



*August 2023 Newsletter*

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# *Student Spotlight*



Meet Skyla, a 13-year-old girl in our PRTF program, who someday wants to travel to Paris and see the Eiffel Tower in person. She loves eating shrimp and sushi at her favorite restaurants Royal Buffet and Zeng, as well as watching movies and TV. Some of her favorite things include the color blue, white roses, dogs and bunnies. She has four dogs and gets to see her dog Bella when her mom visits. Skyla also enjoys making bracelets while listening to music and wants to make one for each of her staff as a thank you. When she grows up, she wants to be a traveling nurse and while in college wants to work at Gibault or another residential facility to help kids like herself. Skyla is always quick to help other kids in the PRTF program, making sure they know their team of staff and their rights. When asked about her experience at Gibault, she is most proud of reaching maintenance level, the highest level for good behavior, and the new coping skills she has learned. Skyla enjoys the fun things she gets to do, likes the staff, and loves she was able to get her hair cut shorter. "Be a flower and bloom" is her favorite quote.



Staff members Jennifer Hatfield, Jennifer Comer and Donna Roehm were special guests at our quarterly board dinner to thank them for participating in the 2023-24 Staff Fund Drive. These employees publicly show their support of Gibault through payroll deduction donations.

## 38th Annual Envoy Conference Registration Reminder

**You are invited to attend Gibault's 38th Annual Envoy Conference!**

Please submit your completed registration form, provided in the "Register Now" link below, to Gibault by **August 21, 2023**. Late registrations will not be accepted. **You must be registered to attend.**

Those planning to stay overnight must make their own hotel reservations, Gibault staff will not make them for you. We have reserved a block of rooms at the Drury Inn (3040 Hwy 41 South, Terre Haute, IN). You must individually call in to reserve a room – 1-800-325-0720. The cutoff date to receive our discounted rate is **Monday, August 21, 2023**. Use Group Number 10071040. First come, first served.

**Doors will open at 10:00am.** Please do not arrive early as staff will be busy making last minute preparations for your visit.  
We **will** be hosting dinner and a hospitality room this year.  
The event **will** include Mass.

**Please click the button below to register**

**REGISTER NOW**

# ***Knights in Action***





**Melissa Reed visited with K of C Council #12387, Carmel, to present Mr. Laurence Lillig with a Gibault Challenge Coin for being a steadfast and enthusiastic advocate for Gibault's children. While there she was surprised with an \$8,000 check from the proceeds of the council's annual golf scramble. Thank you Knights for all your hard work to support Gibault!**



**Northwest Indiana Knights of Columbus members and their families did a campus clean up at Campagna last month. They helped spread 220 bags of mulch, pull weeds, trim trees and bushes, and haul away fallen limbs. These efforts were spearheaded by our good friend David Negrete from the Griffith Council #3631. Assembly #235 and Council #3631 hosted a warm lunch for volunteers after the work was completed. This was a big job, and we are grateful for the extra elbow grease to improve our grounds.**

# ***Around Campus***

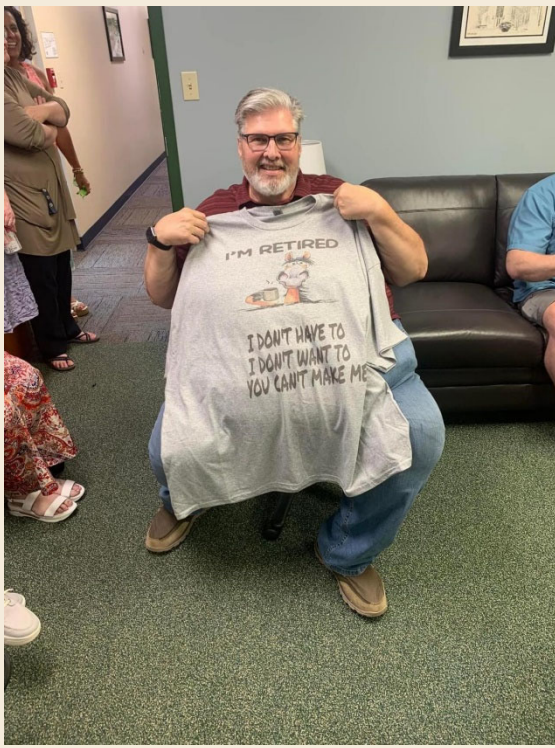




**Children, staff, board members and Knights joined us as we held our Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our new Family Visitation Pavilion which was funded by the Vigo County Guys Who Give and Gibault's Life-Changing Ladies giving circles. Families and special guests use the shelter as a nice, shady place to visit children in our care.**







Laughter, stories and memories abounded as current and past staff came together to celebrate Bob Hepner's retirement after almost 17 years of service in Gibault's Business Office.

Best Wishes from all of us, Bob, as you embark on this next phase of your life!

Enjoy! You've earned it!

We will miss you!

# ***Planting Possibilities***



In 2011 Mary Anne Neiner and her husband, Mark, incorporated Planting Possibilities with the vision of building a greenhouse to employ and job train adults with autism and other developmental disabilities. In 2014 they brought that vision to our Campagna Campus. A \$25,000 grant from the Lake County Community Fund at Legacy Foundation ensured a

greenhouse was purchased, and a hoophouse was donated by Alsip Home and Nursery Center. The horticulture education program started with our kids which also teaches life skills and good employee habits like completing tasks, being a team player, listening, and following instructions. The class meets once a week and each child on campus can participate. Plants are started inside with seeds where they can be safe from the weather. The class cares for and hardens the plants so they can be moved outside. They are growing sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, gourds, squash, garlic, lettuce, and beans this year. At harvest, youth enjoy cooking with their bounty in the small kitchen found in the classroom. Fresh vegetables are also donated to the Northwest Indiana food bank which the children take pride in doing. Many of the flowers around campus were planted by the class over the years.

When asked how we can help Planting Possibilities we were told Mr. Mark, who manages the daily operations of the organization, needs an assistant. Someone who could manage the program in his absence and be willing to learn how to one day take over the operation so Mark can retire full time. Currently the program has four volunteers who help with the gardens on our campus. If you would like to learn more about how YOU can help, please call Mark at 1-219-237-9353 or email [admin@plantingpossibilities.org](mailto:admin@plantingpossibilities.org).

This program runs all year long on our campus with activities being held inside during inclement weather. It is an important component of our programming as it provides educational and task-oriented activities that are designed to show work is fulfilling and fun. Our children feel important, valued, and helpful when they can share the treasures they've grown with others. We are excited to showcase some of their fresh vegetables during campus events later this summer. Visit [www.plantingpossibilities.org](http://www.plantingpossibilities.org) to read more about what they are growing in the Lake County Community!

Planting Possibilities is a registered 501(c)3 with the mission to provide employment, job skills training, and fulfilling volunteer opportunities for adults with autism and other developmental disabilities in Lake County, Indiana.



**YOU CAN HELP US EXPAND OUR REACH  
BY FORWARDING OUR NEWSLETTER TO  
ALL OF YOUR COUNCIL MEMBERS,  
CHURCHES, FAMILY AND FRIENDS!**





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