

Growing Opportunities and Celebrating Progress

It's been a busy year for us! Our new prevocational job skills training program in Crown Point is up and running. Our 3,000 sf hoophouse was built in a day and a half by the skilled construction team from Nifty Hoops and a crew of 10 Planting Possibilities volunteers. Our two storage containers are loaded with our tractor, mowers, equipment and growing supplies. The office trailer is set up for classroom and office use.

Teacher/Garden Manager Oakley Molinaro, with a background in both horticulture and behavior therapy, has taken the reins and



has created a program that will benefit a wide variety of students. We are looking forward to introducing prospective clients to this new program. More about our progress from Kristy Fletcher, our new Executive Director, below.

Our Vocational Rehabilitation services have also grown this year. We have doubled our client base and have another Job Coach as well. More about that below from Shraddha Parikh, the head of our VR department.

Wishing you a holiday season full of family, friends and fun and a New Year that brings us all new hopes and dreams.

Mary Anne Neiner
President, Planting Possibilities

PLANTING SEEDS OF GROWTH: KRISTY FLETCHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Wow! Has it already been eight months since I began my journey with Planting Possibilities?! Time sure does fly when you are working with

such incredible people. I have truly enjoyed contributing to a team dedicated to serving such a deserving population. And, as with all things we plant, I can't wait to see it grow!

As we know service growth is vital, and expansion enables us to help new individuals while increasing revenue and therefore our sustainability in the marketplace.

With that, I am very happy to announce that in the last quarter we have doubled the number of individuals served through our Vocational Rehabilitation services and opened our Pre-Vocational services at Tri Hills Camp in Crown Point. It was hard work and took the sweat of all our employees, board members, and volunteers but we did it and had our first client start services right before Thanksgiving!

There is so much happening and there is even more to come. Our focus of growth in the spring will be on developing/initiating a food production training curriculum to work alongside our Pre Vocational program at the Tri Hills camp. I cannot wait to update you on that in the coming months.

Thank you to all those that donate their time and resources! You make it possible for us to help our individuals build independent and fulfilling lives through meaningful work in the community.

GROWING OPPORTUNITIES: SHRADDHA PARIKH, MSW

Shraddha Parikh, MSW, has been Planting Possibilities' Direct Support Service Professional and Employment Consultant in our Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab or VR) program for five years.

Voc Rehab is a state funded program that provides job support services for adults with disabilities, through local agencies such as Planting Possibilities, with the purpose of

obtaining employment in the community. Planting Possibilities specializes in supporting adults on the autism spectrum and those with similar disabilities. We follow VR's employment service activities model to find jobs of the client's choice in the community.



"The best part about my job is that every day brings new challenges and experiences. I'm learning something new every day and growing along the way. I am also meeting many people from different walks of life, learning about different businesses and the work they do which I use as a resource when working with my clients."

GARDENING TIPS FROM OAKLEY MOLINARO: PRE-VOCATIONAL GARDEN MANAGER

Though the seasons gone cold and days are shorter, there's plenty to do outside. There are benefits to trimming in all seasons, for different things, and trimming trees in dormant Winter is no different. Because the trees are dormant and humidity low, they can heal easier from your cut and disease is not as likely to spread.

Pruning fruit trees this season is called a "corrective prune," because where you trim you are discouraging new buds and growth—whereas a spring prune is the opposite. While you prepare for trimming, plan to leave the middle open and use the "three point" method, walking around the tree to check at three different angles of view.



Planting Possibilities in the Community

HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR MUM SALE



Thanks to our Mum Sale supporters in September. Despite the 90 degree temperature that day, many of you were thinking ahead to fall weather.

Looking forward to seeing you all again next May for our geranium sale!

THANK YOU, ENBRIDGE!



Enbridge, a pipeline and energy company, has generously awarded a \$10,000 grant to help fund our new prevocational training program in Crown Point. Their generosity helped us in our initial construction and will continue to help us accomplish our goal of providing general job skills training to adults with disabilities in Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana. Thank you, Enbridge!

THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL GOLF OUTING!

Another sunny day in the books for our annual golf outing! Thanks to our loyal golfers and supporters, we hit a new milestone with this event. More golfers, more sponsors and more donors equaled over \$20,000 that we will use to support our programs this year. Your generosity is overwhelming. You are all truly part of our team! Mark your calendars for our TENTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING on Saturday, August 2, 2025.



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In Memory of Robert J Hanrahan III

Rob was a founding Board Member of Planting Possibilities. He was a proud graduate of Indiana University and spent his career in the non-profit sector. Rob's knowledge and guidance were invaluable in founding our organization. We are deeply indebted to him. He was a devoted son, brother and uncle whose family was the center of his life. He will be sorely missed.



In Memory of Nikki Wielgos

Through her career at The Crisis Center in Gary and Campagna Academy in Schererville, Indiana, Nikki improved the lives of countless kids who needed help navigating life. Her family, not necessarily defined by biological boundaries, was the core of her life. Her all-encompassing love will be missed by many.

Nikki Wielgos estate donors Scott Wielgos Patty Govert

In Memory of Barbara Gawthrop

Barb Gawthrop's life was driven by her devotion to others. She retired from careers in nursing and teaching, and was an accomplished seamstress and baker. She always carried herself with grace and dignity. Her loving smile will be missed by her devoted daughter and her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Rod & DeeDee Davies	Rosemary & Ted Frankowski	Monmouth High School Class of 1984	Susan & Jon Strader
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Merry Christmas to Susan Harmening from Harriet Rincon.



PLANTING POSSIBILITIES IS A VOCATIONAL REHAB PROVIDER
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- Over 150 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
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- Opportunities for social interaction through Special Olympics and other sponsored events

* 128 Campagna clients, 25 VR employment services ** 10% switched providers 90% satisfaction from Quality Assurance survey



Planting Possibilities
PO Box 1805
Highland, IN 46322

Visit PlantingPossibilities.org



Learn More About:

- >> Growing Opportunities and Celebrating Progress
- >> Meet the Planting Possibilities Team
- >> Successful Golf Outing

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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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.

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