central Park in downtown Griffith, Indiana.

Over the past 6 years, Rockopelli has donated over \$45,000 to Planting Possibilities. They are

a big part of our success.

Come out on September 12 to listen to local musicians and to shop from some unique local vendors.



PLANTING POSSIBILITIES IS A VOCATIONAL REHAB PROVIDER

CARF CERTIFIED - SERVING LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

- Over 82 clients served since 2012 *
 - Life skills training on task completion, soft skills, and project planning
 - 80% success rate for job-seeking or academic track clients (initial placement/subsequent employment or college/trade school enrollment) **
 - Certified one-on-one direct service professional job coaches
 - Special needs client staffed lawn service micro-business
 - On-site vocational garden and greenhouse
 - Certified staff horticulturalist/twice weekly client education sessions
 - Opportunities for social interaction through Special Olympics and other sponsored events
- * 68 Campagna clients, 14 VR employment services
** 20% switched providers

Thank You To Our Donors + How You Can Help

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

Alex and Dorothy Saltanovitz	Central Indiana Community Foundation Philanthropic Fund	James and Karen Jacobsen	Leslie Toner	Dr. Robert Smoltz
Allan Kalemba	BMW Constructors	James Landowski	Marilyn Pajor	Rodney and Pam Pasyk
Alsip Home and Nursery	CN Railroad	Janis Rubino	Michelle Nielson	Ron and Noreen Bickel
ArcelorMittal Matching Funds	Chuck Turman	Jerry and Ruth Yothment	Munster Garden Club	Sally Fairbanks
Dr. and Mrs. Art Branco	Dennis Hilburger	Joe and Carole Janusonis	McComis Trust	Sonia Malo-Alvarez
Beth Ondas	Donna Gerlach	Joe and Cookie Janostak	Network for Good	Steve and Amy Hadley
Bill and Kali Show	Elaine Apple	Karl and Marge Dytrych	Patricia Wheeler	Susan Rousseau
Carrie Corriere	Evelyn Roberson	Keith and Faye Gaiser	Paul and Joyce Gergets	Tornado's, Inc.
Catherine Pfister	Federal Signal	Kevin and Mary Ellen O'Neill	Providence Bank	Tom and Jayne Kranc
Cathy Kimball	Gene and Brenda Fiegle	Irene McKinnie	Richard Bogner	Tom and Lynn Alexander
Centier Bank	Dr. George Cybulski	Leonard and Carolyn Rathert	Richard and Debra Flahaven	

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

MADELYN SPILLER

In loving memory of Madelyn Spiller. Madelyn earned her bachelor's degree in her forties, after which she spent many years as a teacher's aide at Buffalo Grove High School. She had a witty and sarcastic

sense of humor. Her dieting advice was, "If it tastes good, spit it out". Madelyn's husband Paul, their four children, 9 grandchildren, and 3 great grandchildren will miss this delightful woman, as will her dear friend Marilyn Pajor.

KAREN "TOOTS" MOSKALICK

Karen "Toots" Moskalick devoted her life to

her family. She enjoyed cooking, the beach and activities with her three children and five grandchildren, always with her husband, Steve, at her side. Their devotion to each other was amazing and strong to the very end. Toots often came to our flower sales. Beth Ondas wishes Toots' daughters the smiles that loving memories will bring them.

DO YOU PAY INDIANA STATE INCOME TAX?

Planting Possibilities participates in the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). **Donations of \$100 or more, made between July 1 and December 31, 2020, are 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 receive your 50% Indiana tax rebate. If you do itemize, your savings are even greater,

Planting Possibilities is limited to \$6,241 in tax credits to "sell". Therefore, we must offer

these credits on a first-come, first-serve basis. Any business or individual that pays Indiana State income tax is eligible. \$300/\$600 of your donation will also qualify for a federal tax deduction through the federal CARES Act. Please email maryanne@plantingpossibilities.org or call Mark at 219-237-9353 with any questions.

A NEW FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVE TO DONATE

On March 27, 2020 Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help provide economic relief to nonprofits affected by the coronavirus. The bill makes a new federal

tax deduction available for up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 for married couples) for charitable contributions in 2020. AGAIN, YOU DO NOT NEED TO ITEMIZE YOUR FEDERAL TAXES TO RECEIVE THIS TAX

DEDUCTION. Any donation to Planting Possibilities, including donations made since January 1, 2020, counts toward the \$300/\$600 cap.

PLANTING POSSIBILITIES LEADERSHIP **Board of Directors:** Judy Allen, Joseph Daniele, Kris Kucer Dombrowski, Karl Dytrych, Marge Dytrych, Paul Gergets, Mark Neiner, Mary Anne Neiner, Bev Strickland, 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.

VIRTUAL

GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES

August 1-16, 2020

Golf at the 18 Hole Course of your choice

Play a Round of Miniature Golf



\$25 per golfer (18 hole)



\$10 per golfer (mini - golf)

** Course fees NOT included

Sponsorships Available

Text/email your scorecard to 219 - 237 - 9353 or

golf@plantingpossibilities.org

All proceeds benefit



ONLINE registration at: plantingpossibilities219.square.site

or mail form with payment to:

Planting Possibilities

Attn: Golf for 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* (\$1000)

Gold (\$500)

Silver (\$250)

Bronze (\$100)

Friend

*Platinum sponsorship includes a golf foursome registration

Non-Contact Ways to Help Us Grow in 2020

GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES GOES VIRTUAL

Because of these uncertain times, we are changing things up and hosting a VIRTUAL golf outing!

After making a donation to Planting Possibilities to enter the “virtual” outing, you will golf at your favorite 18 hole golf course - ANYWHERE - between August 1 and August 16, then send your score card to us via text or email.

All scores will be handicapped based on the course you played and the Peoria handicap

system. Prizes will be awarded for several categories of golfers.

To add another level to the fun, there will be a special category for those who want to play 18 holes of miniature golf!

While we will definitely miss the fun, conversations, and friendly competition at our usual outing, we plan to be together again in August 2021.

We hope that you will invite your friends for

a round, spread the message about our mission, and enjoy the 19th hole while supporting Planting Possibilities.

Online and downloadable registration and sponsorship information for the 2020 Golf for Possibilities outing is posted on our website, www.plantingpossibilities.org/golf, and on our social media channels.

BACK TO SCHOOL OR ESSENTIALS - SHOP AMAZON SMILE AND SUPPORT PLANTING POSSIBILITIES



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

AmazonSmile offers the same products, prices, and shopping features as

Amazon.com, and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Visit www.smile.amazon.com to register, and 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 2020, we have earned Amazon Smile contributions of over \$380. Thank you for taking this opportunity to help us!

START A FACEBOOK PERSONAL FUNDRAISER AND SUPPORT NONPROFITS - DID YOU KNOW?



Are you a Facebook user? Planting Possibilities is a registered non-profit that is eligible to receive donations through the Facebook

personal fundraiser program. On your Facebook page, scroll to find FUNDRAISERS and tap RAISE MONEY. Select

NONPROFIT/CHARITY and Planting Possibilities as the selected charity. Complete the details on the screen, tap CREATE, and your personal fundraiser will broadcast to your friend network.

Over \$1500 has been donated to Planting Possibilities in 2020 alone through this

program from the generous friends of Fr. Mike Yadron, Tom Fairbanks, Troy Smith, Joe Tolnai, Tonya Johnson, and Sara Hillman.

100% of donations generated through Facebook personal fundraisers are transmitted to Planting Possibilities *without* transaction fees .

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.

BECOME A CLIENT OF PLANTING POSSIBILITIES

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.





Planting Possibilities
PO Box 1805
Highland, IN 46322

Read Inside:

- >> Golf for Possibilities - with a twist!
- >> 1st Quarter Recap
- >> Flower Sale Updates

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.

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admin@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.

