

Special Edition

INARF Members Celebrate Disability Awareness

Events across the state Cultivate Inclusion

Bona Vista Programs hosts a Coin Harvest as a fundraiser and a Disability Awareness basketball game each March. The Coin Harvest helps local schools and businesses get involved in raising money for Bona Vista Programs. Coin collection buckets are placed at participating schools and businesses, and individuals are asked to "harvest" their loose change and add it to the buckets. Bona Vista also will visit schools to teach as many children as possible what life might be like for an individual with a disability, and how important it is to have a positive attitude toward those with disabilities.

The annual Disability Awareness Basketball Game features Bona Vista staff and consumers playing against local celebrities. The Bona Vista All Stars won the game 55-54 on a last second shot defeating the celebrity team which included legends of Kokomo High School basketball. □

Besides **Bridges of Indiana's** involvement in activities in the Terre Haute area (see page 5) for Disabilities Awareness Month, the agency also participated in the Evansville Transition Fair, the 2011 Annual Autism Expo in Carmel, and Child Adult Resource Services' Open House events. During the Evansville Transition Fair and Autism Expo, Bridges of Indiana handed out "Cultivate Inclusion" materials to educate individuals on disabilities. Bridges of Indiana was honored to be a part of C.A.R.S.' Open House events in Attica, Crawfordsville, and Terre Haute where "Cultivate Inclusion" stickers were also distributed to guests. □

Cardinal Services partnered with their local newspaper to publish one story about disability services each week for the month of March. Stories highlighted employment services, including Cardinal's community employment program (CareerLinks) and facility employment program (Work Services). Other stories in-

cluded a local therapeutic horseback riding not-for-profit & an Associated Press story on Medicaid cuts. Cardinal Services CEO Jane (Greene) Wear also spoke at local service clubs (Kiwanis, Rotary, Optimists) making them aware of cuts the service delivery system has experienced and people with disabilities are being challenged with in this fiscal environment. □

Individuals served by **Four Rivers Resource Services** were asked to display their art in a library in Sullivan County. They worked very hard to make these items, some of which will be used at future events. Four Rivers also provided materials for a week of learning about individuals with disabilities in a local elementary school. The students learned about person first language, kids their ages with a disability, and the Braille alphabet. The students even read books in Braille! Disability Awareness week was finished with a classroom presentation from a certified sign language instructor. The kids learned how to sign the alphabet, their names and simple phrases. □

Hillcroft Services

hosted an art gallery with MutualBank in Muncie. Art work created by the clients as part of the Very Special Arts program was unveiled in the "Jeanette Taylor Gallery of Artists." The gallery was created in honor of Hillcroft founder Jeanette Taylor who will be 91 in August and is still a strong supporter of the organization. Her art work was displayed in the gallery as well. The art was displayed for viewing and sale for the entire month of March. Brenda Williamson of Hillcroft said, "it is so awesome to see the clients'



Jeanette Taylor and Mayor McShurley



Abby Bahlmann and her mother Joan

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Building Awareness

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faces when they sell one of their paintings because their smile tells the story without saying a word.”

Mayor Sharon McShurley of Muncie also presented Hillcroft with a proclamation in honor of March as Disability Awareness Month. □



Chuck Thornburgh and Hillcroft CEO Debbie Bennett

On March 11, A Noble Evening in the Garden was held as the 15th annual preview gala to the Indiana Flower and Patio Show at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. It is the largest fundraiser of the year for **Noble of Indiana**. Later in March, the Indianapolis City-County Council recognized Disability Awareness Month and Noble with a proclamation at its full council meeting. Noble also partnered with the Autism Society of Indiana to host a number of family events including an open gym night, a sensory-friendly movie night, a performance of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra and a screening of the new movie *Temple Grandin*. □

Opportunity Enterprises celebrated Disability Awareness Month with an “Alternative Spring Break” activity for children ages 8-16. The 25 adults and children who participated in the activity began with a short Sensitivity Training activity, then toured the building, and concluded the afternoon with a volunteer opportunity to pack runner bags for the Shamrock Shuffle race which will take place in Chicago in April.

The event had three basic goals – for participants to learn more about OE, learn more about and gain a better understanding of people living with disabilities, and participate in a volunteer activity. It seems all goals were achieved, and participants really enjoyed their time – everyone expressed an interest in coming back next year! □



On March 3, the Diversity Works Steering Committee of Bloomington hosted a Business Recognition Ceremony to honor 10 area businesses that have made outstanding contributions in the employment of individuals with disabilities in the past year. Diversity Work Steering Committee is a group consisting of **Stone Belt Arc. Inc.**, **Options**, **Work One**, the City of Bloomington, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Centerstone.

The event was officiated by Daniel Grundmann, Human

Resource Director for the City of Bloomington. Mayor Mark Krizan opened the celebration with the reading of a proclamation, declaring March as Disability Employment Awareness Month. The following businesses received awards honoring their contributions as employers: CVS, PC Max, Cook, Inc., Bloomingfoods, Bloomington Parks and Recreation, Monroe County Community School Corporation Administration/ Special Education Department, I.U. Parking Operations, Once Upon a Child, Bloomington Housing Authority, and Best Buy. □

Passages, Inc. sponsored an expression contest in Whitley County. During March students were encouraged to submit an original creative piece (poem, essay, drawing, art work, or other means of expression) to demonstrate their thoughts about people with intellectual disabilities as it relates to the “R” word. The entries were judged by a panel including representatives from the schools and Passages with the top 4 entries from each school receiving a cash prize, a “Spread the Word to End the Word” T-shirt, and a celebration event held at their school. This year the winners will also present their entries at school board meetings for special recognition and newspaper coverage. This event has offered to the students, faculty, and the community to think about the power of words used to refer to citizens with disabilities and how words can make a difference and change how people are viewed and respected. □

Pathfinder Services President John Niederman read to the three, four and five year old children at Pathfinder Kids Kampus. John read “Mama Zooms” a book which helps celebrate this year’s theme to “Cultivate Inclusion”. He also made reference to the importance of including each child and adult in the community regardless of their ability. ■



The Mayor of Batesville presents a proclamation to the Self-Advocates of **New Horizons**. The Batesville Library also hosted a display on the hobbies and special talents of consumers from New Horizons.



Arc BRIDGES hosts open houses, ball and banquet

By Sue Crisman

Arc BRIDGES celebrated Disability Awareness 2011 by hosting a series of events. We invited friends and family members to join us at four Cultivate Inclusion open houses which were held in each of our community locations. The afternoon began with the clients meeting their guests and taking them to their particular area. Then at 2:00 p.m. everyone gathered for a program and refreshments. The program was presented by clients and represented the various Arc BRIDGES 'community inclusion programs' Supported Employment, Supported Living, Residential Services and Community Connections. Proclamations were presented and refreshments were enjoyed by all.

In conjunction with the Arc of Indiana, Arc BRIDGES hosted a Regional Pathways Forum at Indiana University Northwest on March 23. Dr. Ken Coopwood, Sr., Director of Diversity Programming and Assistant to the Chancellor at the University, attended and participated in the event. Attending from the Arc of Indiana were John Dickerson, Executive Director; Mark Kevitt, Director of Program Services; and Jill Vaught, Director of Organizational Advancement. Kris Prohl, Executive Director, Arc BRIDGES welcomed the attendees.

On March 26, Arc BRIDGES held the 15th Annual Spring Ball, a formal brother-sister affair. This year's "A Crystal Rose Affair – An Evening of Elegance" was held at the beautiful Avalon Manor. Kings and Queens from each of the BRIDGES four centers were presented and given gifts in recognition of their royal status. Following dinner, the group enjoyed dancing to H.Y.P.E. – a seven piece group that is a favorite of the guests.

The final event for the month was the annual Participant of the Year Banquet, a luncheon honoring the 12 clients of the month from each of the four centers and the naming one as the Participant of the Year. Each monthly honoree received a commemorative t-shirt and certificate. The Participant of the Year received a gift card. ■



Participant of the Year Carmelo Castillo with Joyce Robinson and Kris Prohl



Gary Taylor at the 15th Annual Spring Ball with his brother Dennis, Dennis' wife LaVerne and friend, Robbin Lomax

Great LOGAN Nose-On and piano concert raise awareness

By Ann Lagomarcino

This year, Disability Awareness started early in our community. LOGAN partnered with Saint Mary's College to bring Brittany Maier, savant pianist, for a concert on February 13th. Maier, a world renowned pianist despite her personal challenges of blindness and autism, stunned the hundreds of people who witnessed her amazing performance on campus. On the heels of the concert, LOGAN was involved with Spread the Word to End the Word Day, March 2nd, on Notre Dame's campus.

March also kicked off the Great LOGAN Nose-On, a month long fundraising and awareness campaign. Forty-four schools and 33 businesses participated in this event, selling Nose merchandise. Hundreds of green dot signs peppered our community's landscape as a reminder of the people and the mission 'behind the green noses.' The Nose-On Luncheon on St. Patrick's Day drew 936 attendees, 300 of whom were local students, to hear featured speaker Jason McElroy. His story of high school basketball greatness - scoring 20 points in just 4 minutes in his debut at the season's final home game – stole the hearts of America back in 2006. Jason inspired his audience as he stressed the importance of taking your shot when given the opportunity.

Over 300 fourth and fifth graders came to LOGAN's annual Disability Awareness Fair on March 23rd. Interactive stations explained various disabilities as well as equipment and technology that enhance individual quality of life. This event helps participants to understand what is behind the popular green nose.

Disability Awareness continued beyond the month of March as LOGAN partnered with Notre Dame to bring Loretta Claiborne, Special Olympic Athlete and Speaker, to campus on April 12th. Marathoner Claiborne (26 marathons) has competed in 6 Special Olympics Games, is an ESPY award recipient and has been featured on ESPN and CBS. Her presentation entitled "Identity of Disability" addressed issues of self-perception and an understanding of having a disability. Disability Awareness 'season' finished off with a soccer game at Notre Dame on April 17th as the home Special Olympics team hosted a team from Northwestern University. ■

'Life without Limits' wins AWS slogan contest

By Courtney Hartman

Thank you!

In addition to the authors credited in individual articles, INARF thanks the members below for contributing information and photos for this newsletter.

If you have agency news or events to share in an upcoming INARF newsletter, or to suggest topics for future editions, please contact JoAnna Moskal at joanna@inarf.org or 317-634-4957.

Alice Anderson, Passages
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Michelle Boxell, Cardinal Services
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Jessica Davis, Four Rivers Resource Services
Rita Davis, Noble of Indiana
Amy Jackson, Stone Belt Arc
Jason Meyer, Pathfinder Services
Tiffany Smith, Bridges of Indiana
Allison Thomas, Opportunity Enterprises
Brenda Williamson, Hillcroft Services

Jocelyn Jones Kreoger's slogan, "Life without Limits" captured first place in AWS' Slogan Contest in honor of National Disability Awareness Month, celebrated in March.

"We help take limitations out of clients' lives and create opportunities for them to have full, productive lives," Kreoger explained. "This slogan seems to embody the heart and soul of AWS." Kreoger serves as Regional Director of AWS-St. Louis, Missouri, which provides residential and behavior management services for more than 100 children and adults with disabilities.

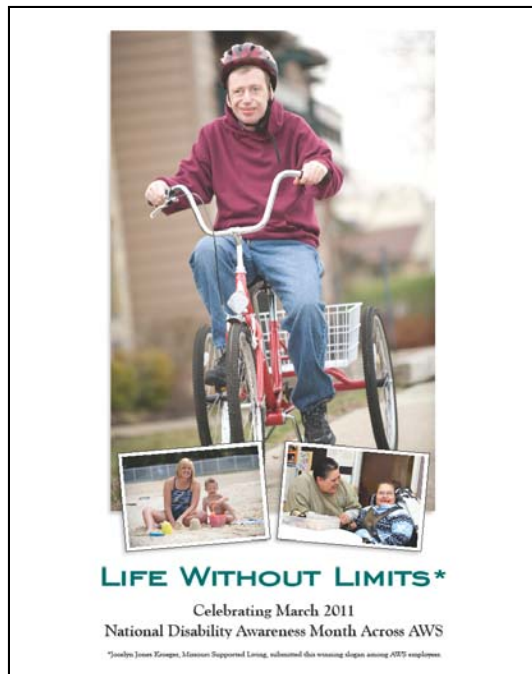
AWS conducted the National Disability Awareness Month Slogan Contest among its 2,800 employees throughout February. Second place winner Teresa Steffee, Administrative Assistant, Richmond, Indiana, submitted the slogan, "Changing disabilities into abilities." She explained, "One of the things I like in working for AWS is seeing what a difference AWS staff makes in the lives of consumers."

"Don't just have a voice – be a voice," was created by Ty Lambert, Program Coordinator, Fort Wayne, and won third place. She explained, "I want people to be positive and speak for those who can't speak for themselves and explain why people with disabilities need to have a voice." Lambert, who joined AWS last fall, has seven cousins with Down syndrome.

A poster of the winning slogan, featuring AWS clients, now appears in all AWS offices. Creators of the top 10 slogans received a \$20 gift card.

Top 10 winners and their slogans were as follows:

1. *Life without Limits*: Jocelyn Jones, Missouri
2. *Changing disabilities into abilities*: Teresa Steffee, Richmond
3. *Don't just have a voice, be a voice*: Ty Lambert, Ft. Wayne
4. *Look for the ability in disability*: Melissa Taylor, Richmond
5. *See Abilities, not Disabilities*: Paula Spall, Ft. Wayne
6. *Celebrate the abilities in disabilities*: Theresa Prentice, Ft. Wayne
7. *Think Abilities not DISabilities*: Paula Elward, Ft. Wayne
8. *I am here. I am proud. I am able.*: Muriel Baker, Ft. Wayne
9. *Together we Thrive*: Justine Brown, Ft. Wayne
10. *Capture the capabilities*: Bobbie Leaird, Ft. Wayne ■



Wabash Valley providers partner to celebrate disability awareness

By Mary Ann Clark, Spectrum Services and member of the collaboration

The local group who came together in 2010 to organize the month-long Disability Awareness Month celebration has continued to meet and organize themselves as D.A.W.G. (Disability Awareness Work Group). This year members of D.A.W.G. collectively celebrated the month with several different events and activities beginning with a Disability Resource Fair and Proclamation by Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett on March 1.

A colorful calendar that included D.A.W.G. and provider-sponsored activities during the month was distributed throughout the Terre Haute and Brazil communities.

On March 23, the second annual Enabled Not Disabled volunteer event was held. Local Day Service Providers offered a community opportunity for their consumers to volunteer at area parks and facilities. **C.A.R.S.** had approximately 20 consumers and staff working at Hawthorne Park. Booker T. Washington Center and Park in Terre Haute was another volunteer site where approximately 30 consumers and staff members from Spectrum Services (**Hamilton Center**) and two from **Mosaic** spent the morning raking and sweeping the grounds, sidewalks and parking lot. Everyone involved enjoyed being outdoors and helping the Terre Haute and Wabash Valley Disability Awareness Month Collaboration. D.A.W.G. committee member **Bridges of Indiana** was also involved in the event.

During the afternoon, consumers and staff gathered at a collaboration-sponsored party held at Booker T. Washington Center to celebrate the day and the hard work done that morning. Everyone enjoyed dancing to the music provided by Spectrum staff member Dave Amerman, shooting some hoops on the basketball court and consuming the refreshments provided by D.A.W.G. The local Tribune-Star newspaper covered the event with a nice article complete with pictures and interviews of some of the consumers who participated.

D.A.W.G. also invited local notables to take on a disability for a period of time and share their experience with the local news media. Participants were paired with a person with the disability and the local paper again provided an article on this activity. The endeavor, which was previously called "Gaining Perspectives" was named D.A.T.E. (Disability Awareness Through Experience) and the group hopes to involve more people in this activity next year.

Culmination of the month occurred on March 31 with the second annual Low Vision Expo sponsored by Western Indiana local Independent Living Center – WILL Center.

Members of D.A.W.G. continue to meet monthly and are already planning activities throughout the year. In May, the group will participate in a Transition Fair for graduating high school students. In July, the second annual Disability Awareness Day at the Terre Haute Rex baseball game will bring hundreds of persons with disabilities to the ball

field to promote disability awareness.

Agencies involved in Disability Awareness Month included The ARC of Vigo County, Bridges of Indiana, C.A.R.S., Children's Bureau, Goodwill, Hamilton Center (including Spectrum Services and Project SEARCH), Happiness Bag, Indiana State University Blumberg Center, Covered Bridge Special Education District, WorkOne, City of Terre Haute, MOSAIC, Southwestern Indiana Respiratory Disease Program, Terre Haute Human Relations Commission, United Cerebral Palsy, The WILL Center and WorkOne. ■

ADEC fosters community education through diverse channels (including chocolate!)

By Nancy Bounds

To raise awareness of challenges faced by the disability community, ADEC, sponsored several events in March, including public service announcements, a chocolate heart fundraising and awareness-raising campaign, and disability simulations for staff. The emphasis will continue in April with a lunch forum and an evening program, both focusing on autism.

The Have a Heart for ADEC fundraising campaign began in February and concluded in March. Partnering with a local candy shop, ADEC purchased solid milk chocolate hearts and offered those to the public for a donation. Each heart came with a card explaining the services ADEC provides.

To help cultivate awareness among all citizens, ADEC sought educational opportunities as well. ADEC's direct support professionals participated in disability awareness activities as part of their monthly training meeting. They were challenged to complete tasks while simulating a disability. Currently, ADEC is also running a series of public service announcements on a local radio station, Froggy 102.7. In conjunction with the radio spots, ADEC sponsored a page in a children's coloring book depicting a child in a wheelchair being included on the playground by the other children. The coloring books are being offered free to children in the community.

On April 15, ADEC Family Services devoted its monthly Learn @ Lunch program to autism by assembling a panel of people who love someone affected by autism to tell their stories and answer questions from the audience. The emphasis on autism awareness will continue April 26 when the ADEC Autism Resource Team presents a special program, Light the Way for Autism Awareness, at Kardzhali Park in Elkhart. Participants will make a luminary in honor of someone on the autism spectrum and then place it on the Elkhart River Walk. The goal is for those with autism or affected by autism to see all the luminaries and realize they are not alone. As part of this evening program, the Elkhart Memorial Gold Rush Vocal Jazz Choir will sing, and a woman whose family is affected by autism will tell her story. ■

Rauch hosts 2011 Imagine Awards, essay contest

By Teresa Jackson

The Imagine Awards, held March 5th at Horseshoe Southern Indiana, were a great success thanks to all of our sponsors, donors, volunteers and attendees! We had a huge silent and live auction featuring a Weber grill, a guitar signed by the band Boston, and an iPad.

This year's program featured Kentucky's best country and rockabilly singer Calvin Ray Johnson of Mount Washington. Calvin was diagnosed with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy at age eight, but he has never let that stop him. In his twelve year music career, Calvin Ray has performed for the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon on national TV seven times! Calvin Ray had the crowd clapping and swaying with Elvis, country and gospel songs.

The night also included the presentation of the 2011 Imagine Awards to an individual with a disability, a community leader, and an organization for their commitment to creating a "community where everyone belongs!" This year's recipients were:

- Thomas Klein, whose neck was broken in a swimming accident at age 15. The accident left him a C-6 quadriplegic, paralyzed from the chest down. Tom has given back to the community through the development and facilitation of seminars on freedom and confinement focused on empowering the prison population.
- Schuler Bauer real estate professional Steve Hines who has tirelessly advocated on behalf of individuals with disabilities. Steve was instrumental in bringing this vision to fruition through the construction of Rauch's housing development in Hawthorn Glen subdivision.
- Life, Inc. who has sponsored recreational activities for individuals with intellectual disabilities since 1964. Their primary effort, provided under the tireless leadership of President Rita Renn, is the Special Gardens for Special People program at Mount Saint Francis. Individuals with disabilities are taught gardening skills and provided an opportunity to enjoy fresh air and fellowship.



Imagine Awards Winners: Front: Tom Klein. Back: Steve Hines; Bettye Dunham, Rauch CEO; Rita Renn, Life Inc.

The Imagine Awards are held each year on the first Saturday in March in recognition of Disability Awareness Month.

Rauch staff and clients also visited Floyd County elementary schools to speak with fourth graders about what it is like to have a disability. Student participated in disability awareness activities including connecting the dots while wearing goggles that had Vaseline smeared on the lenses, buttoning a t-shirt with their non-dominant hand while wearing a mitten, and guessing what an object was by feel while their eyes were closed.

The students were very excited to meet our clients and asked where they worked, what hobbies they had, and how long they had been with Rauch. The students and their teachers were also given information about the annual essay contest. Any area fourth grader can submit an essay and be entered to win a \$30 cash prize and also have \$30 donated to the charity of their choice. This year's essay topic is "Cultivate Inclusion." All of the essays will be read by judges who will determine the five winners. We look forward to reading everyone's essays! ■



Catering program, community concert and book donations help Janus raise awareness

By Teresa Steege

Disability Awareness month is so very near and dear to our hearts at Janus Developmental Services, Inc. This year our activities included working with local media, including the submission of an article celebrating the month by Connie F. Sanders, President and CEO to newspapers and an appearance on the Westfield Matters cable television show discussing the importance of the programs and services offered to individuals living with disabilities.

Janus also donated 20 new hardcover children's books to the Hamilton East Public Library branches in Noblesville and Fishers. The new books have storylines about young children with special needs and their siblings and families. Several new toddler board books were donated as well. Books were purchased as part of a community awareness program with funding from a grant from the PNC foundation.

Three fundraising and awareness events were hosted. In an effort to increase awareness regarding disability services, the Carmel High School Ambassadors and Accents Show Choirs presented the first-ever "A Concert for the Community" on March 16. Proceeds from public ticket sales benefitted Janus Developmental Services. The Ambassadors and Accents stated that they were privileged to have this opportunity to give back to the community. Janus' mission was highlighted before, during and after the program. Several consumers, board members and other stakeholders were present and the event was a fun night for all.

On March 25th Janus presented a Create, Connect, Commit event to the public. Over 70 community leaders, professionals, businesses, and citizens helped celebrate the work of Janus. The generosity of attendees and the convivial spirit of the gathering gave proof that philanthropy speaks to the best in all of us when the cause is just and noble.

Throughout the month, individuals enrolled in the Capabilities Café and Catering program served tasty meals and treats around the community. Program participants were selected by the Hamilton North Chamber to cater lunch for their March chamber meeting. The menu was a resounding success and the individuals received several positive comments regarding their efforts. Chamber attendees were able to learn about the programs and services offered through Janus Developmental Services as well as enjoy a tasty lunch.

On March 15th, Janus Developmental Services, Inc. hosted a community luncheon open to the public. We provided a tour of each program and service as well as a lunch catered by individuals in the program. Connections through our community luncheons have resulted in contract work, community jobs, as well as in-kind and monetary donations. The luncheons hosted monthly have been a fantastically effective way to increase awareness and to meet programmatic and overall agency goals. We are excited about the community partnerships that have come about as a result of connections made through the luncheons. To close the month, Capabilities Café hosted a bake sale at the Noblesville Walmart.

Janus was pleased to host a variety of awareness opportunities for March that highlights our mission to enable individuals living with disabilities to become participating and contributing members of their communities. ■

"Spirit of Blue River," local artist delight in Corydon

By Emilie Campbell

Blue River Services' mission goes hand in hand with this year's theme of "Cultivate Inclusion." Every March we beautify our community by planting the seeds of understanding to help each other recognize and appreciate the unique gifts inside people of all abilities. Blue River Services celebrated March as Disability Awareness Month in several different ways.

Blue River, through a grant from the Harrison County Community Foundation, started the first Special Needs Color Guard in the area. The "Spirit of Blue River Special Needs Color Guard" program provides a new skill set that will serve as a meaningful and fun pre-vocational habilitation activity for our clients. It enhances individual self-esteem and promotes community integration and participation. The color guard will help our community become more aware of the capabilities and talents of the people we serve.

The Spirit of Blue River Color Guard held their first public performance March 16th at Corydon Central High School. The color guard was greeted by their own cheering section composed of family, friends and Blue River staff. It was a moving performance. Their routine, which was choreographed to Michael Jackson's "Hold My Hand," received a standing ovation with cheers and applause. The color guard is fine tuning their routine and planning their next public performance. They are also planning to participate in several local parades this summer.

For the eighth consecutive year, Blue River Services hosted the Disability Awareness Essay & Poster Contest to recognize the importance of Disability Awareness in area schools. Students at each school expressed their interpretation of this year's theme "Cultivate Inclusion" as a poster or by participation in the essay contest. Winners from each grade level will be chosen, as well as an overall county winner. This year we received over 400 entries. Judging is currently underway and the winners will be announced in May.

Blue River also initiated a feature story in the Corydon Democrat and the Clarion news titled "Painting Without Restrictions." The article, which was a full color feature article on the front page of the Flair/Style sections, highlighted the accomplishments of Brandon Martin (pictured above) a resident of our Country Trace Apartments in Palmyra, Indiana. Brandon had recently painted a mural in the exercise room there. He is a very talented artist that also has cerebral palsy, seizures and Tourette's syndrome.

Blue River Services enjoys the opportunity to help our community become more aware and accepting of the people we serve and hold so close to our hearts. ■

