

VOLUNTEERING IS A WORK OF HEART!

Josh Hanlon was a part of the Kokomo CEO program, and came up with the idea to partner with Bona Vista Programs to make greeting cards (artwork courtesy of our early childhood center) and sell them. Not only did he do all of the leg work to start his HanMade Cards (follow him on Instagram & Twitter), he is donating 15 percent of his proceeds back to Bona Vista! You can purchase some of his HanMade cards at Bona Vista's Corner Décor gift store located at 127 N. Buckeye St. in downtown Kokomo.

Allie Ault attended Bona Vista's Keys for Kids Preschool program as a child, and we knew then she would go on to do great things. But, no one knew she would become the Indianapolis 500 Festival Princess, be former WNBA player Tamika Catchings personal assistant, nanny for the Chicago Cubs players during the games and do so much more. She's given back to the community through these opportunities already, but specifically to benefit Bona Vista Programs: she presented awards to Bona Vista's Disability Awareness Basketball players, and came to read to Bona Vista's Early Childhood Education Center during the "Week of the Young Child."

Thanks to the **Del Ra Club**, represented by Marilyn Gronow in the picture provided, for their generous donation to Bona Vista Programs! The wonderful women of Del Ra also volunteer at our organization monthly, and have for many years. We are extremely grateful for all they do to support us!

Kokomo Auto World is more than a car dealership, they are a community partner. During Honda's Week of Service, they took time to paint the fence at one of our group homes. While they were there, they started power-washing the front porch to get it ready for new paint. We are very thankful they chose us to partner with and look forward to working with them again in the future.

Last month, we had the most amazing volunteers from **Aptiv & Delphi Technologies**! They put in an entire day's work, and totally exceeded our expectations! Even before they were finishing one project they were already asking what they could do next! Our maintenance team and our organization could not be more appreciative! They painted, poured concrete, built a bridge, landscaped and so much more! We look forward to their annual visit, and can't wait for their return!



MAKE OUR "CHRISTMAS" WISHES COME TRUE THIS JULY!

HO! HO! HO! It's Christmas in July in our Adult Day Service programs. You don't have to wait until December to think about giving back to our programs that give back to adults with disabilities every single day. Going on now through the end of July, our Christmas tree will be up, the lights will be on and the ornaments will list the items the program could use. Items will range from small items to very large. Everyone has a wish list at Christmas time, and ours is listed on our Facebook page or at Amazon.com.

Please go to our Facebook page (@bonavistaprogramsinc) to connect with us this "Christmas" or contact us at 765-457-8273 to find out how you can participate!

B-Cause It's Art: The Corner Décor

The Corner Décor, 127 N. Buckeye, has been adding new items monthly and now offers daily discounts! They participated in events during the Strawberry Festival & monthly during First Fridays. Items are made by persons served in our AIM (Action. Inspired. Motivated.) program who get to keep a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their items! New items include sugar scrubs, aprons, wine bottle bird feeders, greeting cards and so much more! There are limited quantities of each item, since they are all unique, so be sure to get yours before they are gone!



OPENING DOORS TO OPPORTUNITIES

Earlier this summer, public officials, community members, and Bona Vista leadership came together for two ribbon cuttings: one for the new and improved Meridian Park and another for the nonprofit's Meridian Park housing. The housing project will accommodate 13 intellectually-delayed or physically challenged adults when it's at full capacity. Mayor Greg Goodnight called the project a win-win for the community as Kokomo continues to expand its housing options and focus on the quality of its parks rather than quantity.

"The executive director for Indiana housing development authority was here and just raved about this being a model he'd like to see used elsewhere in the state because of the fact that persons living here will be able to access the community so easily, walking down to the Y, and all the amenities downtown," said Bona Vista CEO Jill Dunn. "The transportation picks them up right in front of the apartments."



PROVIDING RESPITE CARE FOR LOVED ONES, REFRESHING CARE GIVERS

In Kokomo, there has never been a house for respite care. Parents or caregivers of children with disabilities can now leave their loved one for a period of time knowing that they are in capable, qualified hands. Where they can drop them off to go get their hair done, enjoy a massage or grocery shop on their own. Where they can schedule medical appointments or have lunch with a friend. That place now exists, and we are SO excited to be the ones to bring that option to caregivers in this community. Bona Vista's Respite House is located at 1226 E. Hoffer St. in Kokomo.

Who needs a respite house? Anyone acting as a primary caregiver to children ages 2-14 is in need of and deserves some kind of respite and could benefit from these services. Caregivers must remember they cannot do the job alone -- it's impossible. Let us help you! How does respite work? Caregivers who need a little time off from their round-the-clock caregiving duties should call 765-450-7675. Our friendly staff members will talk to them about their needs (days, times, etc.) and schedule accordingly. Medicaid waiver and private pay options are available! A full calendar of events and more information can be found at www.bonavista.org or by calling 765-450-7675.

*Bona Vista Programs will continue to provide respite services in the community or in the homes of adults who also need quality respite care.



WANTED: Amazing Human Beings

Summer has found its way to us! There's something to be said about a new season -- whether that's thanks to Mother Nature or a change of life. The same can be said at the beginning of the year when people set resolutions. It's a fresh start. Some are kept. Some get left in the dust by this point. Regardless, the desire is there. The desire to want to do better, be better, or change in some way.

We want to help! Who do you know that wants to find a job they love? Who do you know that loves people? Who do you know that has a passion to serve others? Who do you know that already has a part-time job, but would like another one -- or a full-time one? Who do you know that has a full-time job during the week, but would like to supplement with extra income on the weekends? Who do you know that is recently an empty nester or retired, and needs something to fill some of their time? Who do you know that wishes they had a job that offered benefits?

We all know people. The people we know, even if they don't fit in to one of the above categories, also know people. So, here's what we are asking... tell the people you know that we are hiring, and we would love to have them. Specifically, we would love to have them as a Caregiver of the Developmentally Disabled (CDD) in Kokomo, Peru, Logansport or Tipton.

What does a CDD do? Well, that depends on which department they work in. We have CDDs in every, single department and program we have. They get to plan and participate in constructive activities in the organization, community or persons served home. They get to help the people we serve work on daily living skills, communication skills and any other skills they are working toward to maintain their independence. More than anything, though, they get to love the people we serve, become an integral part of their family and watch them grow and succeed!

How can you or someone you know become a CDD?

- Visit www.bonavista.org and click on "Apply Now!"
- Visit us at a number of job fairs in the community!
- Join our Bona Vista Recruiting Facebook page! We host Virtual Job Fair events where you can learn about our different career opportunities from the comfort of your couch!
- E-mail Recruiting Coordinator Courtney Cain at ccain@bonavista.org or call her at 765-457-8273!

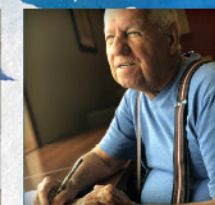
THE COMPANION SUMMER



20



18



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



When people state that time goes by quickly as you get older, that is a fact! I can't believe 42 years have gone by and I have to say, I have never had two days that were the same, and I have never been bored! There is always something new to learn whether it be a new diagnosis, medication, regulation or computer system. It is also hard to believe that Bona Vista Programs Inc. is turning 60 this coming September!

Bona Vista has changed throughout the years and regulations have also grown substantially while funding has not. This has been and will continue to be a challenge for all not-for-profits across our nation. Bona Vista has many regulatory bodies at the Federal level. The Center of Medicaid and Medicare, Department of Labor and Health and Human Services are who we hear from the most! At this time, Bona Vista is responding to some of the changes coming our way but we do not know how the State of Indiana will interpret and implement new codes and regulations. What Bona Vista knows with certainty is there will be a continued need for our services for both children and adults.

Bona Vista is turning 60 this coming September and that is a reason to celebrate! I would like to celebrate the children who we have served over the years who have grown up and, as adults, are working in the community! We have several adults who are participating in a variety of our day services, learning to make choices and be an involved community member. I would like to celebrate the families who navigate medical appointments, complete forms and seek services that meet the individual needs of their loved ones and worry and worry some more! I would like to celebrate our staff who are committed to the mission of this great organization, those staff who have been with Bona Vista Programs for five years and more are truly heroes. They provide much needed continuity of care to those that we serve.

To be a Servant Leader brings many rewards, and over the years I have watched children make significant strides due to our therapist's efforts and visions. I have watched children progress who were not supposed to walk, talk, swallow and read make tremendous headway and beat the odds everyday due to excellent teachers, aides, nursing staff and dedicated pediatric therapists.

The adults in our Community Connections Program can bring a smile to your face the minute you walk in the doors. The building is filled with a vibrant energy with adults who have limited mobility, communication skills and self-help skills. They are the agencies most medically fragile and require the most assistance yet they find a way to communicate and tell you their story. This program is "it" for Howard and surrounding counties. There is no other alternative for these adults! Bona Vista Programs is very proud to offer this program but funding is limited. The adults in this program were once babies involved in our Infant Stimulation and First Steps Programs, and they return to Bona Vista once they leave the schools and remain with the agency until it is time to reside in a nursing home.

Bona Vista has dealt with children who have had neurological issues related to drug and alcohol use for decades and the numbers are growing due to the opioid crisis in our state and nation. There will be more babies referred to our early childhood services with NAS, Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, who will need a community-based organization like Bona Vista to provide suitable services. Someday the babies will become adults and will need a community organization for adult services. Bona Vista will be here to support and provide the necessary services.

Bona Vista is turning 60 and I have been honored to be a part of this dynamic organization for 42 years. I began with the agency in 1976 and, as a result, I have many happy memories of the children and adults who have been involved in our services. Bona Vista is an integral part of the community and plays an important part in the economic development of the city. The role Bona Vista plays is critical to families and the community needs to continue to support and help sustain its important mission.

I want to thank all the people I have worked with through the years who have touched or been a part of this precious gem called Bona Vista Programs.

Jill S. Dunn

Jill S. Dunn
President/CEO



All people have the right to live, love, work, learn, participate and pursue their dreams in their community. Bona Vista plays a vital role in helping individuals and their families by providing effective supports and services. The resources that Bona Vista provides, along with the high quality staff, will ensure success in these individuals' lives. As I embrace a new role within Bona Vista, I want to continue to work to assist persons served and families by helping them live their best lives.

In assuming the CEO role, three words repeat in my mind. Change. Excitement. Challenge. All three words capture emotions I have felt over the last six weeks as I take on a new chapter in my career. Assuming the CEO position at Bona Vista is a tremendous opportunity, and it allows me to continue leading an amazing group of staff. CHANGE, although difficult at times, can lend itself to new opportunities and continued success. Our agency has been led by a true warrior in fighting the fight for people with disabilities. Jill has made huge strides for individuals statewide in service delivery, advocacy and program options. I will continue to see change not only locally, but at the state level with state and federal regulations.

Through this professional change, I have an amazing amount of EXCITEMENT for the future as I will be afforded the opportunity to continue to serve staff, persons served and our community. Bona Vista is an amazing service provider in north central Indiana. We provide many non-duplicated services within Howard, Miami and surrounding counties. Staff work tirelessly to provide quality services to children and adults on a daily basis. I am thankful to every staff person at Bona Vista for choosing us as their employer.

Filling Jill's shoes will be a tremendous CHALLENGE, but one I am ready for with the assistance of an amazing group of staff! Every day brings a new challenge, whether that is through service delivery, staffing, or funding. Challenges help to build and grow staff, as well as, improve customer service to the children and adults we serve. Although challenges present themselves daily, my vision is to continue to provide much needed programming to all communities we serve.

In a final note, I would like to thank Jill S. Dunn for an amazing career with Bona Vista. Your leadership, guidance and persistence has improved the lives of thousands of children and adults benefiting from services. Thank you for the years of dedication to the mission of Bona Vista Programs, Inc.

Brianne Boles

Brianne Boles
Incoming President/CEO

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CELEBRATING YESTERDAY, FOCUSING ON TOMORROW

1958 was a game-changing year for the special needs population in Howard County. That was the year a group of parents got together and opened a school for their children with special needs. Those children weren't accepted in traditional school, so these parents had been homeschooling until this point.

The school opened with 32 students in a converted house on West Walnut Street in Kokomo. It was funded, in part, by the United Fund (now the United Way) at a rate of 4.8 cents for every dollar they raised.

We have come a long way in listening to the needs of the community and population we serve about their changing needs, and adapted with them. We have always focused on our mission of helping those with and without disabilities to reach their maximum potential in everything we do.

There's a lot to be said about a non-profit who has been around for 60 years in a community our size, and we are so proud of that accomplishment. We appreciate everything the community and our supporters have done for us over the years, and we can't wait to see what the next 60 years holds!

We will celebrate each day leading up to our official birthday – Sept. 10 with a #60to60 special hashtag. There will be historical photos, special events and different ways that you can join with us as we celebrate. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter for the most up-to-date information!



Bona Vista school opens here

Greeting pupils yesterday for the first day of classes in the new Bona Vista School were Mrs. Walter Brown, director (at right), and Jim Butcher, chairman of the school building project for the Kokomo Jaycees. The three-

classroom school for the retarded also has a general purpose-sheltered workshop area and was built largely with volunteer help and donated materials. The school is supported by the United Fund. (Morning Times Photo)

IT'S A WRAP (ON EVENT SEASON)!

Spring was a whirlwind of amazing activity at Bona Vista Programs. If you're friends with us on Facebook or follow us on any other social media, you were able to go along with us on our amazing journeys. From special events, to special visitors, job fairs and our annual basketball game. Know that we appreciated each and every single person who in one way or another advocated on our behalf and spread awareness not only of our organization, but of cultivating a community of inclusion!

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in any of our restaurant give back nights. If you "caused an effect" and made dinner a selfless act by supporting us at Chipotle, if you ate some chips and salsa or had a margarita in our honor from Hacienda, if you watched a game and debated which sauce is best on your wings at Buffalo Wild Wings or if you smashed some peanuts on the floor while devouring some award-winning ribs at Texas Roadhouse, we appreciate you all!

THANK YOU to everyone who came out to the Kokomo Country Club for our 2nd Annual Viva Las Vista casino night event and helped raise more than \$8,000. The staff at the Kokomo Country Club deserves a huge round of applause for their efforts! Keeping up with food and bar orders is no small task given the number of attendees! The Sertoma Club of Broadripple who brought the casino games, dealers and ambiance with their amazing outfits... bravo! Our media sponsor WVKI, game night sponsors, volunteers and donors of raffle basket items... our hats are off to you ALL!

THANK YOU to Melissa Pixley, NP from Community Howard Regional Health and Heather Bradley, MBA, from St. Vincent Kokomo who both came and spoke to our staff to continue our education on diabetes and wound care, respectfully. The more we know, the better we can be for the people we serve! To the Love on a Leash organization, Alyx Arnett from the Kokomo Perspective and all other amazing guest speakers in our Adult Day Services programs... we can't thank you enough.

THANK YOU to everyone who sponsored, played, cheered, danced, volunteered or in any other way supported the Disability Awareness Basketball Game. The Bona Vista All-Star team (once again) defeated the celebrity team, but both teams were great sports and we appreciate all of them being willing to play. We were able to raise more than \$15,000! It wouldn't be possible without the support of Kokomo School Corporation's donation of Memorial Gym & their amazing janitorial crew who keeps that place running flawlessly or our media sponsor Z92.5/Rock 98.5/WIOU1350!

THANK YOU to Kyle & Lisa Rayl and their amazing staff at Soupley's Wine & Spirits for another successful Greatest Spectacle in Tasting event. Their wine and microbrew vendors, the local restaurants, the volunteers and the Bona Vista staff that help make that event possible do not go unnoticed. The behind-the-scenes planning for this event starts months in advance, and we hope you enjoyed it! We also appreciated Gary Rhum and the WLRS band for entertaining us all evening. Next year's event will be the 25th annual, so plan to attend – Saturday, May 18, 2019.



Caring "Community"



Our organization wouldn't be able to function without wonderful community partners like Community First Bank. We reached out to them for help with funding of a new security system at our downtown location. Without hesitation, they stepped up to make it happen! This new system will ensure the daily safety of our staff and persons served. We appreciate CFB's partnership and the wonderful asset they are to the Kokomo community.

Developing Our Greatest Abilities

Parents or guardians of children ages birth to 5 years of age – It's not too early to get signed up for our next FREE Developmental Screening coming up on August 15! Screenings are performed by licensed therapists who provide guidance and reassurance, and will try to answer any questions you may have about your child's development. Call Brooklyn Dugdale at 765-454-5340 to schedule your appointment! These screenings are provided, in part, by funding from the United Way of Howard County.

If you can't make it to the quarterly full screenings, we do have mini-screenings every Wednesday morning at our 1220 E. Laguna St. location in Kokomo to check physical and occupational therapy milestones – thanks to a generous donation from our friends at We Care. Appointments are required, so be sure to call to schedule!



THERE ARE PERKS TO PRESCHOOL!

Bona Vista, 1220 E. Laguna St., is now enrolling for its Keys for Kids Preschool, but spots are LIMITED! If you've never visited and want to check us out, we would love for you to come in to our location, meet our teachers, see our classrooms, watch the kiddos in action and see what we can do for you. Classes are offered Monday through Friday from 7am to 6pm, and are for ALL children!

Don't delay! Call TODAY to snag one of these limited spots before they are gone. We accept vouchers and private pay options. For more information or to register, call Brandi Powell at 765-457-8273.

