

LIFEDesigns

2014 in a glance...

Partnering with people of all ages and abilities to lead meaningful and active lives.

Thank you for a great year!

To everyone who supported LIFEDesigns this year, **THANK YOU** for your donations, time, and support. Know that you have helped:

*Provide support to 358 people
Provide 735 community based classes
59 new people find support
25 people find jobs they love
Partner to give 8 BNL seniors internships
And much more...*



Coming Home

21 years in the making

As a result of a gift from the City of Bloomington, LIFEDesigns was able to make this home accessible and help Angie Ehlers achieve her lifelong dream of living in her own home independently.



LIFEDesigns addresses National Direct Support workforce crisis.

In 2014, LIFEDesigns experienced many unfilled DSP (Direct Support Professional) positions, a workforce crisis happening across the country. The agency increased the DSP starting wage to \$9-10 per hour. Our board also established a special task force dedicated to finding a way to increase the starting wage to \$12 per hour to address this issue.

To raise the DSP starting wage to \$12 per hour, it would cost LIFEDesigns \$3,980 more per customer per year than Medicaid pays for the supports each customer receives.



Crawford resident Durrell Patton speaks about his transformation after moving into Crawford at the 2015 Homeward Bound Bloomington 5K Walk.

Crawford Apartments Receives Lt. Governor's Award

Excellence in Affordable Housing and Community Development - Urban
LIFEDesigns was recognized with Shalom Community Center at the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) annual statewide conference in September 2014.

In the first year, 28 residents collectively:

- Increased their income by 29%
- Doubled the number who have healthcare
- Reduced incarcerations by 88%
- Reduced emergency room use by 65%

2014 Community Involvement

Best Buddies of IU

LIFEDesigns partnered with Best Buddies of IU and 10 customers were matched with IU students in the Best Buddies program. The students in the program attend community events and engage in fun activities with their Buddy.



A new event was inspired by our very own Jake May. The first ever LIFEDesigns Talent Show happened in 2014! This event will now be an annual LIFEDesigns event.



LIFEDesigns partnered with RE/MAX to provide hot air balloon rides at Karst Farm Park at our annual picnic. It was the highlight of the year for everyone who attended! Thank you Becky Wann for helping to make this possible.

A Very Special Thank You To:

Our Volunteers

In the past year the focus has been on building longer relationships with volunteers, and establishing an internship program. For the first time, LIFEDesigns welcomed IU students into our continuing education program, with one student leading instruction of a communications class in the program. It turned out to be very exciting and engaging for the participants.

Our Donors

Please join us in extending our most sincere *Thank You* to all of the amazing people who support us by joining our Partnership Circle. We want to recognize the impact they have on our ability to continue providing support and opportunities for customers.

Thank You from the bottom of our hearts.



A complete financial and program evaluation report can be found online at:
<http://lifedesignsinc.org/links/>

A complete list of all of our partners & donors can be found online at:
<http://lifedesignsinc.org/support/partnership-circles/>

LIFEDesigns is proud to be a United Way Member Agency in Monroe, Bartholomew and Lawrence counties.



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