

HIGHLIGHTS

Summer 2016

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OUR MISSION: The mission of Cardinal Services is to **assist** and **advocate** for people with **disabilities** or **challenges** to live lives full of **dignity, growth** and **opportunity**.

The Vision Continues



Nearly a year ago in the fall issue of Highlights, Jane Wear shared her vision for the future of Cardinal Services as she approached her retirement after 40 years of service. Her vision, my vision, is that Cardinal will be there for any individual, any family in need of services. The challenges before us loom large but the future is filled with the promise of making a difference in the life of every person who asks for our help.

My parents, married at 18 and 15, faced more than the typical challenges one might expect of people who wedded so young. Within two years they had two children. My younger sister was born with a physical disability resulting in surgeries, casts, braces and trips to Shriner's Hospital for much her childhood. She was one brave little girl who never let her disability hold her back. Her grit and those trips to Shriner's had a lasting impact on me.

When I entered first grade I was identified to have a speech impediment. I still remember leaving class a few times a week for three years to attend speech therapy knowing that I was different from the other kids.

Life would have been more difficult in those early years were it not for the help from my grandparents and the hard work of my parents. They instilled a strong work ethic and a passion to help others. Yet, I sometimes wonder what might have been different for them and my sister and me had Cardinal programs, like Head Start, Healthy Families or WIC, been available for us. My family certainly would have qualified for all of them. What's more, I wonder about all those families with children with other disabilities and conditions I saw at Shriner's Hospital. What became of them? Did they find the supports that would allow them to live a life of dignity, growth and opportunity?

Thankfully, Cardinal is here. We are here for those young parents who need a helping hand. We are here for those infants and children who deserve the best possible start in life. We are here for that person with a disability who wants to experience all that life has to offer. We are here for people who have no means of their own to get to work, medical appointments or the grocery store.

My vision, like Jane's, is that Cardinal will be here another 40 years and beyond making an impact in people's lives. We must be, and this vision can only be achieved with the continuing support of our community.

Thank you for all the offers of support and encouragement. I look forward to working with you to assure that this vision becomes reality. .. and thank you, Linda, Mom and Dad.

Learn how you can include a gift to
Cardinal Services
in your estate plans.

Call Vickie Lootens: (574) 371-1344



Across the nation . . .

and industry-wide there is a shortage of staff working with people with disabilities. At Cardinal today, we have 55 direct support openings.

The harsh reality is that lack of staffing means we can't meet the need we are committed to serve.

As a result, there are 24 adults with disabilities on a list, waiting for services.

Help us fill these crucial staff openings so no one is turned away!

1. Tell others we are hiring.
2. Direct them to our website where they can apply online.

cardinalservices.org

RedBird Studio Takes Flight

Did you hear? This spring we opened *RedBird Studio*. Double the size of our day services classrooms, it has multiple stations where people can work on different kinds of art. In the first week alone, we hosted over 150 participants, including artists, Cardinal staff, and visitors.

Each weekday you'll find artists immersed in mixed media: painting on canvas or fabric, creating jewelry with beads they've painted, or sewing a beautiful bag or pillow.

Artists and their talents are emerging. For example, Adam's line drawings are taking on color and texture, and Nino is taking photos and then re-interpreting them in paint and other media.

Shown here is an item included in our recent exhibit at Cerulean Restaurant, a mixed medium piece from a series on vegetables, **Tomato Cherish**.



RedBird welcomes donations of supplies, visiting artists and volunteers. Already we've received some fantastic donations that we repurposed, including a boat tarp that was used to make canvases, and fabric sample books that found new life as totes and within canvas works.

If you'd like to visit *RedBird Studio*, we invite you to attend one of our tours. They are over the lunch hour, include your lunch, and feature the studio.

For more information on the studio or tours, contact Sarah Montel at (574)371-1372 or sarah.montel@cardinalservices.org.



In June, Warsaw WIC began issuing Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards designed to make it easier for families to use their WIC benefits.

The cards replace paper checks and function like debit cards. Families continue to be prescribed foods tailored to their nutritional needs. The amount of food benefits allocated to each participating family has not changed but they will have greater flexibility in how to use them.

- Clients may buy as many or as few of the authorized foods they want per shopping trip. Checks required all items to be purchased at once or be forfeited.
- Provides a receipt showing remaining benefits for the month at the end of each transaction.
- Creates an easier checkout for cashiers and customers.
- Eliminates the hassle and stigma associated with using the oversized paper checks.

66 Career Links clients are looking for work.

Have you considered hiring a person with a disability?

Help Keep Kids Safe

Head Start/Early Head Start is in need of new car seats like the one shown here.

- HybridLX
- 3-in-1
- Made by *baby trend*
- Available at Walmart

To donate a seat or contribute toward one, contact Linda Bruss at (574)371-1312 or linda.bruss@cardinalservices.org.



HIGHLIGHTS GOING PAPERLESS!

In an effort to save money and natural resources, we have decided to stop sending out a paper newsletter. Instead, your *Highlights* will come directly to your email inbox. The Spring 2017 *Highlights* will be our last old style edition.

To remain on our mailing list (now e-mailing list), please send us an email using the email account you want us to use.

Send your message to:
contact@cardinalservices.org

If you do not have email but wish to remain on the Cardinal mailing list, please call Michelle Boxell at (574)371-1387.

We appreciate you making this change with us. Every penny we save will help us achieve our mission assuring people live lives of dignity, growth and opportunity.

Thank You!

On our cover . . .

Scott's wife Nicole works for Cardinal and when she talks about the people she serves her excitement spills over. It didn't take



long for Scott to feel like perhaps he was missing something. He'd never spent time with anyone with a disability, but he wanted to try.

After meeting Terry, Scott decided to take the plunge and asked Terry if he'd like to go fishing. Terry is nonverbal, but there was no doubt from his reaction that he wanted to go! So, together the two men set up on the shore of the Winona Lake canal.

For 2 hours they fished and took in the wild life. They didn't catch any fish but they did catch a bullfrog and Terry was thrilled by the enormous heron flying overhead. You can tell from the twinkle in his eye that Terry's having a great time.

For Scott, it was a life changing experience. "I think before I met Terry, I was afraid of the people because they were so different, but this has totally changed the way I think about people with disabilities. I learned just to be myself – don't treat them any different because they're not."

Every adult Cardinal serves would benefit from having a friend in the community, someone to go fishing with, to play cards, to go to a concert in the park with on Friday night. Maybe you are that person. Perhaps you already know someone we serve, but have hesitated to reach out to them. Think about it. Just like Scott, you may find you two are not so different after all.

HIGHLIGHTS

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Cardinal Services, Inc. is a non-profit social service agency that provides rehabilitation programs and services for people with disabilities or other needs. The people we serve are considered for services without regard to race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, marital or veteran status, or the presence of non-service related medical condition or handicap. Cardinal Services is partially funded through SSBG/Title XX through the Social Services Fiscal Office of the State of Indiana.

Visit our website at
www.cardinalservices.org

WHY Cardinal?

We first learned about Cardinal and their services a number of years ago when our children were still in elementary school. We were looking for an opportunity to expose our children to the true meaning of the holiday season – ultimately, they read a couple of their favorite books to a classroom of pre-K Head Start students along with a small gift for each of their own choosing. After doing this for several years we were intrigued to learn more about the Cardinal organization as a whole and through a *Cardinal Connection* lunch & tour were amazed to more fully understand the breadth of their services.

When we stop and think about the true measure of a society, or sense of community, it has to be in how we care for each other and for those who cannot care for themselves. It can be overwhelming to think about all the needs that exist within our community; Cardinal Services thinks about them endlessly and stands up, without hesitation, with strength and determination. We are humbled to support, through contribution and volunteer work, an organization that supports “dignity, growth and opportunity” for our community’s most vulnerable.

It is the entire Cardinal team, who give of themselves through tireless effort and dedication to fulfill the many and varying needs of Cardinal clients on a daily basis, which we truly admire. They provide access to education, experience and hope to those individuals and families so they can grow, thrive and live life on their own terms, with all its “ups and downs.” We are truly moved by this effort and are thankful to have Cardinal Services in our community.



By Cardinal Friends, Jodi & Bob Marshall