

ENTERPRISE, MCKINLEY, DELPHI & FCA, OH MY!

We couldn't do what we do without the amazing help we receive from volunteers – younger, older, retired, employed and everyone in between! In the past few months, we have had several groups who have stepped up to help us in many different ways and it's time for them to get the proper recognition they deserve. In no particular order:

- **Enterprise Fleet Services** – cleaned out our overgrown greenhouse, weeded and removed old plants from our raised garden beds, sensory gardens and landscaping, and on one of the coldest days of what was supposed to be Spring!



- **McKinley Alternative School** – students formed an assembly line to fill Mother's Day gift bags full of scented bath products and then went outside to spread mulch on our Preschool playground.



- **FCA and UAW employees** – members brought snacks, musical entertainment, story time readings and fun when the Easter Bunny came to visit our Preschool & Early Head Start children. It was a HUGE success, and wouldn't have happened without their willingness & initiative!



- **Delphi** – employees from Delphi took an entire day away from their desks, rolled up their sleeves and put in an enormous amount of work at many of our locations. They painted fences & porches, weeded landscaping, cleaned gutters, power washed siding, cut down trees and so much more! Our maintenance team (and the rest of us) really appreciates their work!



Lending a helping hand to Bona Vista Programs is made easy in two ways! Giving is just a mouse click away through, AmazonSmile and Kroger Community Awards. Through these programs, a percentage of your shopping experience will be given back to Bona Vista Programs by selecting our charity.



Here's how easy it is to give! Through AmazonSmile customers go to smile.amazon.com and select Bona Vista Programs, Inc. to be given donations from eligible purchases before you start shopping. AmazonSmile will store this information and every purchase made through smile.amazon.com will generate a donation to Bona Vista Programs.

Kroger has made a commitment to helping community growth and part of this commitment is the Community Awards program. This donation to help your community is as easy as the swipe of your Kroger Plus Card. To donate follow just a few simple steps made easy at <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. Individuals are able to sign into their account or create an account and select Bona Vista Programs under the Community Rewards tab.



JOIN OUR FAMILY!



We are hiring!

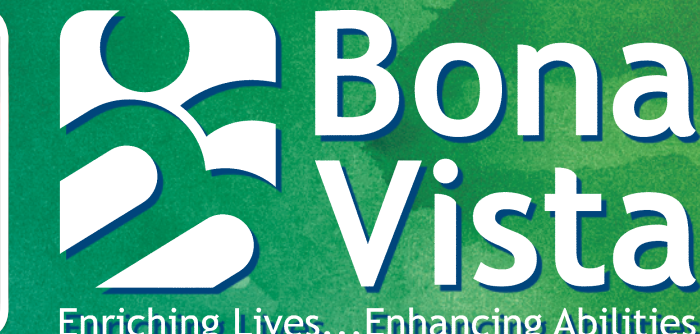
Who do you know that made a resolution to find a job they love and hasn't done it yet? Who do you know that already has a part-time job, but would like another one – or a full-time one? Who do you know that has a full-time job during the week, but would like to supplement with extra income on the weekends? Who do you know that is recently an empty nester or retired, and needs something to fill some of their time?

We would love to have them as a Caregiver of the Developmentally Disabled (CDD) in Kokomo, Peru, Logansport or Tipton. Yes, we have other openings, but out of every opportunity we have... this is the most hands-on and crucial to our operation.

What does a CDD do? Well, that depends on which department they work in, because we have CDDs in every department and program. They get to plan and participate in constructive activities in the organization, the community or the persons served home. They get to help the people we serve work on daily living skills, communication skills and any other individualized 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!

To apply, go to bonavista.org and click on *Career/Volunteer* to search for the CDD position. Interested applicants may also stop by 1220 E. Laguna St. in Kokomo or call 765-457-8273 for more information!

THE COMPANION Summer 2017



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Over the past few months, the Adult Day Service team have done an amazing job offering so many new choices to the persons served. Many of the ideas for our classes come directly from the people that we serve as they get excited about a topic – so do the staff! The positive energy in so many of the classes makes for a good day! Some of the daily activities range from gardening and learning about caring for crops and flowers, to cooking any number of delicious treats to enjoying music and learning about the composers and, finally, the visual arts.

There is also the opportunity to gain new work skills and seek meaningful employment. Part of a person's day may involve working and building new skills for manufacturing, janitorial, housekeeping, food service or a variety of other vocations. Any time one of the persons involved in our day services is interested in exploring a community job placement, all they have to do is request it! There are endless opportunities, and new ideas are always welcome.

Bona Vista's Workforce Diversity Program is the area where people are assisted in finding a positive job match, and are also taught the skills necessary to maintain the position. Our staff is very flexible and willing to help the person find the best fit for a long term job placement. Ongoing support is also provided to the individual by our staff. We encourage families who have a son or daughter getting close to graduation or already has graduated from High School and do not have a career path or a day service opportunity, to give Bona Vista a call! Let us assist you in making the connections for your loved one.

As part of our effort to meet the daily needs of the adults that we serve, a continuum of care is necessary. That is why Bona Vista has gotten into housing! We did recently break ground on our Meridian Park Housing project and hope to have that completed by Spring 2018. We are very excited about this project; the local amenities as well as the location of being on the park will be a treat for all living in the homes. We simply like being part of the community.

If you are a family or know a family who would be interested in seeing the variety of day service opportunities, do not hesitate to request a tour and come see the programs in person! We are also regularly sharing activities on Facebook and Instagram, so please take a look!

Bona Vista is always available for questions or support in finding your family member the right program and opportunity. For assistance, please check our website www.bonavista.org or call 765-457-8273.

Kindest Regards,

Jill S. Dunn

Jill S Dunn
President/CEO

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MERIDIAN PARK HOUSING PROJECT BREAKS GROUND!



Bona Vista Programs has broken ground on its third housing project, a 13 unit housing development and community space to accommodate individuals with disabilities located in Meridian Park, corner of Apperson Way and Harrison Street. This project will allow our persons served affordable and safe housing. The project was funded in part with grants from the IHEDA and FHLBI in addition to other sources totaling \$1.4 million on land gifted to Bona Vista from the City of Kokomo.

In addition to new living spaces, the project also includes the construction of a new community room that will host a variety of activities and will be available for use by the surrounding community. Bona Vista is excited about this location because it is convenient for our adults who are seeking employment or who work in the community. The residents will have access to public transportation, and they will be close to stores for their shopping needs.

Bona Vista Programs, Inc. has been successful in securing all of the funding for the project, including:

- \$780,000 grant from Indiana Housing & Community Development Authority,
- \$500,000 grant from Federal Home Loan Bank
- \$100,000 loan from Community First Bank
- \$20,000 from Bona Vista Programs, Inc.



SPRING WRAP UP:

Springtime is a very busy time at Bona Vista Programs. It's focused on disability awareness, and includes special events, presentations and so much fun we can barely fit it all in one season! Here's just a brief re-cap of some of the highlights:

In March, Bona Vista received a \$1,000 donation from **LeaderOne Financial** as part of its "Give 1000" program where for every tenth closing, the borrower gets to choose a nonprofit to receive the donation. Kurt & Amanda Koetter chose Bona Vista as their recipient! The funds will help provide services to our children and adult programs.

We kicked off our first-ever **Viva Las Vista** casino night at Superior V on St. Patrick's Day. The event was full of casino games, food and fun for all involved. More than 200 people attended the inaugural event, which brought in more than \$5,000 for the organization. Plan to attend in 2018!

For the 16th year, Memorial Gym played host to the **Disability Awareness Bona Vista All Star vs Local Celebrity Basketball Game**. This year, the event raised more than \$17,000 – the most ever – thanks to sponsorships, player donations, Coca-Cola's pop-a-shot halftime contest, concessions & generous door donations! We welcomed some new celebrities this year, as well as some dedicated & loyal players who have been with us for many years, so who will make up next year's roster? You'll have to come to the game to find out!

Last, but not least, we received an amazing donation of **LUSH bath products** that were put together in gift bags and given to ladies for Mother's Day! It was so kind of them to ship thousands of items to us for FREE so we could share them with the important ladies in the lives of those we serve!



THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

The 23rd annual Soupley's Wine & Spirits Greatest Spectacle in Tasting was one for the books, and we continue to be thankful to Kyle & Lisa Rayl and their Soupley's staff for the amount of work they put in to making the event a success each year!

Other folks we don't want to leave out include the persons served in our AIM program who made the decorations for the event, and the Bona Vista Bistro who had a booth for the first time! Both groups made the event even more special with their presence and their willingness to support the organization!

This year, we raised more than \$55,000 to support the adults and children that Bona Vista serves each day. From ticket sales, sponsorships and silent auction item purchases, the event is the largest Bona Vista has each year and we are thankful to the community for its support!



New this year was a tornado warning that shut the event down early, ushered people inside the building and then drenched anyone who remained. It was nothing short of eventful, and we appreciate our loyal attendees, volunteers and staff who toughed it out!

Again, thank you to everyone who came, who supported Bona Vista in any way and who promised not to hold Mother Nature's temper tantrum against us next year! See you next May!

BONA VISTA PROGRAMS AWARDED \$15,000 FROM HOWARD COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WorkForce Diversity was recently granted \$15,000 from the Howard County Commissioners in order to provide much-needed services to individuals with disabilities and to fund employee training.

WorkForce Diversity, a division of Bona Vista Programs, assists individuals with finding and maintaining community employment. This program has been providing employment services to adults with disabilities for more than thirty years in Howard County. WorkForce Diversity (WFD) works with employers who need prescreened, dependable job candidates; as well as, job seekers, career changers, high school students and recent graduates searching for vocational direction and greater independence through employment.

WorkForce Diversity had been in need of funding for an internship program. WFD used past funding from the Howard County Commissioners to start an internship program. The funding

would pay for persons served with disabilities to intern at a local business, free of charge to that business. It is WFD's hope that many of the internships will result in job offers, which will continue to lower the unemployment rate in Howard County. The internship program is free to clients and businesses that participate.

For additional information about WorkForce Diversity, please call Meredith Freeman, Director, Vocational Services, at 765-454-5997 or visit www.bonavista.org.



ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION PRESENTS BONA VISTA WITH \$1,500

Recently, Thomas Mackey, account manager for Enterprise Fleet Management, presented Bona Vista's Director, Training and Development Alison Brantley a check for \$1,500 from the Enterprise Foundation.



Send Me On My Way... On My Way to Pre-K



Governor Eric J. Holcomb and the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) recently announced that 15 Indiana counties are now eligible to participate in On My Way Pre-K, making pre-kindergarten available in 2018 to 4-year-olds from low-income families in the chosen counties. Earlier this year, the Indiana General Assembly expanded the program from five pilot counties to 20 counties through House Enrolled Act (HEA) 1004-2017.

The new counties added to the On My Way Pre-K program are Bartholomew, DeKalb, Delaware, Elkhart, Floyd, Grant, Harrison, Howard, Kosciusko, Madison, Marshall, Monroe, St. Joseph, Tippecanoe and Vigo.

Bona Vista Programs is looking forward to being an On My Way Pre-K provider, and we will release more information about the program as it becomes available. Be sure to check our web site – bonavista.org – and social media for the latest!