

## See What's Growing! Come to Our July 11 Garden Open House

In last winter's newsletter we showed you a picture of our new hoophouse and fenced garden at the Triangle Hills YMCA camp in Crown Point.

Oakley, our Prevocational Farm Manager, wasted no time in putting in a small selection of fall plantings. His radishes and greens grew great.



We're now preparing to plant the tomato and pepper plants that we grew from seed this spring. The spring has been unusually cold, so things are a couple weeks behind schedule. Now it's time to till the unused portion of the garden and sow the corn and sunflower seeds. We are slowly filling our twelve new raised beds — Thank You again to the wonderful volunteer crew from Enbridge who helped build the raised beds last December!

We are hosting an Open House for interested persons on July 11 to come and see how we are progressing.

Please feel free to come out and see what we've done over the past year! And, if you know any young adult individuals who might benefit from our program, please let them know about Planting Possibilities. We'd be happy to have them or their parent/case manager come and see if this Prevocational Training Program would be a good fit for them. Wear outdoor shoes!

In the meantime, Happy Growing!!!

*Mary Anne Neiner*  
President, Planting Possibilities

### GROWING FUTURES: COME TOUR OUR PROGRAM ON JULY 11

From the desk of our Executive Director, Kristy Fletcher:

You're Invited to our **Pre-Vocational Service Open House!** Join us on Friday, July 11, 2025, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at our small farm located at Triangle Hills YMCA Camp, 3838 W 141st Ave., Crown Point, IN (former Pheasant Valley Golf Course), for a special Open House event.

Discover our hands-on Pre-Vocational Program designed for young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Through real-life food production—planting, harvesting, and

preparing farm-fresh dishes—participants gain practical workplace skills in a supportive, engaging environment.

Tour our year-round program and see how we help individuals develop key employment skills such as effective communication, following directions, appropriate conduct, problem-solving, and workplace safety—all while working outdoors in a beautiful farm setting.



This event is a great opportunity to learn how we're "growing futures" by preparing

individuals to become skilled, confident members of the workforce.

Also, come taste what we grow! Enjoy delicious samples of our farm-to-table creations, all made right here on-site.

We look forward to welcoming you and sharing how one plant, one skill, and one person at a time can make a world of difference.

### GET OUT IN THE DIRT — IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR BRAIN!



This is the season I and so many adore. After the Winter Blues and Spring planting, working in the garden, we feel our general mood and wellbeing skyrocket. The myriad benefits to our health are not exclusive to the physical, but gardening has a profound

impact on our mental health as well. We know contact with soil impacts depression and anxiety; microorganisms in soil help our body create more serotonin, and sunlight benefits our sleep-cycle and mood. Gardening also improves our cognitive ability, our thinking and reasoning. The directed-attention used for gardening activities, and being outside, helps

concentration for those with limited attention, and supports executive functioning and self-regulation. (pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

I hope everyone finds time to get out in the dirt! Enjoy the simple acts of picking and weeding, and remember, like Lumosity or other brain games, these activities benefit us too.

# Planting Possibilities in the Community

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR GERANIUM SALE

What a beautiful spring day we had for our annual geranium and garden plant sale! We completely sold out of the large geraniums and patio pots, and we sold a record number of tomato and pepper plants. Oakley did a great job of growing a wonderful variety of unusual heirloom tomato varieties and tasty peppers.

Thanks to all of you who supported our sale. The profits from our Spring sale and September Mum sale help fund our new prevocational training program. Watch your mail and our socials for details on our Mum Sale date.



## JOBS IN BLOOM: NINE NEW PLACEMENTS SO FAR THIS YEAR, THANKS TO OUR LOCAL EMPLOYERS



Our Vocational Rehabilitation Job Specialists, Shraddha Parikh and Oakley Molinaro, have been busy finding jobs for our clients. Since the beginning of the year, nine clients have been placed in part-time jobs with these local employers: **Strack and Van Til** grocery stores in St. John, Schererville and Munster; **Lowes**; **Tyler's Tender Railroad Restaurant**, **Westchester Animal Clinic**, **McDonalds**, and **Restored Hope Services**. We thank these businesses for supporting our mission.

If you are involved in a local business that has a need for a part-time employee, please consider Planting Possibilities and contact us to find out if we have a candidate that meets your needs.

## 10TH ANNUAL GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES IS SOLD OUT — THANK YOU!

Thanks to an overwhelming response, our 10th annual Golf for Possibilities event on August 2 is officially at capacity with 120 golfers — registrations are SOLD OUT!

A huge thank-you to our Corporate Sponsor Partner, Griffith WinDustrial, Ryan Krejci, and all the companies, individuals, and golfers who are making this milestone year special.

While we can no longer accept additional golfers, we're still welcoming event sponsors and donations for our Silent Auction, Raffle, and door prizes. Items like sports memorabilia, event tickets, restaurant gift

cards, and unique experiences are always a hit at our post-tournament celebration lunch.

For details, visit [plantingpossibilities.org/golf](http://plantingpossibilities.org/golf), scan the Golf for Possibilities QR code, or email us at [golf@plantingpossibilities.org](mailto:golf@plantingpossibilities.org).

We can't wait to celebrate 10 years at Scherwood Golf, reconnecting with longtime supporters and meeting new friends — all to support our mission of empowering young adults with disabilities.



## WANT TO REDUCE YOUR INDIANA STATE TAX BILL? "BUY" NAP TAX CREDITS!

**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, 2025, 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; a donation of \$500 receives \$250; \$1000 donation realizes a \$500 credit, etc. Those tax credits are directly subtracted from your Indiana state taxes on your tax form.

Planting Possibilities is limited in the amount of tax credits we can "sell". (As of this printing, we do not know this year's limit, but it is usually between \$5000 and \$8000.)

We run out of credits 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](mailto:maryanne@plantingpossibilities.org) or call Mary Anne at 219-614-7168 with any questions.

## SAVE THE DATE: ROCKOPELLI FEST RETURNS AUGUST 23



Rockopelli Music Fest has generously donated to Planting Possibilities for over 10 years—and they just keep getting bigger and better every year! Join us at Bulldog Park in Crown Point, Indiana on August 23 for this year's festivities.

## Thank You to Our Donors

Tom Alexander	Karl and Marge Dytrych	Iris Greenbaum	Kevin and Mary Ellen O'Neill	Dr. Robert Smoltz
Mihaela Babus	Enbridge	Joe and Cookie Janostak	Mark and Mary Pallok	Joe and Linda Stefanich
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### In memory of Geoffrey Phillips

Geoffrey Phillips, of Bridport, Dorset, England was a naturalist and author. Geoffrey loved spending time in his garden watching things grow and listening to the birds sing.

Marge and Karl Dytrych send his daughter, Helen Geoff Phillips, and his wife Noreen their heartfelt condolences.



### In memory of Bryan "Ron" Pajor

Ron was the dear son of Marilyn and (late) Ted Pajor; brother to Karla, Kevin and Carolyn; and beloved uncle to many nieces and nephews.

George and Mary Behrens, Marilyn Glennon, Susan Strain, and Paul and Lorraine Kmiecik send their dear friend Marilyn their sympathy.



### In memory of Richard Saunders

Richard was a proud Korean War Veteran. Having retired from AT&T, he enjoyed his lengthy retirement years on travel adventures with his family and being the doting grandfather for his two grandchildren.

Karl and Marge Dytrych extend their condolences to Rich's family who miss his kind soul every day.



### In memory of Nila Kaptur

As Mom and Grandma, she always cheered loudest in the audience for every dance recital, play, musical, cross country meet, and lacrosse game. She was the sweetest, kindest person, and she was always thinking of others. Nila will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

Jerry and Ruth Yothment extend their comforting thoughts to Nila's family.



## PLANTING POSSIBILITIES IS A VOCATIONAL REHAB PROVIDER

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- 80% success rate for job-seeking or academic track clients (initial placement/subsequent employment or college/trade school enrollment) \*\*
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\* 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](http://PlantingPossibilities.org)



Learn More About:

- >> June 11 Open House
- >> Sold-Out Golf for Possibilities
- >> Jobs in Bloom

*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](http://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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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	_____
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If you would like to support Planting Possibilities with a financial gift, please donate online at [www.plantingpossibilities.org](http://www.plantingpossibilities.org) or complete the form below. We thank you sincerely for your support.

