

Our Big News



In our last newsletter, we alluded to a partnership with Crossroads YMCA. I am very happy to announce that this project is moving along and we are preparing for another ½ acre garden and other activities to start, hopefully this fall, at the new YMCA camp in Crown Point, Camp Triangle Hills.

This new camp is located on the property of the former Pheasant Valley Golf Course south of Crown Point. The Crossroads YMCA developed the property into a summer day camp and retreat center. They have invited Planting Possibilities to operate and host the environmental learning section of their camp.

The plans include a ½ acre garden and a greenhouse complete with a head house. Our greenhouse will eventually have aquaponic and hydroponic exhibits, examples of vertical gardening and other horticultural learning opportunities. The head house will have space for our classroom, office and food processing area.

Our ½ acre garden will be similar to our garden at Campagna.

The beauty of this partnership is that it will allow Planting Possibilities to offer a year-round, full time **Waiver funded Prevocational Training Program** at this facility. We will employ a teacher and be able to accommodate eight students with autism or other developmental disabilities. The teacher and the students will plant and tend next year's garden while maintaining the exhibits in the greenhouse. The other very special part of this project is that our students will be able to share these experiences with the YMCA campers who attend Camp Triangle Hills during the summer and visit during the school year on field trips.

You may ask what does a "Waiver funded Prevocational Training Program" mean? "The Waiver" is a support program offered by the state to persons with disabilities that helps pay for needed supports for those individuals. It can pay for different therapies, respite care, or extra medical care that some may need. A "Prevocational Training Program" is one type of training that the Waiver supports.

Some students with disabilities coming out of high school, quite often, need more time to transition to the working world. They need

to be taught the "soft skills" of being an employee—the importance of punctuality, how to listen to and respect their supervisors and co-workers, how to stay on task, how to work as a team, etc. In other words, it may take them a little longer to learn how to become a good employee. That is what we will teach through our new program at Camp Triangle Hills. Students' progress will be assessed periodically. If they seem ready for the job they desire in the community, they can work with a job coach to find that job, apply for it, and work with the job coach until they are proficient enough to work on their own.



Mary Anne Neiner at the Planting Possibilities site at Crossroads YMCA in Crown Point, IN

We are very excited to start this new program! We are extremely grateful to the YMCA for offering us this opportunity. We will share more details in our next newsletter. In the meantime, you can follow our progress on our social media pages.

If you would like to be part of this project in any way, or if you know someone who would benefit from this program please see the contact information the back of this newsletter.

Mary Anne Neiner
President, Planting Possibilities

Thank You to Our Donors

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

Tom Alexander	Joe & Annette Daniele	Dona Gerlach	Jackie Lopez	Marilyn Pajor	Joe & Linda Stefanich
Alsip Home and Nursery	Valerie Disalvio	Glenn Goodwine	Frank Lowry	Mark & Mary Pallok	Charles Turman
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SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ENBRIDGE



Thank you to Enbridge for supporting our new YMCA Camp Triangle Hills project with a \$10,000 grant. Enbridge's grant will help us purchase essential equipment, supplies and more to prepare our garden and hoophouse for next year's growing season. Enbridge has

supported us in the past by generously underwriting our mum sale. Enbridge reached out to become one of our community corporate partners. We are sincerely thankful for their interest in helping us fulfill our mission.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO LEGACY FOUNDATION



Thank you to Legacy Foundation, Lake County's Community Foundation, for a \$25,000 matching funds grant through their Legacy Foundation's Lake County Community Fund. This grant is also for the purpose of purchasing equipment and supplies to prepare our garden and hoophouse for next year's growing season

for our new Camp Triangle Hills program. Legacy Foundation will match any additional funds, up to \$25,000, that are raised toward this project. If you or your company would like to help us meet this goal, please contact us at the email address or phone number on the back of this newsletter.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Planting Possibilities welcomes two new Board Members, Ruth Yothment and Jerry Yothment. Ruth has been deeply involved since our inception. She plays an integral role in marketing and event operations so we are very excited that she has also committed to join our board. Her husband Jerry is newly retired and has graciously agreed to share his business expertise with us as we take our next step

forward in growing our organization.

We always welcome new board members, especially as our organization continues to grow. If you feel that you can offer Planting Possibilities your business, horticultural, legal, construction or other expertise we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at the email address or phone number on the back of this newsletter.

Planting Possibilities in the Community

OUR CAMPAGNA GARDEN

Our garden is planted with a selection of sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, various gourds and squash. Our smaller “salad garden” outside the classroom door is growing garlic, collard greens, lettuce and beans. Something for everyone!

Our students and volunteers are weeding and watering to prepare for harvest.

We can't wait to try some new recipes in the fall using some of the bounty from our gardens.



2023 GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES: JULY 29



Planting Possibilities and our corporate partner, Ryan Krejci of Griffith Windustrial, invite you to join us on Saturday, July 29 for a day of golf, food and fun at 2023 Golf for Possibilities.

Start the day with a continental breakfast, a bloody mary and some putting practice. (Registration at 7 am, Tee Off at 8 am. Scramble format.) Play 18 holes with your

favorite golfing buddies, then come into the club house for lunch and some great prizes and auction items.

Last year we sold out three weeks before the event, so don't wait to sign up this year! Keep an eye out on social media and emails for registration details. See you on July 29th at Scherwood Golf Course, 600 E. Joliet St., Schererville, Indiana.

ROCKOPELLI: AUGUST 12

Rockopelli is a local all-ages music festival that has supported Planting Possibilities for over 10 years. This year Rockopelli will be held on August 12 at Bulldog Park in Crown Point, Indiana. The lineup features musical groups from the Chicago area and Northwest Indiana. It will also highlight local

specialty arts and crafts vendors, local restaurants, and local brews. Gates open at 3:30pm, the show starts at 4:00pm.

Tickets are \$15 purchased in advance at rockopellifest.org.



ANNUAL MUM SALE: SEPTEMBER 16



The weather for our May geranium sale was surprisingly nice! We are usually huddled, shivering, under our canopy. This year we folded up the canopy and enjoyed the sunshine. Thank you to those of you who came out and bought some flowers or garden plants. Your geraniums will be in bloom until the first frost and you should soon be picking your tomatoes or peppers.

Our mum sale will be held on Saturday, September 16. You will find us in St. Thomas More's parking lot at 8603 Calumet Avenue in Munster, Indiana. We will have our usual assortment of beautiful mums that will keep your yard colorful until the snow flies. We should also have tomatoes and peppers from our garden. See you then!

GOLF FOR POSSIBILITIES

July 29, 2023
Scherwood Golf Course
600 East Joliet Street, Schererville, IN



Registration: 7:00 am  Shotgun Start: 8:00 am

\$125 per golfer - Sponsorships Available

includes 18 holes of golf with cart, lunch, beer, prizes and more!

All proceeds benefit



ONLINE registration at: www.golf4possibilities.eventbrite.com
Scan the QR code or mail registration with payment to:

Planting Possibilities
Attn: Golf for Possibilities
P.O. Box 1805 | Highland, IN 46322



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.

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Cell Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
1)	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____	_____
4)	_____	_____	_____

Planting Possibilities in the Community

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 \$2,000) made between July 1 and December 31, 2023, 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. Those tax credits are directly subtracted from your Indiana state taxes on your tax form.

Planting Possibilities is limited to \$6000 in tax credits to sell. Donations made before December 31, 2023 will be credited to your 2023 taxes, while those made between January 1, 2024 and March 31, 2024 will be credited to your 2024 taxes.

Credits are "sold" on a **first-come, first-served basis**. Individuals and businesses are eligible.

More information about this program can be found online on our website: plantingpossibilities.org/nap-donation.

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

HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARIES!



This summer is the fifth year for our "Mowing Possibilities" mowers. We now employ

four mowers (Aaron, Frankie, James and Joe) along with their supervisor. Frankie, Joe and James are pictured here. You can see Aaron at the top of Page 3 working in the garden with Mark.



Happy work anniversary to Michelle! As of this coming fall, she will have been employed at Alsip Nursery and Home Center for

seven years. Michelle started working at Alsip after completing high school and works in their garden center and store.



Another anniversary was celebrated by Nick. He celebrated four years at Jewel Foods - Dyer this past March. Nick is one of the smiling faces that help customers get their

groceries to their cars.

Congratulations to these loyal employees - AND their employers!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING PLANTING POSSIBILITIES.



PLANTING POSSIBILITIES IS A VOCATIONAL REHAB PROVIDER CARF CERTIFIED - SERVING LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA

- 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
- 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

* 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:

- >> Our Big News!
- >> Golf for Possibilities 2023
- >> September Mum Sale

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: _____

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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	_____
\$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.

