

Summer 2012

THE COMPANION



Bona Vista strives to make things as easy as possible by offering services that are family friendly and focus on family needs; we are all about the Community!



Enriching Lives...Enhancing Abilities

BONAVISTA.ORG

President's Corner

It is all about the COMMUNITY! From the mission statement to all of Bona Vista's special events, it is all about the community and the people who live here.

Bona Vista has, over the years, built a one stop shop philosophy for the people who are seeking services; we have made every attempt to make the availability of care and service as easy as possible. We assist families and children by bringing services to the home or supporting the family by offering all services at one location and eliminating travel as much as possible.

For all employers in our community, when you are recruiting a new employee, we can assist! In the event that your new employee has a child or an adult with special needs, we need to be part of the Human Resources department and educate the potential employee on the breadth of services we offer at Bona Vista. Again, no need to travel, you have everything that you need within one organization.



In the next couple of months, Bona Vista will again be sharing our mission and message throughout the communities that we serve. At a time where gas prices are fluctuating daily and time is critical to the family as we have so many working families, natural supports are necessary.

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The Personal Care Services division continues to grow just like several other programs at Bona Vista.

Personal Care is now offering a program for veterans and surviving spouses of veterans. This special program can assist any eligible veteran or surviving spouse in obtaining up to \$24,329 a year towards our home care services. Many veterans are unaware of the benefits available to them that can help with the cost of home care services.

The transition to in home care for you, your parent, grandparent or friend isn't always the easiest, and our staff is dedicated to making the transition as smoothly as possible. Feel free to call (765) 450-8403, or email asnoddy@bonavista.org, Adria Snoddy, to learn more about these benefits and services. One in three seniors is a veteran or surviving spouse who may qualify!

We not only provide in home care for you or your loved one, but your furry, fuzzy friends as well. Pet sitting is just one of the services Personal Care can provide. Keeping pets within an elderly individual's home maintains a level of companionship, and is a great source of comfort for many people.

With a friendly and reliable staff coming into your home, you, your family member or friend, or beloved pet can stay safe within their home for as long as possible.

The Vista housing unit coming to Plate Street!

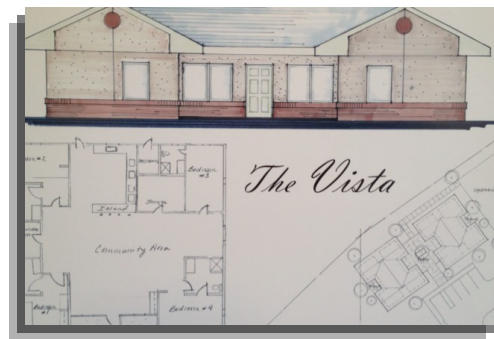
Bona Vista Programs is planning to build two housing units to accommodate eight total residents as part of a new housing model for developmentally disabled adults. We are taking the Plate Street property east of the crossing and turning the empty parking lot into a housing unit called The Vista!

Eight residents will live in The Vista. Each person will have a private bedroom and bathroom, and they will share common space such as kitchens and laundry rooms. The clients will also have a garden to tend to which will allow residents to be involved in an activity that they can enjoy – regardless of age or disability.

Bona Vista picked this location because it is safe and within city limits. It is convenient for our adults who are seeking employment, work in the community, or work at Bona Vista Industries. The residents will have access to public transportation, and they will be close to stores for their shopping needs.

The Vista will operate differently than a group home, allowing residents more independence in their daily living skills. Also, The Vista prides itself on “Going Green!” The Vista will be constructed of mostly green materials – the roofing and siding will be energy efficient, and the appliances will also reflect energy efficiency.

Look for a Ground Breaking Ceremony this coming fall! If you have any questions regarding our new and exciting project, please give us a call at 765-457-8273.



Nick succeeds! Bona Vista supports him!

When an individual has a disability, they are often faced with the challenge that they “can’t” complete certain tasks. Here at Bona Vista, we do not believe that people “can’t” do things... we believe that we have to find a *different* way for the individual to be successful in their tasks. We find the persons’ abilities and capitalize on their strengths. In the case of ten year old Nick Weideman, who was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy, he did not let that stop him from doing anything that he wanted to do – including racing junior sprint cars.

Cerebral Palsy is a group of disorders that can involve brain and nervous system functions such as movement, learning, hearing, seeing, and thinking. Nick was diagnosed by the time he was a year old – he had muscular problems. He was enrolled in First Steps seeing Positive Results For Kids therapists after the diagnosis and started receiving physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy. After he aged out of First Steps at the age of three, he continued to see our Positive Results For Kids Therapists for the same therapies. At this time, Nick, the physical therapists and his parents were focusing on his gross motor skills – stretching his tense muscles.

Along with receiving physical therapy from Positive Results For Kids, Nick was getting botox shots in his hamstrings and calves. He eventually had surgery in Indianapolis where the doctors opened his back and released the tensions in his muscles. Not exactly the childhood that his friends were having at this age.

Despite the therapy appointments, the surgeries and the at-home stretching... Nick decided that he wasn’t going to let this diagnosis slow him down. Nick started racing micro sprint cars. Now at 10 years old, he is racing 28 races from April to October at the Miami County Speedway and US 24 Speedway in Logansport. Nothing is slowing this kid down. He races #24 with pride – and he has the Positive Results For Kids logo on his wing – a show of support from his friends at Bona Vista. He is overcoming this disability – and becoming a role model to all of those that have been told that they “can’t” do something.



Consumer Spotlight



≡ Patty Beheler recently got her Drivers permit. This is a huge accomplishment for her. She has been working at this for awhile!!



≡ Luke Newby is transitioning out of the CC program and into the workshop!! He’s doing so well in the workshop!!

BABY AND KIDS EXPO

Bona Vista is excited to announce that on Saturday August 11, 2012 the inaugural Baby & Kids Expo will take place at Indiana University Kokomo. This event will be a day of family fun and education. The Expo will begin at 10:00 am, and the fun will continue until 2:00 pm. The Baby & Kids Expo offers an excellent opportunity for you to reach a large number of families from a diverse background

Thank you to our sponsors Z925, WIOU, Rock 98.5, Indiana University Kokomo, Bucheri, McCarty & Metz, Teach Me How to Coupon, Hill Insurance, and Spectrum Photography.

Baby and Kid's Expo will have vendors such as Pregnancy Resource Center, FSA, Usborne Books, South Side Christian Church, Positive Results for Kids, Kokomo Humane Society, United Way, Center for Early Childhood Education, Kokomo Urban Outreach, Kindermusik, Child Care Solutions, Kokomo Fire Department, Indiana Health Center and WIC, AAA, Howard Regional Health Systems, Personal Care Services, Bona Vista's Early Childhood Programs and New Leaf Mentoring!

We will also have a number of presentations for parents. Kokomo Sports Center will be presenting a baby stroller exercise class. Kindermusik will have stage time for music with children. Julie Morgan from St. Joseph Hospital will be presenting "Happiest Baby On the Block" along with providing on-site breast feeding support. Amy Heaton from Child Care Solutions will have a Safe Sleep and Taming Temper Tantrums presentations along with a fun helmet painting activity! Kokomo Lactation Coalition will have a separate room for breast feeding mothers, Child Care Solutions will be helping parents with on-site referrals, and Positive Results for Kids will be hosting special therapy classes for your children!

There is a chance for give-a-ways! The first 100 people in the door will receive a sleep sack for their child. We have other give-a-ways such as Teach Me How to Coupon's couponing starter packages, Usborne children's books, Fort Wayne Zoo tickets, an electric breast pump from Indiana Health Center, formula, baby magazines, and much more!

We will have a diaper derby, a daddy diaper changing contest and parent/child look alike contests throughout the day. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Please call Brittnee at 765-457-8273 for more information, and we hope to see you August 11th at the Baby & Kid's Expo at Indiana University Kokomo!

Save the Date

August 11, 2012 - Baby & Kid's Expo at Indiana University Kokomo's Kelley Center from 10am until 2pm

August 17, 2012 - Cinderella Ball held at Elite starting at 6pm

October 20, 2012 - CCS Conference

October 29, 2012 - Developmental Screening at Positive Results for Kids in Kokomo

January 19, 2013 - Last One Standing Dodge Ball Challenge at Maple Crest Middle School

April, 2013 - Run, Walk & Roll at UAW 292

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



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Through Indiana Access to Recovery, WorkForce Diversity Works with Veterans

WorkForce Diversity is working with veterans on the Indiana Access to Recovery program. Indiana Access to Recovery serves the veteran population who may have a chemical dependency or addictions. Indiana Access to Recovery (INATR) is a federally-funded program. INATR's purpose is to support veterans' recovery from alcohol and drug problems.

Recovery is a process of change and leads to improved health, wellness, and quality of life. INATR understands not everyone follows the same path in recovery, so this program connects the client to resources that will help in recovery.

INATR is a client choice program which means that the client decides the recovery plan. A Recovery Consultant will work with the client to complete a personal recovery plan. INATR will assist with funding for a variety of services that relate to the recovery plan, such as a personal employment specialist at Bona Vista's WorkForce Diversity.

WorkForce Diversity, who has been providing career placement services for 30 years, will provide services to assist veterans with obtaining proof of employment, obtaining an ID, skills on completing job resumes, interviewing skills, admission of criminal history planning, GED preparation / testing, referral to Vocational Rehabilitation agencies and information on self employment.

To learn more about Indiana Access to Recovery and our work with veterans, please call WorkForce Diversity at 765-454-5997 or toll free at 1-800-334-5054 or visit our website at www.bonavista.org.



Child Care Solutions early childhood conference!

Child Care Solutions would like you to save the date and mark your calendars for their upcoming early childhood conference! It will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2012 in Kokomo, Indiana. It will be a 70's theme. Hence, the conference title of Peace, Love, and Understanding: The power of positive guidance and discipline.

Child Care Solutions' staff will create a conference that is sure to be a crowd pleaser. We will begin the day with registration, goody bags and a continental breakfast. There will be a plethora of vendor and informational booths to explore during registration between breakout sessions, and during and after lunchtime

Child Care Solutions will have breakout sessions to include topics, such as; supporting infant/toddler mental health, using the new State's tool ISTAR KR (Indiana Standards Tool for Alternate Reporting of Kindergarten Readiness) to get your students ready for kindergarten, soothing fussy babies, easy, healthy, and fun cooking activities with kids, Reggio Emilio inspired spaces, and much, much more. Participants will have the opportunity to earn up to 5 training hours!



The cost for this conference will be \$35 preregistration and \$45 at the door. This will include registration into the conference, continental breakfast, access to all the informational booths, breakout sessions, keynote speaker, lunch and one of the best parts of the conference... PRIZE-A-PALOOZA!

PRIZE-A-PALOOZA is an interactive, energizing and exciting way to earn prizes for your child care programs and/or classrooms. There are some great prizes waiting for you.

Please contact Michelle Kanable at 765-452-8870 or toll free at 800-493-3231 for more information about the upcoming conference.



Bona Vista has Expanded into Madison and Hamilton Counties!

Bona Vista has expanded our WorkForce Diversity Services into Madison and Hamilton Counties. We now have an office in the Noblesville area at 593 Westfield Road. WorkForce Diversity and fellow Bona Vista staff members were welcomed to the city with a ribbon cutting ceremony by the Chamber of Commerce on June 27th. WorkForce Diversity is a program through Bona Vista that helps adults with disabilities obtain and retain employment as well as a program dedicated to employing Veterans. Along with the new Noblesville office, other locations include Kokomo, Peru and Logansport.

WorkForce Diversity works with employers who need dependable job candidates; job seekers and career changers, high school students, recent graduates searching for vocational direction, Veterans and people who are determined eligible for our services through Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation Services (Voc Rehab).

Individuals that WorkForce Diversity serves may have mental illness, developmental, intellectual or cognitive disabilities as well as physical issues, such as back or neck injuries, hearing impairment and more. Some of the services offered for WorkForce Diversity clients are job seeking skills, job leads and resume development. We also have community job shadowing, on the job training with an employment specialist and follow along support services for job retention.

WorkForce Diversity also works with Ticket to Work clients helping to establish independence by providing access to meaningful work. We can also help clients with benefit counseling so they can understand government benefits.

As well as providing services to clients, WorkForce Diversity helps businesses by providing FREE on the job training for the employee, ongoing support from the employment specialist, and providing the business with qualified applicants and ensuring a good match between the business and client.

If you are interested in learning more about WorkForce Diversity, please call 317-674-8686 or toll free at 1-800-334-5054 or check out www.bonavista.org.



The 2012 Cinderella Ball to benefit Bona Vista Programs!

The Bona Vista Foundation is proud to present the Cinderella Ball. The Cinderella Ball, a father-daughter event for young girls between the ages of 5 and 10 years, will be held at the Elite Banquet Center on Friday, August 17 beginning at 6pm. The three-hour event consists of a sit-down dinner, horse-drawn carriage ride, ballroom dance lesson, craft, entertainment, and commemorative tee shirt. Photo packages are available at the event. Cinderella and Prince Charming will also be on hand to interact with their royal guests.

The Cinderella Ball also offers young ladies an opportunity to make a difference in their community by bringing a donation for a local non-profit organization. Princesses are encouraged to bring a donation for Bona Vista Programs to the August 17 event!

Tickets for the Cinderella Ball are \$50 per person. Parents may request to receive an invitation online at www.thecinderellaball.com. Once you have requested an invitation, Bona Vista staff will mail an invitation to the princess. Parents, you will need to detach the rsvp and mail back payment. Once we have received payment, we will confirm your reservation through an email or phone call. The reservation deadline is Friday, August 10 or until all seats are filled.

The Bona Vista Foundation would like to thank sponsors that have signed up as of July 1! 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 with and without disabilities. Many, many thanks to Hayes Advisory Group, The Center for Early Childhood Education at IUK, Printcraft Press, Inc., Brian Oaks, Attorney at Law, Cheer Guild Gift Shops, Community First Bank, Nick Pate - State Farm, Pediatric Dental Specialists of IN, P.C., Spray Tan by Patty Thatcher and Dechert Law Office.



A WorkForce Diversity client touches the lives of others!

Andrew Lortz is a janitor here at Bona Vista Programs, Inc. He was placed here by his job coach, Cindy DeVaney, through WorkForce Diversity. WorkForce Diversity is a program through Bona Vista that provides employment services to adults with developmental, intellectual and physical disabilities. Andrew was in a motorcycle accident when he was 21, and he sustained injuries to his head, back and legs. Andrew and his job coach, Cindy, have worked diligently on finding a routine for Andrew, because he easily forgets his tasks due to his brain injury. There are signs up at Bona Vista that direct him where to go with arrows, and there are numbers on the signs so he can stay on track and work in the proper order.

Needless to say, Andrew puts forth the effort to be successful in his job. However, this isn't a story about Andrew overcoming his disabilities and having a community job, even though it is quite an accomplishment; this is a story about how Andrew helped a child here at Bona Vista's Positive Results for Kids.

One day Andrew was cleaning the indoor gym when he heard a child crying about his leg braces to his therapist. The child did NOT want to put them on, and he did not want people to see him with his braces on his legs. Andrew, hearing the child – and remembering what it's like to have these emotions – walked up to the child and started to talk to him. Andrew lifted up his jeans and showed the child that he too, wore leg braces. Andrew told the child that they help him walk, which helps him work and do things that everyone else can do!

The child stopped crying and looked at Andrew. He looked at his therapist and put on his braces without any further fussing. Andrew had related to the child and helped him overcome his fear of the braces and the judgment that may come along with wearing them.

Andrew went back to his work determined as ever to finish his day. Andrew didn't do this act to be a hero... but to that child – he was a hero.



FALL ENROLLMENT – Keys for Kids Preschool

Bona Vista has a preschool program for ALL children- Keys For Kids Preschool. Keys for Kids has began enrollment for the 2012 Fall Preschool Year! Keys For Kids offers Half Day Preschool classes and Kindergarten Readiness in our Kokomo and Peru locations.

In Kokomo, we have one classroom for two year olds and young three year olds; as well as one classroom for older three, four and five year olds. Kindergarten Readiness is available for our four and five year olds. Fall classes start August 8th and 9th, so call 765-457-8273 ext. 386 or stop by the preschool office at 1220 E. Laguna Street, Kokomo.

Don't forget, Kokomo Keys for Kids has a full-day class room all year long for two through five year olds. This licensed child care center classroom is accredited through the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Keys for Kids Preschool has achieved a Level 4 ranking from Indiana's Paths to Quality, meaning that we provide the highest level of professionalism in child care!

In Peru, we have half day options for three and four year olds and four and five year olds. We also have Kindergarten Readiness available for four and five year olds. Fall classes start August 8th, so call 765-473-6744 today for more information, or visit us for a tour at 105 S. Benton Street, Peru.

Keys For Kids has a professional teaching staff that focuses on social skills and academics. We have secured entrances, nursing and therapy staff on site, and we can assist with potty training if needed. Please visit www.bonavista.org for rates and additional information.



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Whether you are looking to make your home or business handicap-accessible, or need adaptations for yourself or a loved one in a private home, Adapt-Abilities has the professional knowledge to serve you. If you own a business and are confused by the ADA guidelines for the State of Indiana, Adapt-Abilities can help! We can meet all of your business and home accessibility needs. Adapt-Abilities specializes in: wheelchair ramps, wheelchair accessible bathrooms and doors, grab bars and handrails, shower and tub remodeling, specialty commodes and toilets for easy accessibility, accessibility remodeling, widening doorways, and general contracting services are available for private homes and businesses.

Please email or call Norman Wagler at norman@adapt-abilities.com or Call (765) 863-7711 or (765) 863-7771 for more information, or if you would like Adapt-Abilities to work at your home or business.

