

CROSSING BUILDING *Renovation*

Early this year we began a massive renovation project on our Crossing building, at 1221 S. Plate St. Formerly, the facility previously housed our manufacturing and industrial division. The space was huge, open and empty, but the leadership at Bona Vista Programs could see the potential for programming options in the available 27,000 square foot space.

Plans for the space included significantly expanding our Adult Day Services area, as well as providing new room for our workforce development programs: Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) and Opportunity Knocks! The new facility would also include a sensory room, a technology room, a gym/recreational room, three classrooms, an art creation room and an art gallery open to the public to view the created projects.

Most of the construction is complete and services have moved into the remodeled area. The facility is state-of-the-art and beautiful. It is such a valued asset for our programs. We cannot wait to share it with you!



Bona Vista Receives **IMPACT AWARD** *THROUGH CHAMBER*

The Greater Kokomo Chamber of Commerce presents the IMPACT award annually to an organization, initiative or institution that is making a significant impact in the community. Bona Vista was grateful to be chosen as one of this year's finalists, alongside Purdue Polytechnic Kokomo, Family Service Association of Howard County Inc. and Kokomo Family YMCA.

Even more, we were elated to have been named the winner of the IMPACT award during the virtual 2020 Greater Kokomo Alliance Awards Celebration, sponsored by Community First Bank of Indiana. All of the staff members at Bona Vista pour their hearts into our work and we are thankful to be making a difference in the community.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Bona Vista Christmas Show

You won't want to miss our Christmas Show on December 17. This year you will be able to tune in via Facebook, as we live broadcast our talent show for a virtual viewing experience! The party will, again, be hosted by Chris Frazier and the Kokomo Fire Department in our brand new gymnasium space at the Crossing. We are counting on you to cast a vote for the People's Choice act of the show.



Virtual Viva Las Vista

Mark January 29 on your calendar now for the popular casino night event, Viva Las Vista, hosted virtually this year. You will want to test your luck with some fun games for the grand prize of \$500. We are preparing silent and live auctions, as well as some special guest appearances. Tickets will be available next month and would make great stocking stuffers!



Bona Vista
Enriching Lives...Enhancing Abilities
1220 E. Laguna, P.O. Box 2496
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THE *Companion* WINTER 2020



President's Corner



What a year! There have certainly been days that I have been very grateful for in 2020 because of COVID-19. Yes, you read that right. It is because the way that the Bona Vista staff have come together in emergent situations and pivot to ensure persons served and families are taken care of in the communities we serve. Bona Vista was nominated and won the Impact Award from the Greater Kokomo Chamber of Commerce this year. I'm not personally being boastful when I bring this award up, even though I am very proud and honored to receive it on behalf of the agency. I wanted to mention it because it is the staff that earned the award, the staff that

show up every single day that make an impact on the lives of those in our services; they are the impact on our community. They provide the support and encouragement to those with disabilities to reach their maximum potential, in short, they live and work by our mission.

That's the "Impact" that I get to see and experience daily because of dynamic people at Bona Vista Programs! They, and the persons served, push me to do my best and become a better leader... my WHY. So, even though 2020 has been a challenging, roller coaster of a year, I have seen so many awesome and amazing things come out of it; and for that, I am grateful.

Brianne Boles

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2020 Bona Vista Programs Board of Directors

Bona Vista Golf Classic a Success



When the pandemic caused us to cancel our major events this year, the Bona Vista team pivoted to organize a new event that adapted to the new restrictions. The Golf Classic resulted on August 28 and, as an inaugural event, expectations are always a little lower.



Along with a round of golf, we had multiple contests and prizes available. We did get caught in some rain toward the end of the day, but most teams stuck it out and finished afterward. Everyone seemed to have such a fun time supporting the Bona Vista mission while enjoying a relaxing afternoon. This event raised over \$15,000! Our team is so thankful for the interest in this event and we look forward to hosting it again in 2021.

So, when sponsors immediately took the opportunity and returned to support our mission through a new Bona Vista fundraising event, we were thrilled! When all 36 teams sold out in advance we were blown away! Smith Financial stepped up to sponsor the event and Soupley's Wine & Spirits partnered with us to offer beer and wine tastings on the course. Community members donated auction items, lunch for the players, and extra drinks.

CARING for our CAREGIVERS



Each September we celebrate National Direct Support Professional Recognition Week by acknowledging and thanking our amazing caregivers. This year we recognized our direct care staff with small reminders each day of how much they mean to this agency and to the people that we serve. Since 2020 has been a constant game of surprises and adaptations, the fitting theme for the week was "Our Caregivers Turn Lemons into Lemonade". We could not have navigated this pandemic without the hard work of our staff and their dedication to our mission.



This year was additionally special because Mayor Tyler Moore signed a proclamation declaring the same week to be Direct Support Professional Recognition Week in Kokomo. Bona Vista president, Brianne Boles, joined the mayor as he read his proclamation to the city. We are thankful for community leaders that support our mission and recognize the importance of caregivers.



WE PUT THE Care IN CAREGIVING

Because the people that we serve are so special to us, we are constantly looking for quality applicants that want to join the Bona Vista team!

Do you know someone looking for a job that would excel in the human services field? We are currently hiring full and part-time positions for caregivers that are needed immediately. Bona Vista provides all of the paid training for a successful career with us, as well as a path for advancement opportunities.

To add to the value that a rewarding caregiving career offers, Bona Vista also provides many benefits to employees. We offer medical, dental and vision benefits, in addition to a 401k contribution, weekend shift differentials, paid holidays and paid time off for those who qualify. We also provide free professional and personal staff developments and flexible schedules including nights and weekends.

If you are interested, or know someone who is, please visit bonavista.org or call 765-457-8273.



Community Support

Without financial support from this community, Bona Vista would not be able to provide services for the 1,500 people we serve daily. Our mission is fulfilled when you give and we are remarkably grateful for each of our donors.

DUKE ENERGY

The Workforce Development Grant from Duke Energy was awarded to Bona Vista in the amount of \$25,000. The grant supports programs that address the most pressing skills gaps in communities that Duke Energy serves, specifically programs serving under-represented, low-income or diverse audiences.

These funds will support Opportunity Knocks! and Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) in our newly renovated Crossing building. These programs help to prepare individuals with disabilities for entering the workforce. Because of the generosity from Duke Energy, we will be able to purchase equipment to work on the occupational goals of those enrolled in the program.



LILLY ENDOWMENT YOUTH PROGRAM RESILIENCE FUND

Bona Vista has received an \$80,000 grant through the Youth Program Resilience Fund of Lilly Endowment Inc. Bona Vista will use the grant to enhance the Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) program, which provides independent and employment preparatory services for the students ages 14-22 in this program in the Kokomo community, including job exploration counseling and work-based learning experiences.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF HOWARD COUNTY

Bona Vista has received a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Community Foundation of Howard County to support the renovation project at the Crossing building. This grant allows us to expand workforce development programming and adult services.

Programs at the new Crossing building include the following: Action. Inspired. Motivated. (AIM) Program, Sky is the Limit Program, Opportunity Knocks! (OK!) Program, Habilitation Services, and the at-risk youth centered program, Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS). Bona Vista's adult services which are housed in the Crossing include the areas of Residential Services, prevocational services, on-the-job training and community employment placement. Bona Vista also provides day programs and habilitation services to adults who are medically fragile and high behavioral individuals. The program includes behavior management services and wellness coordination.

