

# The LIFE*Designs* Letter

Spring 2013

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## ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Tuesday, May 21st - 5:30pm to 8:30pm

The Seasons Lodge, Nashville, IN

Free admission, all are welcome! Dinner at 6:00pm.  
Nominate award winners today at [lifedesignsinc.org](http://lifedesignsinc.org)!

## Crawford Apartments - Breaking Ground!

The Crawford Apartments ground breaking ceremony took place January 31 as more than 40 people gathered to celebrate the apartments that are soon to be completed. The development will consist of 25 one-bedroom apartments that will serve people with disabilities experiencing chronic homelessness.

This project was made possible by the following businesses and organizations: LIFE*Designs*, Shalom Center, Positive Link, Centerstone, South Central Housing Network and Milestone Ventures.

The Crawford Apartments will be located on South Henderson Street near the ReStore. The apartments are scheduled to be opened near the end of 2013. We'd like to give a big thanks to everyone who came out in support of this great cause!



## MLK Jr. Day

Volunteers from the Kelley School of Business painted a mural at our Dunn group home for their "Day ON!" project. Thanks for making the house a more beautiful home!



## In this Issue of the LIFE*Designs* Letter:

Annual Awards  
Crawford Apartments  
MLK Jr. Day  
The Week of Chocolate  
The Art of Chocolate  
LIFE*Designs*: Our First Year  
Disability Awareness Month  
Holiday Party  
Springtime Health Tips  
Columbus Open House  
A Letter from our CEO

Our Letter to the LIFE*Designs* Community

# The Week of CHOCOLATE

The Week of Chocolate took place from January 26 - February 2, 2013, and supported the following local nonprofit organizations: Pinnacle School and Learning Services, Monroe Co. History Center, Bloomington Moose Lodge, Martha's House, Citizen Advocacy of South Central Indiana, Rhino's Youth Center, Amethyst House and LIFE Designs. Nearly 14,000 people attended the events to raise a total of almost \$35,000!!



Rhino's Chocolate Prom

History Center Sundae

Chocolate Bingo at the Moose

Pinnacle's Chocolate Challenge

## The Art of CHOCOLATE



The Art of Chocolate took place on Sunday, January 27, 2013 at the Indiana University Art Museum.

Chefs from various local restaurants donated delicious treats as well as their time to make the event a success. We'd like to thank everyone from Angel B's - A Galleria of Cakes!, Eagle Pointe Catering, Feast, IMU Dining Services, KRC Banquets & Catering, Scholar's Inn Bakehouse, Sweet Grass, Peacetrue Mountain Truffles, Oliver Winery, Malibu Grill and Angles Cafe for participating in this year's Art of Chocolate! Many local artists also contributed to the event by donating pieces of artwork to be auctioned off, with proceeds benefiting both the artists and LIFE Designs. Additionally, local businesses sponsored the event: FinePrint, Oliver Winery, Moose Lodge, IU Art Museum, Lamar, American Legion, Bunker & Robertson, Brian & Ann O'Neill, Crowe Horwath, Dr. Howard and Associates, Herald-Times, Old National, Republic Services, Wal-Mart, WFIU, Bill C. Brown Associates, Bloom Magazine, Blue & Company, Christensen Eye Care, Cook Medical, Crowder Long-Term Care Pharmacy, Curry Auto Center, First Insurance Group, Forthphaze Technology, IU Credit Union, Milestone Ventures, Spirit 95 and WBWB.

This year, even with the poor weather conditions that evening, there were around 225 people in attendance. The event raised more than in the previous year, with a total of almost \$24,000. All of the funds raised at the Art of Chocolate go directly towards providing continuing education and supported employment for our customers.



**Thanks to our PRIMER SPONSORS FinePrint, Oliver Winery, the Moose Lodge, IU Art Museum and Lamar!**

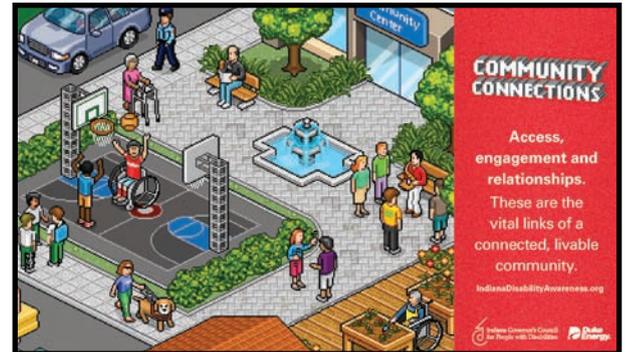
# LIFEDesigns: Our First Year!



We can't believe it's already been an entire year since the collaboration of Options and Christole took place, resulting in the creation of LIFEDesigns! We'd like to thank everyone for their support this past year, and we look forward to many more years to come serving individuals with disabilities in South-Central Indiana.

## Disability Awareness Month

For 23 years the Indiana Governor's Council for People with Disabilities has led Disability Awareness Month in March. The theme of this year's campaign was "Community Connections." The Council states that "the goal of Disability Awareness Month is to increase awareness and promote independence, integration and inclusion of all people with disabilities." LIFEDesigns promoted disability awareness all month long in March and will continue in April, which is Autism and Accessibility Awareness Month.



### *Essay and Drawing Contest*

We invited classrooms of children from K-8th grade in Monroe, Lawrence, Brown and Bartholomew to participate in an essay and drawing contest that reflected the theme of "community connections". Submissions were taken through April 8th this year. We have many classrooms participating this year and will announce the winners at our Annual Awards Ceremony to be held the evening of May 21st in Nashville, IN at the Seasons Lodge. To find out more go to our website at [www.lifedesignsinc.org](http://www.lifedesignsinc.org).

### *Dine to Donate*

Another opportunity we have for you to support LIFEDesigns during the awareness months is to dine at some of your favorite restaurants and support LIFEDesigns while doing it! On Tuesday, April 23rd from 5:00pm to 9:00pm Noodles will give 25% of their sales to LIFEDesigns if you bring in our coupon. Go to [www.lifedesignsinc.org](http://www.lifedesignsinc.org) to print it off or pick them up at our office. One is also enclosed for your convenience. Check out our website for more information about other Dine to Donate Fundraisers coming in April. Please go support these local restaurants, enjoy their food, and support LIFEDesigns at the same time!



## Holiday Party!

The Holiday Party took place on December 1 at the Bloomington Moose Lodge. Everyone had a great time! Thank you to the Moose for donating the food, drinks and gifts, and for arranging a special visit from Santa. We'd also like to thank Vern Hageman for being a great MC!



## Columbus Office Open House

The open house for our new office was a great success! There were a number of individuals that attended to learn about LIFEDesigns and see our new office. It is located in the Doug Otto United Way Building in Columbus. Come check it out!

## Monthly Awards

Did you know that you can nominate a customer, DSP and team of the month? You can! Forms are at our website at [www.lifedesignsinc.org](http://www.lifedesignsinc.org) and at the Bloomington office. Each month the Leadership Team reads the nominations and votes on the winners. Nominate someone today!





**Main Office:**

200 E. Winslow Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47401

**Columbus Office:**

1531 13th St., Suite 2530  
Columbus, IN 47201

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter:  

[www.lifedesignsinc.org](http://www.lifedesignsinc.org)

**Our Mission:** LIFEDesigns partners with people of all ages and abilities to lead meaningful and active lives.



Employment Services  
Community Services



Member Agency

## A Year in Review and the Road Ahead

This is the time of year at LIFEDesigns where we have looked back on 2012 and taken what we learned forward, strategically planning our next three years. Our Final Report highlights the major activities we accomplished while merging Options and Christole into LIFEDesigns. It also celebrates the almost \$400,000 in 2012 that we were able to save due to increased operational efficiencies.

The service structure changed slightly in January of 2012 with the implementation of a Director of Support Services, Director of Residential Services, and a Director of Community Services. This maintained the same number of people in these positions but targeted an individual to work across former Christole and Options service areas focused on quality assurance, outreach, and ancillary services. The 2012 Customer Survey showed that the customers did not feel the growing pains of the merger and saw no real change in the way they received their services. This was our goal: to become more operationally efficient while keeping the quality and stability of our services the same.

One of the major developments at the state level this year was the effort to convert group homes to supported living services. LIFEDesigns learned in the fall of 2012 that the state was hoping to make the total conversion of all group homes by 2015. In addition, the Division on Disability and Rehabilitative Services targeted children's homes to be reduced by 50 slots in 2013. Since we operate 5 homes,

our services were directly affected. At the time of our Final Report, we were working with the state to develop plans. We will keep you up-to-date as the process continues.

As well as looking back, we also looked ahead. LIFEDesigns' 2013-2015 Strategic Plan is centered around the L.I.F.E. that everyone deserves to have. Each letter in L.I.F.E. represents a major goal for the next three years. LEADERSHIP - We are one of the most admired in the industry. INNOVATION - We employ pioneering strategies to solve problems and reduce barriers. FOUNDATIONS - Our services lead to independence, employment, and full community participation. EXCELLENCE - We have the best employees, systems, and community reputation. The LIFEDesigns Strategic Plan guides our commitment to creating inclusive communities for all.

I invite you to check out the full 2012 Report & 2013-2015 Strategic Plan on our website [lifedesignsinc.org](http://lifedesignsinc.org). We look forward to continuing our partnership together with you to provide quality services to individuals with disabilities for many years to come.



Susan Rinne,  
Chief Executive Officer