

The TIMES

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Community comes together to create food, flower gardens outside Janus in Noblesville

By

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The efforts of many individuals from the community, businesses, Janus staff, board members and consumers has resulted in the creation of a community garden at Janus in Noblesville. The community garden promotes Indiana native flowers and provides individuals served at Janus Developmental Services, Inc. with a life enriching work skills training opportunity.

Janus provides individuals with disabilities the opportunity to participate and contribute within their communities and community partners are a vital part of fulfilling this important mission. Individuals with all abilities are able to learn about gardening and participate in a nature experience that is rewarding and valuable.

The gardens feature raised beds for accessibility throughout the large landscape and a gazebo. The overall garden features many smaller garden areas designed for a specific experience. Included is a butterfly garden that provides a habitat for a variety of native butterfly species. A smaller hummingbird garden presents featured native Indiana flowers that attract beautiful hummingbirds.

Three vegetable gardens offer adults with disabilities the opportunity to plant, grow, harvest and sell produce. The sensory portion of the garden provides a unique sensory



Photo provided by Teres Stegge
Volunteers, staff and clients work on the new community gardens outside Janus in Noblesville last week.

experience and fun learning opportunities. Guests can experience the pungent smell of spices, the taste of sweet and tart plants and the whimsical sounds of chimes.

"We are thankful as an organization to be based in a community of thoughtful, committed citizens and businesses that care enough to change the world of adults living with disabilities," said Vice President of Operations at Janus Teresa Stegge. "As a community, we planted and mulched over 3,500 square feet of garden space. Through the efforts of our community partners, our community garden is a Hamilton County attraction that provides opportunities for the individuals we serve to learn valuable skills that dramatically enhance their quality of life."

She said he garden would not be possible without the dedication of Janus staff and clients as well as business and members of the community who stepped up including: Key Bank, Sertoma Club of Broadripple, Meyer Najem, RL Turner, Performance Services and memorial contributions for Mark Wariner, Terry Bowen, Debbie Hager, Jacquie Banks, Randy Banks, Sharon Woods, Hamilton County Master Gardeners and Board of Directors, Shaena Reinhart of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, the city of Noblesville, Native Plants Unlimited, Woody Warehouse, RW Armstrong, Cynthia Bowen and Catherine Clark.

For more information, visit www.janus-inc.org.

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