



# The Companion

**Enriching Lives... Enhancing Abilities!**

**Bona Vista Programs  
Winter 2008**

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## **Bona Vista Programs celebrates 50 years of service**

This year, Bona Vista Programs proudly celebrates 50 years of service. Bona Vista was started in 1958 by a group of parents who had children with special needs. Traditional schools were unable to accommodate the children, and families were encouraged to keep their school aged children at home. However, parents were determined to provide an education, as well as socialization opportunities for their children. They hired a teacher and opened a school for children with special needs in a rented space on Walnut Street in Kokomo.

They soon outgrew this space and in the early 1960's the Kokomo Jaycees launched a \$30,000 fund drive to help build the 1220 E. Laguna Street facility. Thirty-three children started in December 1965.

Preschool services and job placement services were added in the late 60's. Throughout the 1970's, Bona Vista continued to grow, adding residential services, additional therapy programs, an industrial workshop and work evaluation program.

By 1988, a working relationship developed between Bona Vista in Kokomo and Gateway in Peru, and the two merged. From this point, growth has continued

throughout the agencies to include an expansion of residential services, supported employment services, expansion of the Kokomo site and construction of the new Bona Vista Peru site on South Benton.

Positive Results Therapies was initiated in 1995, as was an integrated preschool program in

recipient of a federal Early Head Start grant, Keys for Kids preschool was opened to children with or without disabilities, BVI developed Digital Imaging Services, Community Living Services expanded, and WorkForce Diversity moved into its new home at 1423 S. Plate St.

Bona Vista began offering OBRA services in 2000. Positive Results Therapies, BVI Services and WorkForce Diversity developed a website to inform and educate the community.

Bona Vista at the Crossing officially opened in 2001. The Laguna Street building became known as The Kids Construction Zone. Positive Results Therapies opened an outpatient office at the Miami Medical Plaza in Peru.

The Box Store opened in January 2002 at the Crossing building, providing a resource to train consumers about packaging and mailing.

In 2003, the Betsy Mason scholarship fund for students accepted into a speech and hearing program awarded its first recipient.

The first American Montessori class opened at  
*CONTINUED ON P. 5*



Peru called Keys for Kids. Medicaid Waiver services were also initiated in 1995.

In 1998, Bona Vista acquired the Miller Beverage building at 1221 S. Plate St. and began renovations to create office space, and what would eventually become adult services known as Bona Vista at the Crossing.

Also in 1998, Bona Vista was the

# Taking a look back



1959- Donation of school bus by R. Boughman



1964- Christmas party with firefighters



1967- Students participate in class

1958- The Bona Vista School for children with disabilities begins in September at 317 W. Walnut Street in Kokomo.

1959- Robert Boughman donated a used school bus to Bona Vista so that children were able to have transportation to school.

1964- The Kokomo Firefighters begin the tradition of a Christmas party for Bona Vista's students and consumers.

1966- A sheltered workshop is opened at Bona Vista.

1967- Enrollment in the Bona Vista School reaches fifty-three students.

1974- Bona Vista begins an independent living training program.

1976- Bona Vista plans begin to increase the physical size of our Laguna Street facility.

1977- Bona Vista opens an outpatient rehabilitation therapies center at 1220 East Laguna.

1981- Bona Vista becomes CARF accredited.

1982- The City of Kokomo and Bona Vista join together for a cooperative transportation system for individuals with disabilities.

1985- Bona Vista expands their preschool services to Peru.

1987- Bona Vista begins a homebound intervention program for infants and toddlers. Homebound parent adviser services are also offered.



1977- Preschool children enjoy a balloon lift

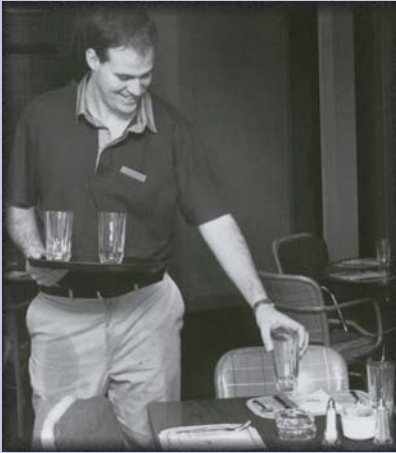


1982- Transportation program benefits local individuals



1987- Intervention program begins

# Then and Now



1989- A client working through our community support employment program

1989- Bona Vista begins community support employment services.

1990- Efforts toward Bona Vista's "Building Visions" capital campaign are underway.

1992- Bona Vista opens the new 7,000 sq. ft. addition to the 1220 East Laguna facility.

1994- Bona Vista begins providing early childhood intervention services in homes.

1995- Special events begin at Bona Vista Programs. The Greatest Spectacle in Tasting, Angel Sale and The Coin Harvest all begin to help raise much needed funds throughout the year.

1997- Bona Vista opens Keys For Kids Preschool, a child care service, in Peru.

1998- Bona Vista receives the Early Head Start grant, as well as opens Positive Results Therapies in Kokomo.

2000- OBRA services begin at Bona Vista. This program provides transportation for adult individuals, who live in nursing homes, to at Bona Vista Programs for daytime programming.

2002- The Box Store becomes part of the Bona Vista family.

2003- The first American Montessori class opens at Bona Vista on Laguna Street.

2005- Bona Vista Industries, also known as BVI, becomes ISO 9001-2000 certified.

2006- Bona Vista begins an online EBay store called Auction-Packed. The Bona Vista Foundation is established.

2007- Bona Vista, RACI and Habitat for Humanity join together to build a new home for a couple, who are BVI clients.



1998- Therapy services expand in Kokomo



1992- Bona Vista expands their Laguna St. facility



2003-Montessori begins at Bona Vista Programs



1994- Early childhood intervention programs begin visits in homes



2007- A community effort to support two BVI clients

# A note from the President

Through the changes in national, state and local politics, the thriving and chilling economic times and the ebb and flow of industry, Bona Vista has consistently provided services to children and adults in Howard, Miami and surrounding counties for 50 years. The evolution of our services and programs are a true historical statement of the progress that the nation and our state have made with regard to serving persons with special needs. The entire notion of inclusiveness, early intervention and the placement of adults with special needs in jobs within the community setting has become a common practice. Bona Vista has been involved in every phase of the start up of programs and has in many instances provided

valuable input for the development of policy and standards for the new programs.

Bona Vista has truly been a leader when it comes to serving persons with special needs. The agency has for years been selected to be a pilot site for many of the new state programs and will continue to monitor and provide guidance to the state and our legislators at the national level on funding and program modifications that are needed to meet the needs of persons with special needs.

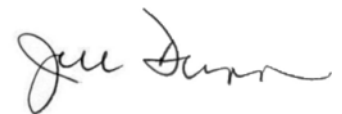
There clearly is no way that we can begin to share the range and depth of services that we provide in detail. So many people in the community assume that they know what

Bona Vista is about and what we do for over 1,000 children and adults on a daily basis. People are interested in donating to an organization where their investment counts and will grow and have lasting power.

With every child we serve, with every adult we find a job placement for, with every child that we identify and remediate a developmental delay, with every parent that we teach how to be a more effective parent, with every adult we teach a new self-help skill, with every child that we identify as abused, neglected or living in an intolerable environment, with every adult who is going without medication, food, or the bare necessities, you are

making a wise investment. You can count on the mission of Bona Vista and the great staff who come to work every day to implement and focus on quality services to make a positive impact on people's lives.

I hope you will help us celebrate our 50th anniversary by continuing to support Bona Vista Programs. Please understand that your donation is a long-term investment in our community that will not change.



## Grant News

Bona Vista is the proud recipient of a recent grant award funded in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of Howard County. The award of \$4,512.51 will be used to provide support for the "Full-Day Child Care Room" project.

We are expanding our early childhood programs and are offering 20 new spots annually for licensed and accredited child care in Howard County for children between the ages of three and five years. This award will be used to purchase new equipment and learning materials for this room that are age and developmentally appropriate for the children served. The purchase of these will play a dual role.

First, the new equipment and

learning materials will provide an environment that will foster the healthy development of children and better prepare them for kindergarten and future education. Second, the purchase of the new items for this classroom will ensure that Bona Vista maintains licensure and gains accreditation for this room as well as maintains both statuses for the rest of its early childhood programs.

The mission of our Keys for Kids Early Childhood Services is to provide services and support to children and their families through an individualized program that will maximize potential, encourage independence, promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for those children and their families. Keys for Kids

Preschool provides special needs, typical education and half and full day programs to children ages two through six years of age.

For more information, please contact Angie Herniak or Melissa Moloch at (765) 457-8273 or visit our website at [www.bonavista.org](http://www.bonavista.org).

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[www.auction-packed.com](http://www.auction-packed.com)

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# NAP tax credits again available to donors

Bona Vista Programs has been allocated \$41,656.04 in state income tax credits to “sell” to individuals and businesses. This is exciting news and we’d like to share it with you!

The Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) offers \$2.5 million in state tax credits annually for distribution by not-for-profit organizations. These organizations use the NAP tax credits as an incentive to help leverage more contributions from individuals and businesses for certain neighborhood-based programs and projects. Tax credits are distributed to donors at 50% of the contribution amount and are subtracted from a donor’s state income tax

liability. All contributions would be used for providing applied behavior analysis (ABA) treatment, training and consultation to children and adults that are diagnosed with autism or autism spectrum disorder.

Let’s suppose that Taxpayer A chose to make a donation of \$1,000. Taxpayer A would be required to complete a form claiming \$500 tax credit and send the form along with the donation to Bona Vista. We would submit quarterly reports to the state who would forward this information on to the Indiana Department of Revenue (IDOR). IDOR would issue a tax credit of \$500 to Taxpayer A by mailing

them a form they could attach to their Indiana tax return at the time of filing. Bona Vista would use the \$1,000 donation to supplement children’s therapy funding.

From Taxpayer A’s standpoint, a cash outlay of \$1,000 would occur. This would be offset by a tax credit on their state income tax return of \$500. Taxpayer A would also be able to report the \$1,000 donation on their federal income tax return. Assuming Taxpayer A itemizes deductions on the federal tax return and is taxed at 33%, the \$1,000 donation would end up costing Taxpayer A about \$335, depending on their particular tax situation.

This is an exciting opportunity for Bona Vista! If we “sell” our tax credits according to deadlines set by the state, we may receive additional credits. As you think about making your upcoming estimated tax payments or year-end tax planning appointments, keep us in mind. For more information, contact Jim Milner at (765) 457-8273, or at [jmilner@bonavista.org](mailto:jmilner@bonavista.org)

## 50 years, continued from p.1

Bona Vista on Laguna St.

In 2004, Early Head Start earned the NAEYC accreditation, which is only awarded to programs that meet the highest quality in early childhood programs.

By 2005, BVI Services became ISO 9001-2000 certified. This achievement opened up international job possibilities for consumers at Bona Vista. Full-day Preschool became NAEYC accredited in September.

In 2006, Bona Vista acquired Auction-Packed and joined this on-line Ebay store with the Box Store. Bona Vista began the American Montessori Academy in a brand new classroom at the Laguna Street facility.

The Bona Vista Foundation, in an effort to provide continuous and long-term support to our many programs and services, provides a way through which individuals can donate to Bona Vista and help us maintain our programs and services.

The Bona Vista Foundation held its first fundraising event in February 2007. Bona Vista, RACI and Habitat for Humanity joined together to build a new home for two Industries consumers. Adapt-Abilities began at Bona Vista Programs in 2007.

Mobility Solutions and Positive Results for Kids were introduced to the community shortly thereafter. WorkForce Diversity began a new School To Work Transition program designed to

help high school student’s transition into the workforce.

Child Care Solutions moved into the third floor of the 123 N. Buckeye St. building, which was donated by attorneys Bayliff, Harrigan, Cord, Maugens & Cox, P.C. in 2007.

Over the last 50 years we have provided high-quality services and programs to our community. Bona Vista Programs continues to serve adults and children with or without disabilities.

Today, we are an integral part of the community, and look forward to continuing our legacy for another 50 years.

## Save the Date

December 13: Bona Vista’s 15th Annual Angel Sale at Bona Vista at the Crossing beginning at 9:00 a.m.

January 17: Last One Standing Dodgeball Challenge at Maple Crest Middle School.

February 28: Bona Vista Foundation dinner event at the Casabella Ballroom, Pastarrific to support children’s programs at Bona Vista.

For event or sponsorship information about these and many of our other special events, call Brittnee Burton at (765) 457-8273.

# Thank you to all of our contributors: June-November 2008

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**Bona Vista is a proud and fortunate recipient of funds  
from United Way of Howard County and We Care. Thank  
you to all of our friends who generously support us  
through those efforts.**

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Ms. Linda Wallace  
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Walls  
Ms. Maggie Wilson

## Memorials

### *In Memory of Vickie Sue Richards*

Mr. Jeff Richards  
*In Memory of Ed Pine*  
Ms. Maxine Clark

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Phillip Pine Family

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Grams  
*In Memory of Dana  
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Mrs. Rosemary Richard

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Brown  
*In Memory of Eugina*  
Ms. Elaine Beckman

*In Memory of Virginia  
Raquet*

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jessup  
*In Memory of Janet Ford*  
Ms. Norma Grecu

## Gift-In-Kind Donations Needed

Bona Vista is in need of a variety of items on a regular basis. By donating items such as the ones listed below, you can help Bona Vista offset the cost of providing services. If you, your church, club or service group is interested in making a donation or taking up a collection, please call (765) 457-8273 and ask for the Development Department.

Paper towels and tissues  
Soap and shampoo  
Diapers (all sizes)  
Baby wipes  
Toothbrushes (child and adult sizes)  
Toothpaste  
Shaving cream  
Kleenex  
Dixie Cups  
Markers  
Hand & body lotion  
Applesauce and pudding in single-serving containers  
Smooth peanut butter  
Gummy candy (jelly beans, Twizzlers, gummy bears, etc.)  
Graham crackers  
Vanilla wafers  
Cheese crackers  
Kitchen towels and washcloths  
Liquid measuring cups  
Dry measuring cups  
Cookie sheets  
Cookie-cutters  
Soft plastic or rubber-tipped baby & toddler spoons  
Children's books  
Children's safety scissors  
Paintbrushes  
Play sand  
Colored construction paper  
Tissue paper (all colors)  
Playdough  
Wooden puzzles with peg handles  
Toys that lace, button or snap  
Toys that talk, move or interact  
Socks for children age birth-6  
Sweatpants (adult sizes)  
Underwear (adult sizes)  
Hats, mittens and gloves (child and adult sizes)  
Beanbag chairs  
Flower pots  
Potting soil  
Flower or vegetable seeds/bulbs  
Watering cans (child and adult sizes)  
Photo paper for inkjet printer  
TV/VCR cart on wheels  
Batteries (AA, 9 volt)

# Last One Standing Dodge Ball Challenge planned for January 17

The fourth annual Last One Standing Dodge Ball Challenge to benefit Bona Vista Programs is planned for Saturday, January 17, 2009 in the gymnasiums at Maple Crest Middle School in Kokomo, Indiana.

Up to 40 teams of six players who are 18 years of age or above will compete against each other in this fast paced game of throwing and dodging. Co-ed teams are encouraged!

The cost for entry will be \$15 per person. Prizes will be awarded for the first, second and third place teams, best uniforms and overall fundraising team. The tournament is a great way to help Bona Vista raise much needed funds. All proceeds from this event will go to support pediatric and adult programming at Bona Vista Programs.



Last year we had a total of 34 teams who competed for the title of "Last One Standing" and we are planning on another successful competition in 2009. Many community leaders came out to support their favorite teams, and the event is always open to the public.

There are still opportunities to sponsor our event on a variety of levels. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like more information on this event, contact Brittnee at (765) 457-8273, ext. 313 or check out our website at [www.bonavista.org](http://www.bonavista.org).

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is produced for friends of  
Bona Vista Programs.

**Winter 2008**



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