



All photos from 2019.

Hope to See YOU Next Year

We've really missed seeing all of you this year!

There wasn't a tea party, so we weren't able to spend an afternoon dressed in our Sunday Best, enjoying lunch and tea overlooking beautiful Lake Michigan. Both our geranium and mum sales, although very successful, were pre-order only with free no-contact delivery, so we didn't get to visit with you while you picked out your flowers.

Our golf outing was virtual, so we missed the day socializing with our golfers, too.

Hopefully, next year will be better and we will be able to see you all again at our fun events.

One group of people that we did see throughout the year, though, were our volunteers. They are the faces that our clients know, that our students in our horticulture class know, that local business owners and managers know as Planting Possibilities.

Our volunteers do so many things for us: they manage our website and social media sites, help our students in our weekly

classes, supervise our mowing crew, manage our fundraising events, and go to Chamber of Commerce events to represent us in the business community. In this newsletter, you will meet many of the folks who ARE Planting Possibilities.

As we end 2020, my wish is that we will soon be able to enjoy the company of our families and friends anytime and anywhere we want - and maybe even hug people again!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy 2021,

Mary Anne Neiner

Planting Possibilities in the Community

VIRTUAL GOLF OUTING

Golf for Possibilities went virtual this year and included a miniature golf option in addition to the usual 18 holes of regulation golf.

To join our virtual outing, golfers played a course of their choice and sent in their scores. All scores were handicapped and awards were mailed to three golfers with the lowest net scores.

Lowest net score winner was Terry Metz of Schererville, Indiana. Terry received a certificate for a round of golf for 4 golfers at Sandy Pines Golf Course in DeMotte, Indiana. Second place

was awarded to golfer Brian LeRoy of Coal City, Illinois. Brian's award was a foursome at Innsbrook Country Club in Merrillville. Third place went to Joe O'Brien of Crown Point, Indiana. Joe received a foursome at Turkey Creek Golf Course in Merrillville.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped with this virtual event. Thank you to those who organized, solicited donations, and tabulated scores and to the golfers, sponsors, and donors who made this event a success.



Archive photo from 2019.

Thanks to our very generous event sponsors:

Aaron and Sarah Graddy
Bob and Deb Somerville
Ron and Noreen Bickel
Paul and Joyce Gergets

Thank you to our donors:

Ed Bodley
Joe Daniele/Pepino's Italian Restaurant
Innsbrook Country Club
Mark Lindsey
Dr. John Lisac
Dede Morrow
Oak Partners – Joe Starkey and Michael Hadt
Sandy Pines Golf Course

Larry Sut
Turkey Creek Golf Course
Chris Yothment

Planting Possibilities in the Community

PLANT AND FLOWER SALES

This year our geranium and mum sales shifted to pre-order only with free delivery to the purchaser's doorstep. As in the past, the flowers were high-quality and beautiful. Our volunteers sorted the flowers, determined the delivery routes, and delivered the orders. We are very grateful to all who support our flower sales and

we hope you enjoyed the beauty of the flowers throughout the season.

Hopefully by May 2021 we will again be able to host our on-site geranium sale with a delivery option. The geranium and heirloom vegetable plant sale is scheduled for May 15. Watch your email and social media for information.



Archive photo from 2019.

MOWING POSSIBILITIES IS LOOKING TO EXPAND



Archive photo from 2019.

Our mowing business needs more lawns to mow! If you live in Munster, Highland, Dyer, Schererville or St. John and are looking for a lawn mowing service, consider Mowing Possibilities. We are competitively priced. Most importantly, we employ three young men who know how to mow, but who have never held jobs before. They are accompanied by a supervisor/job coach who

encourages the development of good work habits that they will be able to take on to future jobs.

We want to expand our services to two days per week. Additionally, we are also looking for a new supervisor/job coach. This position is paid, so if you are an adult or know someone who would like a part-time job supervising our mowing crew, please contact us.

WANT TO REDUCE YOUR INDIANA STATE TAX BILL?

THIS IS A WIN-WIN FOR YOU AS AN INDIANA TAX PAYER AND FOR PLANTING POSSIBILITIES.

Planting Possibilities participates in the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). Every donation of \$100 or more (maximum limit of \$3,000) made between July 1 and December 31, 2020, is eligible for a 50% Indiana State tax credit.

Planting Possibilities realizes the entire amount of your donation! If you donate \$100, you receive \$50 tax credit; donate \$500 receives \$250, \$1000 donation realizes a \$500 credit! PLUS - \$300/\$600 of your donation qualifies for a federal tax deduction through the federal CARES Act.

Planting Possibilities is limited to \$6,241 in tax credits to "sell"; however, we only have \$2900 left.

We run out of credit every year, 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.

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

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Mike Anderson
Elaine Apple
ArcelorMittal Give Boldly
Ray and Carol Bakker
The Bill and Kali Show
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Art and Marilyn Branco

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Catherine Pfister
Sam and Margaret Pruzin
Jerry and Ruth Yothment
Whole Foods Schererville



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

Meet our Volunteers

Our regular volunteers are the glue that holds us together. Here are some of the generous, kind-hearted, talented people who make Planting Possibilities so wonderful!



All photos from 2019.

Mark Neiner: Mark is our Executive Director. He volunteers about 30 hours per week, planning, planting and tending our ½ acre garden; planning, teaching or helping out at our weekly classes; supervising/job coaching our mowing crew; and managing our Vocational Rehabilitation program.

Ruth Yothment: Ruth is our IT Specialist and the organizational brain behind the scenes of almost every event. Ruth helps edit and produce the newsletter, keeps our social media up to date, and assists in planning events and fundraisers. Ruth also represents Planting Possibilities at the Munster and Schererville Chambers of Commerce.

Meagan Yothment: Meagan built and maintains our website, edits and compiles our newsletter, and guides our branding and marketing presence. Her creative talents can be seen in most of our online and print publications, too.

Beth Ondas: As with Ruth, Beth has been involved with Planting Possibilities since our inception. She organized our first golf outings, helps edit our newsletters, and

spreads the word on social media shares.

Jamie Rex: Jamie came to us as a college intern for a PR class assignment. She has stayed with us and helps with press releases and other public relations tasks.

Jim Hitz: Jim is our horticulture consultant. He advises us about our crops and how to care for our garden, including keeping our soil healthy and productive. Jim teaches our weekly horticulture classes and is a bottomless well of support for our mission.

Judy Allen: Judy is on our Board of Directors and is also a weekly volunteer at our horticulture classes. Judy is a retired behavior consultant and a Master Gardener. What a great combo for Planting Possibilities! She has been with us for several years and is a steadfast presence in our program.

Carol Wachala: Carol, a retired Special Education teacher who loves gardening, is also a Board Member. She is one of our long-term, dependable volunteers who our students look forward to seeing every week.

Kathy Lieberman: Kathy is the creative, crafty one in our program! She can make something pretty out of almost anything, then shows our students how to make it, too. She is always the kind and friendly face that our students can depend on seeing in class.

Sarah Graddy: Sarah is another creative force for our classes. She is a former teacher and currently runs a weekly craft class with our female students. Fun fact about Sarah: Sarah is from Nebraska. As a young woman, she volunteered at Father Flannigan's Boys Town in Boys Town, Nebraska.

Joe Janostak: Joe also volunteers at our horticulture classes. Joe has shown our students how to can pickles from the garden's cucumbers and enjoys sharing other skills with the students.

Larry Sut: Larry is a hands-on kind of guy perfect for our program! His skills are a good example to our students about the value of hard work.

Marge Dytrych: Marge works as a surgical nurse. In addition to being on our Board, she helps at our

weekly horticulture classes and at our fundraising events as her work schedule permits. Marge is the mother of an adult son with autism, giving her a special insight into the lives of our students.

Bill Ference: Bill is our representative to the Crossroads Chamber of Commerce. His effervescent personality and devotion to Planting Possibilities' mission makes him our perfect "front man" with local businesses.

Shraddha Parikh: Shraddha recently earned her Masters degree in Social Work and has transitioned from a weekly volunteer to a job coach and Vocational Rehabilitation representative. We are very pleased to welcome her to our professional staff.

And, of course, our **Board of Directors** is always working to advance the cause of Planting Possibilities: Judy Allen, Joseph Daniele, Kris Kucer Dombrowski, Karl Dytrych, Marge Dytrych, Paul Gergets, Mark Neiner, Mary Anne Neiner, Bev Strickland, Carol Wachala.



Planting Possibilities
PO Box 1805
Highland, IN 46322

Visit PlantingPossibilities.org



Learn More About:

- >> Our Land Search
- >> Client and Employer Opportunities
- >> Our AmazonSmile Wishlist

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

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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 _____

Please make checks payable to: Planting Possibilities

Planting Possibilities Gardeners Circle Levels

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



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.

