

# THE Companion

SUMMER 2020





## PRESIDENT'S CORNER



2020, what a year it has been for each of us! As summer comes to an end, I reflect on this year and am grateful to every person served, staff, and family member for navigating one of the most trying times in my history at Bona Vista. As we are still receiving information on a daily basis, Bona Vista continues to make decisions based on the safety of each person served and staff member, along with our participation to help slow the curve within the community.

I am proud that Bona Vista has maintained services during COVID-19, as an essential provider, while serving some of the most vulnerable individuals in our community. I am grateful to all of the families and guardians that have trusted us to maintain care for their loved ones, what a tremendous honor. Just like everyone else, COVID-19 presented many challenges along with opportunity for growth in service delivery, methods of delivery and use of technology. Thank you to local community members and businesses for your support through this time.

With the care of our dedicated employees, amazing people are making great strides towards self-sufficiency and independence every day. If you, or anyone you know, have the desire to learn about the non-profit human service field, beginning a career at Bona Vista is an excellent place to gain practical experience while training is provided to you. I would recommend starting with visiting our website, [bonavista.org](http://bonavista.org), and reviewing the position description for a Caregiver for the Developmentally Disabled (CDD). This position will provide an opportunity to gain experience as a mentor, caregiver and support to individuals with intellectual and other types of developmental disabilities. Bona Vista invests considerable training time instructing staff members in a variety of areas such as medication administration, learning about the various types of medications, documentation requirements, learning how to track daily notes and goals, learning CPR, behavior management techniques, risk plan management, daily living skills and goal attainment and how to work with co-workers. Skills learned in this position can be applied in all levels of employment as one grows professionally within Bona Vista!

Stay well,

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# COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO THE RESCUE

People say often in times of crisis or disaster how well Kokomo comes together. This pandemic was no exception. We were able to see time and time again individuals and organizations step up and support those who need it the most. It just so happened that we were an agency this time who needed it the most.

Did you know we are the 8th largest employer in Howard County? That we have more than 400 employees? That we serve more than 1,500 people? We have BIG needs. We have limited resources. That's the bottom line. So, we count on you! And, many of you stepped up in huge, sacrificial ways to make sure that we could still provide high-quality care, engaging activities and protect our staff in the process. We don't know how we will ever thank you all enough.



Main Street Café – two cases of gloves!

Bridgeway Church -- \$3,000 worth of craft supplies for activity kits & 200 masks!

Northview Church – Board games & puzzles!

Coca-Cola – Two skids of Powerade!

Cardwell Built Construction & Ferguson Waterworks – More than 100 Easter baskets full of goodies for our adult persons served!

Solidarity Federal Credit Union, The Wyman Group, Nonni's Pizza & Julianno's – Paid for and provided meals for our staff on different occasions!

Trudie Hedrick, Peggy Rethlake, Monica Mathew, Krista Hicks, Nancy Doub, Rebecca Wellsworth, Greater Lafayette Sewing Masks Volunteer Group & Stain on Main – ALLLLLLLLL the homemade masks!

Jillian Matteson – More than 60 Usborne coloring and activity books for adults!

DREEM Nutrition – Hand sanitizer!







# We Don't Take You For "Grant"-ed

In addition to all of the wonderful product donations we have received recently, we would be remiss not to mention the monetary donations from clubs and businesses who have helped us maintain services.

The **Del Ra Club** not only supports us financially, but they faithfully volunteer every single month! We appreciate them, the work they do for us and the impact they have on the community as a whole.



The **Miami County United Way** granted us Economic Relief Initiative funding to provide personal protective equipment and food during this pandemic to those individuals with disabilities served in Miami County.

We are so thankful to United Way Serving Howard & Tipton Counties and the Howard County Community Foundation and those in our community supporting both organizations! We have received much needed funding during the coronavirus pandemic from both organizations to help Bona Vista continue to provide services to our vulnerable population. We are truly better together!

Bona Vista was awarded the Workforce Development Grant from Duke Energy. This 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. The Duke Energy funds will be used for two Workforce Development programs in our newly renovated Crossing Building.



Our friends at **Community First Bank of Indiana** donated more than \$96,000 to local nonprofits through the fees the bank earned for processing and funding each organization's Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. We were thankful to be one of those nonprofits, and are grateful for the support Community First Bank shows us year-round.





# #CaringThroughCOVID

Normally in this space we would be telling you about all of the events we put on during the Spring, a person served or staff person who are out in the community doing amazing things or even how an intern or volunteer has impacted our organization. The first half of the year, though, much of that stopped.

There were no events. There was no one going out in the community (unnecessarily). There were no interns or volunteers allowed in our buildings. It was unprecedented.

You know what didn't stop, though? *Our amazing staff.* They were on the front lines -- along with healthcare workers, emergency personnel and many of you who were still working day-to-day because the work you do is 24/7. We see you. We were with you. We are STILL with you.



## #AlwaysEssential

When people are trying to decide if they'd like to work for Bona Vista or not, we often say that what we do is a work of the heart. If you don't love and care about those we get the privilege to serve, then this isn't the place for you. And, we mean it. This pandemic is proof of that, if nothing else. Our staff have continued to come to work in the face of uncertainty because they know those we serve rely and depend on them.

We need more good people, though! We have full-time and part-time options available. We offer benefits, 401K, paid time off and holiday pay to those that qualify. We offer paid trainings to help you develop in your position. We are a diverse organization with nearly 400 employees in Howard and Miami counties. We fulfill a need for many families in this community, and we want you to join our team and share the missions of *building the foundation of success for children and adults, regardless of abilities, through encouragement, independence and inclusion in reaching their maximum potential!*







# CONSTRUCTION = PERFECTION

Bona Vista's Crossing building, 1221 S. Plate St., has been getting a facelift – inside and out! This renovation will provide Bona Vista the opportunity to expand our adult day program options into a previously vacant 27,000 square foot manufacturing facility.



"With the shift in the manufacturing programming within our industry, we have this unoccupied space that can now be used in a different, more efficient way within our services to benefit the community and those with disabilities," stated Brianne Boles, CEO/President, Bona Vista Programs.

The new layout will include a gym/recreational area, a sensory room, an art creation room, an art gallery that will be open to the community, a computer room and three additional classrooms that will house programs that will focus on learning daily living skills and habilitation to help individuals

with disabilities live and thrive in the community.

The additional space created by the movement of the Adult Day Programs into the new area will also allow Bona Vista to expand one program of their WorkForce Diversity community employment services. The build will incorporate a nice space for the Pre-Employment Transition Services as additional options for transition age youth 14-22 years.

This renovation project is slated to wrap up in late summer. If you are interested in learning more about this project at Bona Vista Programs, or if you would like a tour of this building or any of our programs, please call 765-457-8273 or email [bsmith@bonavista.org](mailto:bsmith@bonavista.org).







## BONA VISTA GOLF CLASSIC

*Are you an avid golfer? Do you like to drive a golf cart? Do you want to take a half day off of work to ride around in the sunny breeze with a few friends for a good cause? Do you like to sample beer and wine? EXCELLENT!*

*We want to see you at Bona Vista's Golf Classic that will take place on Friday, Aug. 28 at Wildcat Creek Golf Course. This nine-hole golfing event will tee off at 1p with a light lunch provided by the Bona Vista Bistro at noon.*

*In addition to golf, you can expect Soupley's to be on site serving beer and wine samples at several of the tee boxes throughout the course. There will also be contests, prizes and a silent auction that you will NOT want to miss! To register a team, visit [bonavista.org](http://bonavista.org) and look*

*for the Bona Vista Golf Classic under the events tab. If you have questions or aren't comfortable registering online, call Marcy Kistler at 765-457-8273 ext 341 or email [mkistler@bonavista.org](mailto:mkistler@bonavista.org).*

*We look FORE-ward to seeing you there!*

BONA VISTA PROGRAMS  
PRESENTS THE:

## BONA VISTA GOLF CLASSIC

AUGUST 28, 2020 AT 1PM  
WILDCAT CREEK GOLF COURSE

Nine holes w/cart, lunch included (12:00 pm), contests & door prizes  
Four person team; \$160 entry fee  
1st, 2nd & 3rd place cash prizes

TO REGISTER VISIT [BONAVISTA.ORG](http://BONAVISTA.ORG) AND CLICK ON "EVENTS," CALL  
765-457-8273 OR EMAIL [MARCY@BONAVISTA.ORG](mailto:MARCY@BONAVISTA.ORG)





Enriching Lives...Enhancing Abilities

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