

THE COMPANION



Winter 2018

 **Bona Vista**
Enriching Lives...Enhancing Abilities

PRESIDENT'S CORNER



It's been an amazing year, and it's hard to believe it's almost over! The community, staff and persons served have been very supportive to me as the agency has transitioned to new leadership. I consider myself fortunate to advocate and work for all persons served and staff at Bona Vista. I am amazed by the daily achievement of goals by persons served. They are the reason we do what we do every single day.

Our staff assist with improving the quality of life for those we serve through accessing community resources, as well as improving programs and services. We continue to recruit new team members to join our amazing agency, and help our clients in achieving their maximum potential. I encourage you to check out our website for current part or full-time openings at bonavista.org, then click on Apply.

We recently celebrated our 60th anniversary in September. What an amazing accomplishment! Bona Vista, through the leadership and dedication of those over the last six decades, has grown into being a vital provider in North Central Indiana. I am proud to be a part of reaching the milestone of 60 years of service, and plan on continuing to help reach another 60 years! We look back, not just at the past few years of growth and success, but at the full scope of what Bona Vista provides for Howard and surrounding counties. We continue to provide vital programs and services, and look forward to being proactive when facing the changes and challenges of the industry.

As we move into 2019, our industry will continue to advocate for direct support staff wage increases, early intervention support through First Steps therapy, and focus on community employment initiatives through our WorkForce Diversity program. My vision for the agency is to continue providing mission-driven services for children and adults with and without disabilities – with the goal of growth – based on identification of needed services. We welcome tours, and have team members that can speak to groups or individuals throughout the year. Call 765-457-8273 for more information or to speak to someone about setting up a time for you to visit.

We are proud of our team members and grateful to our families, friends, persons served and donors - each of you has contributed to the past 60 years of success, and we appreciate you!

Brianne Boles
President/CEO

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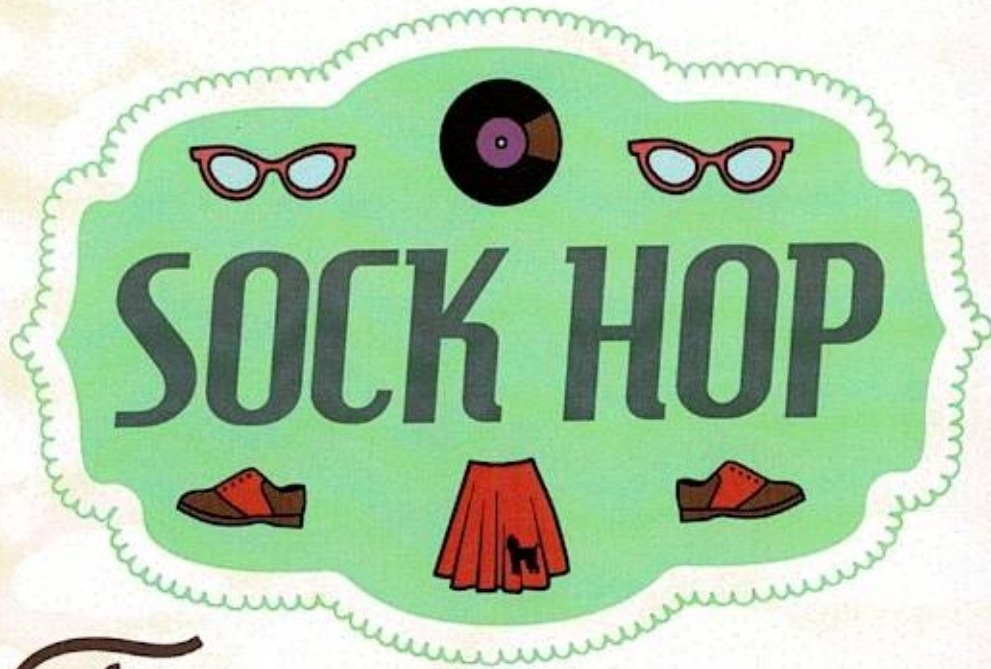
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SOCK HOP

For the first time EVER, Bona Vista Programs will host a Sock Hop & Roll for adults (18+) with special needs. This event will be held from 6-9pm on Friday, Dec. 14 at UAW Local 685, 929 E. Hoffer St. in Kokomo. Guests of honor will enjoy food, DJ, dancing, photobooth and FUN. A \$5 admission will be collected at the door the night of the event.

Bona Vista has partnered up with the Kokomo Area Career Center's culinary arts students who will be making diner-themed food, media & marketing students who will serve as the paparazzi for the evening, cosmetology students who will be doing hair and limited makeup, and Kokomo High School's Girls League Club to transform the Union Hall into a 1960s basketball gym fit for a sock hop!

Volunteers are needed! If you're interested in volunteering or would like to register a guest of honor for the evening, please visit bonavista.org and click on "Events!" If you have additional questions, please call Director of Development & Training Alison Brantley at 765-457-8273 ext. 335. We can't wait to twist and shout the night away with all of our special friends!



CELEBRATING YESTERDAY, FOCUSING ON TOMORROW

As 2018 comes to a close, we are left with many wonderful thoughts and feelings from the past year as we celebrated our 60th year in the community. We've heard stories. We've met new friends. We've reminisced about how far we've come, and dreamed about where we want to go. We've even had a party or two (and wore party hats)!

We can't thank you all enough for walking beside us along this journey. It's not over! We will need your help over the next 60 years as our industry changes and adapts to new challenges and evolving culture.

We hope you've enjoyed being a part of our story this year, and can't wait to see what 2019 brings!



Make the Giving Season Last!

It's the holiday season! For some, that time presents itself as an opportunity to take a step back, look around, see ways to make a difference and then go into action. We would be remiss if we didn't tell you about some ways that you could make a difference at Bona Vista Programs. And, no, they don't all involve a monetary donation.

Sure, there are never enough funds to do all we want to do (and we've been dreaming for 60 years so we have big plans). If you want to write off a large end-of-year donation or if you've collected extra cash as a family that you want to go to an organization you know will be a good steward of what you've given, we would love to be a part of your holiday giving. You can send a check to PO Box 2496, Kokomo, IN 46904. You can go online and donate at bonavista.org. Or you can stop by 1220 E. Laguna, Kokomo, IN 46902 and hand-deliver your donation.

In addition to much-needed cash donations, we are also talking about everyday things you could do to make a difference. For example, picking up a couple of extra items the next time you're at the grocery store and donating them for our group homes or taking a couple of hours a month to do a community service project with friends or family.

There are never going to be enough finances, hours or hands. Every organization is doing more with less trying to fill all the need gaps, and we are no exception. During this holiday season, we would encourage you to think about those we serve, the lives we change and the impact we have on this community and find a way to support us!

Be sure to follow us on social media for other ways you can get involved – Facebook (@bonavistaprogramsinc), Twitter (@Bonavista_) and Instagram (@bonavistaprograms)!

RECENTLY,

thanks to *Printcraft Press, Inc.*, this timeline of our past 60 years was added to the walls of our Laguna building. Now is the perfect time to join the next decade of generous supporters who will make a difference in the lives of the children and adults served at Bona Vista Programs.



BONA VISTA BISTRO NOW CATERING



The Corner Décor gift store, 127 N. Buckeye St., has been up and running for more than a year now, and we are so excited about all of the changes and new opportunities that has allowed us to have. One of those new ventures is the Bona Vista Bistro! The Bistro crew is made up of adults we serve who have learned food handling techniques, customer service and so much more. They started out creating chocolate-covered pretzels and Oreos, and have progressed to some delicious delicacies. They cater now, too, and have a sweet menu and a savory menu for you to look at when deciding what might work best for your event. If you have your heart set on a specific item, but you don't have your heart set on making it... just tell them! They can accommodate you with a smile!



For more information on how to have the Bona Vista Bistro cater your next event, please visit our web site at bonavista.org and click on "Community Services." You can also call 765-454-5344!

DEVELOPING OUR GREATEST ABILITIES

Parents or guardians of children ages birth to 5 years of age – It's not too late to get signed up for our next FREE Developmental Screening coming up on November 28! 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 – thanks to a generous donation from our friends at We Care. Appointments are required, so be sure to call to schedule!

VOLUNTEERING IS A WORK OF HEART!

For the second year in a row, the **Indiana University Kokomo baseball team** partnered up with the adults we serve in a fun softball game at Kokomo Municipal Stadium. The Athletes for All Abilities game pairs college baseball players up with adults from Bona Vista Programs. They bat, field and run together, but more than that they spend time together. The students learn about adults with different abilities, and those we serve make new friends. ALL have a great time, though, and we can't wait to do it again!



Taylor Community Schools sent their students out in large quantity again this year to make a difference in their local community. We were lucky enough to have a large group of middle school students who hauled mulch, cleaned playground equipment and then got down and dirty with some kiddos to paint. We appreciate their work hard, play hard attitudes, and we enjoy having them each year! Thanks go out to the United Way of Howard County for coordinating the day, and including us in it!

