



CardinalServices
of Indiana

Summer 2019

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The Front Page



The Healing Power of Art and Shared Endeavor

After a tragic school bus accident claimed the lives of three innocent children last fall, everyone struggled to come to terms with the grief. Nowhere more so than at Mentone Elementary where the children attended school.

Enter RedBird volunteer and local artist Christi Ziebarth and her RedBird collaborator, Brianna Allison. Together, the two women visited the school and taught children and others how to make spin art, which Ziebarth then formed



into a memorial wall at the school. The experience allowed Brianna to deal with her own sadness by reaching out to help the kids do something about theirs. In addition, she discovered that she enjoys working with kids and wants to do more projects with them in the future. *I'm still sad about what happened, she said, but sharing my art with the other kids was such a good thing. For them and for me.*



Wish List:

- Socks/underwear, kids 4-6
- Diapers (0 and up)
- People to attend & bring a guest to a Lunch & Tour (see page 2 for schedule)
- Art supplies / canvas
- Take a person to church with you on Sunday!

This edition of The Front Page is an annual publication. If you would like to receive our monthly e-newsletter, sign up on our website at www.cardinalservices.org



CardinalServices
of Indiana

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**.

A note from our CEO . . .

Cardinal takes the professionalism, quality and training of our employees very seriously, and it shows.

This year, Cardinal's very own Christine Jameson was recognized as *DSP of the Year* by our state trade association INARF. Last year, Cardinal employee Cathy Bradley received the same honor, and two years ago Donna Kite was recognized as Indiana's DSP by our national trade association ANCOR.

With all the impressive nominations submitted each year, being selected among so many deserving people is a significant achievement. The recognition is a testament to the character of all our employees and of a company culture that fosters excellence.

It can be easy to miss out on achievements, great or small, that permeate Cardinal. Allow me to highlight a few.

- ◆ Two weeks ago it left me humbled to hear of a boy who others had written off for mainstream kindergarten but on whom our own Head Start team did not give up. He has just "graduated" from Head Start and in the fall will enter kindergarten with a real chance to excel.

Making a Difference, Great & Small

- ◆ I am inspired by the regular visit to my office of one gentleman who shows his total, unfiltered pride and delight at the opportunity to work, made possible by his devoted Career Links team.
- ◆ A few weeks ago, I was deeply touched as I saw our employees at the side of an individual in a group home as she left this life and entered the next. They honored her by allowing her to take her final breath in her home surrounded by all of them - people she knew and loved, and who loved her so fully and unconditionally.



For the young, the old and everyone in between, the role Cardinal employees play improves their quality of life. We work here at Cardinal because we want to make a difference. I encourage you to take a moment to recognize that difference and the difference it makes in our community, tell others about it, and help us grow the excellent team that is Cardinal Services. And ask yourself, *What would our community be without Cardinal Services?*

So Much to Share . . .

In just three short years, RedBird Art Studio has created a vast abundance of opportunities: for artists, for Cardinal, and for our wider community.

- ⇒ Gallery show openings at *the gallery at rua* and Ivy Tech's new *Futurevistas Gallery* are only the most recent formal events and gallery shows.
- ⇒ Several artists collaborated to create *Tucker Bear* (see photo), Cardinal's submission to the Nappanee Arts Council 2019 sidewalk exhibit whose theme this year is *Junk Yard Dog*.
- ⇒ RedBird art is displayed and for sale at Ivy Tech Warsaw, Oakwood Inn, Parkview YMCA, Warsaw Chamber of Commerce, Kosciusko WIC office, and Wire and Steam Coffee Shop,
- ⇒ WNIT Public Television featured RedBird artists on its *Education Counts* program. View the segment at: <https://www.wnit.org/educationcounts/s/the-redbird-art-studio.html>.
- ⇒ We have added two new opportunities for you to participate in the fun: ***OOPS! I Arted*** - 2nd Wednesday of each month; 11:45am-1pm; BYO lunch and enjoy a round-table chat about art; led by a different local artist each month.; and ***Community Creations*** - monthly; like "wine & canvas" without the wine!; led by local/RedBird artist teams.



RedBird Totals:

- Sales: \$29,919.98
- Commission to Artists: \$17,951.99
- 64 artists have sold at least 1 piece of artwork and received a commission for it.

To Learn More:

Contact RedBird Coordinator
Michele Fanfair-Steury at
(574)371-1415



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

Call Vickie Lootens:
(574) 371-1344

Follow us on
Facebook, Twitter
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You are invited to a
1-hour lunch & tour
Upcoming dates:

July 30
August 12 & 28
September 10 & 25

Call Jama Brown to RSVP:
(574) 371-1372

Taking Time to Help

The annual Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive benefiting Cardinal Services requires about 125 volunteers to successfully operate each year. Among the Knights, Sacred Heart Parish members, and Cardinal friends and employees who volunteer are many people we serve in Cardinal programs. They not only enjoy the time talking with people at storefronts, but take joy in volunteering in their community. One such volunteer is Leta.

I just really like helping people, she says when asked why she signed up to work Saturday morning in front of Walmart. Joined by her friend and Cardinal employee, Vicki



Lothamer and her daughter Megan, the three women worked the chilly early morning with Leta noting that she pulled in the most donations.

The following week, Cardinal held a prize drawing for employees and persons served who volunteered, with Leta winning a \$100 Amazon shopping spree! In addition to a new comforter for her bed, Leta - who is a talented writer and artist - selected a wide assortment of papers, markers and artistic pens.

Our thanks to Leta and to everyone who helped with this year's Tootsie Roll Drive. Look for us next year - and for Leta. She's already signed up!



to the Statehouse representing Cardinal's Self Advocates group, spending an entire day meeting with over a dozen elected officials from across Cardinal's service area. A highlight was meeting Governor Holcomb (pictured here with Jenny and Bobby) in his office. This was a new experience for both, and there were a few nerves walking up the steps of the Capitol Building.

Yet, on the long drive home, Jenny said she was surprised how easy and fun it was talking to her elected officials. *After the first couple, it was really simple and I wasn't nervous at all.* Agreeing, Bobby said he wants to continue learning about advocacy so he can do more of it. Just two short weeks later, the two attended a state-wide Indiana Self Advocates leadership training to do just that. Jenny and Bobby have come to understand that while we need all kinds of people supporting disability issues, it is their *own* voice that others need to hear when it comes to what people living with disabilities want and need.

Back home in Warsaw, Jenny and Bobby have addressed the Cardinal SA group and say they intend to be active in assuring their voices, and those of their peers continue to grow in strength.

***Thank you, Knights of Columbus!
This year's Tootsie Roll Drive raised
\$15,116.57!
Proceeds go to our Career Links program,
supporting people as they find
and succeed at jobs in our community.***

The Sound of Their Own Voice

One bright spot in the 2019 Indiana Legislative Session was the increased advocacy for our issues by family members and other supporters - especially self advocates.

For example, Bobby Plummer and Jenny Jay traveled

The Front Page

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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.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

On a steamy Wednesday in June, 57 folks from Cardinal enjoyed a great day of fun at the Ft. Wayne TinCaps game, courtesy of AWS Foundation. In addition to their ticket, each person received \$5 in TinCash to spend anywhere in the park, and an AWS rally towel - which came in quite handy shielding us from the sun!

Thank you, AWS Foundation!

