



October 2024

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

February seems like light years away, but we here at We Grow Dreams are already gearing up for our 18th annual Bowlathon Fundraiser scheduled for February 23, 2025 at Parkside Lanes in Aurora!



We know that there is a lot that will happen between now and then but planning major events takes time to make them special and in 2025, we hope to make our event one of the best. This past event was a rousing success where we sold out of bowling spots, exceeding our expectations. We hope to do the same this year, and more importantly increase our number of event sponsors supporting this event and our mission of providing job training and employment for young adults with disabilities from across the western suburbs.



This past year we increased the number of individuals serviced at the greenhouse by 37%, raising our total number of individuals to 51! These young adults come individually on their own, with parents or job coaches or through programs such as District 200 Transition Program and Soaring Eagle Academy. Our more than 35 volunteers consist of Master Gardeners, parents, board members and other community-minded individuals, including work sessions with the DuPage Lawyers, Ball Seed employees and others.

We have improved our physical plant through rebuilding of greenhouses, replacement of roofs, heaters and fans, clearing brush and hazards and simply making our greenhouse facility one of the best in the suburbs! But there are so many more projects on our plate like expanding growing spaces, replacing and repairing roof coverings, and improving our raised beds in partnership with Garden Works Project, for growing produce to donate to combat food insecurity throughout DuPage County. An essential part of who we are is to support those in need on many levels.

Our team members are the reason why we exist – to provide a place where their work is valued, where they learn life skills of not just completing tasks but also of being an integral part of the community, working independently as well as part of a team. We realize the ‘ask’ of local businesses can be overwhelming when you are trying to keep your business functional; however, we strongly believe that it takes our communities to support each other for the best results for all! Our team members come from Wheaton, Warrenville, Naperville, Glen Ellyn, Elgin, Batavia, Aurora, St. Charles, Downers Grove and West Chicago. Some of our team members have become full employees right here at the greenhouse while others have moved on to different jobs in their communities.

Sponsorships and donations are critical to this event, and we would love your support. There are multiple levels available: Event, Supporting, Lane, and Bowler sponsorships and donations of all kinds are gratefully accepted for raffles and silent auction items. If you prefer, we would love to speak with you directly about this event and the greenhouse or invite you to visit us to see firsthand how your support can make such a difference. Let us know how we can gain your support and trust that your investment will be used to help others achieve great things.



You can return the enclosed Donor and Sponsorship form, or you can sponsor us through our online event website at <https://www.bowlathon.net/event/we-grow-dreams-2025>. Anyone can join us for an afternoon of bowling, fun, food, drink, raffles and a feel-good afternoon, so make a note on your December calendar to update your 2025 calendar with our event date.



Your support means the world to us! It allows us to continue to **change the lives of many**. Please commit to our Bowlathon event now to make our communities better for everyone. Thank you for choosing us...we couldn't do it without you.

Gail Bettcher

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