

Summer 2011

THE COMPANION

Parents often find themselves faced with a lot of tough questions when finding the “right” child care or preschool. Bona Vista’s Early Childhood Services has several great options for parents.



Enriching Lives...Enhancing Abilities

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President's Corner

One of the areas Bona Vista prides itself on is communication, and we want to be sure that families / guardians and individuals understand that fact. In the event your family or you are seeking assistance for a State program and have questions with regard to Medicaid, Waiver applications and status, Vocational Rehabilitation Services, Residential placements and Early Childhood Services, we can help and provide guidance. We have many well trained and knowledgeable staff that can assist, provide answers and lead you to the right person. Nothing can be more frustrating than needing help and not knowing where to go for answers.

View the Bona Vista Programs Website, www.bonavista.org, on a regular basis; it is full of programming information and resources. Up to date information is provided to you on facts and possible solutions. The website can also lead you to the agency or program area that is most beneficial to you. Another avenue for information is to simply send an email with your specific need or question and you will be answered in a timely manner. Our staff is very prompt about meeting the needs of people seeking answers. Your time and the needs of your loved one are important to all of us.

There are also several advocacy groups in the State that we can direct you to for additional assistance. Many of the groups are specifically designed to work with families and get you the supports that you may need.

Always remember that no question is a silly question. Do not hesitate to ask and seek out information as your family member's future may depend on it.



Board of Directors Hosts a Pizza Party!

As a not-for-profit organization, Bona Vista Programs is led with the help of a dedicated volunteer board of directors. Bona Vista's Board of Directors recently hosted a pizza party for the agency's clients at Bona Vista at the Crossing.

This pizza party is one of the many ways that Bona Vista's Board of Directors gives back to the agency throughout the year. Steve Parrott, sales manager at McGonigal, is an active Bona Vista board member. He is pictured here enjoying the pizza party with Bill, a Bona Vista client who works at Bona Vista Industries.

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Bona Vista is hiring!

Apply now for positions in the following areas:

- ★ Keys for Kids Preschool
- ★ Child Care Solutions
- ★ Positive Results for Kids
- ★ Residential Therapies
- ★ Supported Living
- ★ Community Connections
- ★ Janitorial
- ★ Habilitation

You can apply for employment with Bona Vista Programs in person, via the mail, or via e-mail to hrstaff@bonavista.org. Applications can be downloaded at www.bonavista.org.



Bona Vista's Early Childhood Services offers parents great options!

Bona Vista knows that parents often find themselves faced with a lot of tough questions when finding the "right" child care or preschool. Choosing the best program doesn't have to be difficult. Bona Vista's Early Childhood Services has several great options for parents. Bona Vista's Early Childhood Services is accredited in the areas of child and youth services from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Services (CARF). Bona Vista's Early Childhood Services includes Keys for Kids Preschool, Kindergarten Readiness, Early Head Start and Child Care Solutions.

Keys for Kids Preschool offers full-day and half-day classes for children with or without disabilities. Keys for Kids provides a computer lab, secured entrances, an on-site nurse, two large outdoor playgrounds as well as nutritious meals and snacks. The preschool curriculum is based on a nationally-recognized model that encourages exploring current interests of children in the program. "Preschool is the foundation for a child's education. The knowledge and skills acquired in early childhood will have a dramatic impact on future success in later school years," states Beth Barnett, Director of Preschool Services. One happy parent said, "It is amazing to see my son come home from school excited to do homework." Another parent explained, "I really like how everyone made my child and I feel so welcome."

The Kindergarten Readiness program is dedicated to providing a fun and educational, highly academic environment for children to learn and prepare for Kindergarten. The Kindergarten Readiness program provides reinforcement of basic academic skills and touches on many aspects that children will encounter in their first year of school. Focusing on the skills that children need to succeed in kindergarten makes the transition to Kindergarten an easier one. The daily lessons will lay down a solid academic foundation for children to excel in Kindergarten. Barnett stated, "A stronger foundation early in life also means more success later on. If a good foundation is not set, a child may struggle in school and eventually life."

Bona Vista's Early Head Start Program serves expectant mothers and children until their third birthday. It is a federally funded program designed to serve low income families. Early Head Start is dedicated to improving the quality of life for enrolled families in Howard and Miami Counties. Early Head Start (EHS) is State Licensed and Nationally Accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. This means that EHS strives to maintain the highest quality early childhood program. Early Head Start maintains these high standards through many avenues such as continually training and educating staff and families.

Child Care Solutions is a Child Care Resource and Referral Service for ten counties in Indiana. This program offers an extensive collection of resources to child care providers, families and communities so that all children can have a quality early learning and care experience. The Lending Library is a new addition to Child Care Solutions. The Lending Library allows an individual, family, child care center or classroom to borrow learning and adaptive materials for 21 days at no cost.

For more information about Bona Vista's Early Childhood Services, visit www.bonavista.org.



Save the Date

January 14: The Last One Standing Dodge Ball Challenge at Maple Crest Middle School.

February: The Coin

Harvest is held in our local school's classrooms and in local community businesses in celebration of the upcoming Disability Awareness Month in March. Children are asked to help raise funds for people with disabilities.

March 2: A Night to Remember Mother and Son Event. Held at the CasaBella Ballroom at Pastarriffic.

For information about these and many of our other special events, call Brianne Boruff at 765-457-8273.



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The 2011 Cinderella Ball to benefit Bona Vista Programs!

The Bona Vista Foundation would like to thank everyone for supporting the 13th annual Cinderella Ball event held on Friday, August 19. Fathers and daughters spent an evening together, while enjoying a sit-down dinner, carriage ride, ballroom dance lesson, craft activity and the opportunity to interact with Cinderella and Prince Charming. The event is designed to help foster healthy family relationships between fathers and their daughters. The Cinderella Ball also offered young ladies an opportunity to make a difference in their community by bringing a donation for a local nonprofit organization. Princess Power, part of the evening events, helped instill philanthropic giving into our princesses.

Princess Power reminds young ladies of the blessings in their lives and encourages them to share with others who may not be as fortunate. Princess Power also illustrates the spirit of working together to affect positive change in our community.

The Bona Vista Foundation would like to thank the event sponsors. Money raised from this event will help support programs and services to benefit pediatric programs at Bona Vista Programs. The Bona Vista Foundation supports the mission of Bona Vista Programs by providing funding for the various programs and services we offer to children and adults with and without disabilities. Many, many thanks to our Royal Sponsor- The Wyman Group. Corporate Sponsor- The Center for Early Childhood Education at IUK. Activity Sponsors- Hayes Advisory Group, Printcraft Press, Inc., Jarrell Orthodontics, State Mechanical, Inc., McGonigal Buick GMC, Button Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram, Griffon Alarm and Security, State Farm agent Nick Pate, and Community First Bank. T-shirt Sponsors- Brian Oaks, Attorney at Law, Cheer Guild Gift Shops, Steven A. Hott, M.D., Staffing Resources, Bucheri, McCarty and Metz, LLC, and Jansen Asphalt and Tax Service.

Thank you to Wendy's, Gingerbread House Bakery, Blondie's Cookies, Jefferson House of Flowers, Keys for Kids Preschool, Allyson Jewel, Tallis Bowers, Jill Dunn, Tracy Martino, Kathi Brown, Sylvia Caraveo, Beth and Brooke Newby, Kelley Land, Shelley Wyman, Michelle Hayes, Riley Metz, Dan Metz, Brooklyn Hayes, Sara Pate, Tori Gin-gerich, Theresa Castillo, Greg and Deanna Willis, and Bona Vista staff. Bona Vista Programs sends a huge thank you to all of the volunteers, sponsors, donors and committee members that helped make the 13th annual Cinderella Ball a success!

