



mdc goldenrod report

Spring 2016

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Jesus Is Risen!

Project Promise Easter Play Inspires Many



Community Members shared their acting and musical skills during performances of the Project Promise Easter Play. It was a powerful, faithful testimony of faith.

Starting with Lord's Supper, the drama follows events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Playwright Donald C. Yost wrote the script for Project Promise. It was directed by Mark Dilworth and Rex TerBush.

Music played an important role. The Project Promise chime choir performed several songs. The audience was invited to sing along on a number of hymns, and the performance ended with everyone singing, "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today."

Between the 3:00 pm and 6:00 performances, around 1,300 came to see the play on Saturday. This year, for the first time, we invited area youth groups to the Thursday night dress rehearsal. Three youth groups that joined us: Iglesia del Buen Pastor (Goshen), Nappanee First Brethren Church, and North Goshen Mennonite Church. Community members appreciated their feedback and support. We hope to make Thursday night dress rehearsals an annual event for area youth groups.

For a personal reflection on the experience, see the story on page 2.

MDC Goldenrod is a faith-based ministry that works to *create community with people of all abilities*. Project Promise is a program of MDC Goldenrod that provides social and spiritual opportunities for persons with developmental disabilities.

Reflections of a First-Time Mary

Last Thursday, I went to the Project Promise Easter Play. It was my first time to be a part of it and being on the team was so fun. I always loved acting and singing, so being a part of it was just incredible. Being on stage was like going back into high school and it gives me this feeling that I can do or be anything I want to be.

I felt pretty hyper during most of the time, which covers up any feeling of being nervous. But I still felt it anyway cause it makes you feel more sharper during any performance. I wanted to scene bomb some parts in the play. You know just walk up and give Judas bunny ears. But instead I did it during one rehearsal and before I went on stage. I even got to use a selfie stick for the first time.

When I'm onstage, I get to explore my character and I get to fully embody what that character is like. Before I thought there was only one Mary and she was the mother of Jesus. But I learned that there is three Mary's. One was the mother of Jesus, another Mary was Mary Magdalene (me) and the last Mary is just a random woman named Mary.

Just being able to fully embody my character is a huge step in learning my part. I found out that there was more to Mary than I thought. Not just knowing that there's three of them. But also the fact that she went through so many emotions. Including having some spunk, sass and has more of a personality than I thought.

In my church, I didn't really learn about just Mary. It was mostly about God and all that spiritual stuff. But hey, church is church, what matters is about what God did and who he was. But Mary is still a pretty important character to me.

But overall the play was about the matter of seeing and believing. God is our lord, savior and our one true ruler of us. But even though we don't see him, as long

as we believe that Jesus is the son of God, we can overcome this world. No matter how hard this life is to us, as long as we believe in our faith of God, everything becomes happier.

As adults, we don't normally believe in fairy tales. But in a weird way, we have our very own happily ever after. As cheesy as it sounds, I could tell that it's true. It is in a different way implied in the bible. If you want to check it out, you can read it in John.

Agent Krabie is an actress, writer and blogger. Her reflection on the Easter play is excerpted from her blog (with permission).



Project Promise Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

**Friday, May 6, 2016
4:00 to 7:30 P.M.**

Fair Haven Amish Mennonite Church
13513 Indiana 4, Middlebury
Featuring High's chicken
with baked potatoes, broccoli, and pie

Suggested donation:
\$10 for dine-in or carry-out

Project Promise is a program of MDC Goldenrod
"Meeting the spiritual and social needs
of persons with disabilities"

Just in time for Mother's Day:

Project Promise will have hanging flower baskets for sale in two sizes: **10" for \$16**, and **12" for \$27**



Not Taken for Granted

Churches, businesses, individuals, and foundations are all important to our ministry. **Did you know that donations and grants provide more than 10% of MDC Goldenrod's annual income?**



Since last July, MDC Goldenrod has been blessed with more than \$21,000 in support from **churches**. During that same time period, we gratefully accepted donations of close to \$40,000 from local **businesses**. **Individual** giving at events, by mail, and online provided over \$130,000.

Foundations have awarded \$10,800 in **grants** to MDC Goldenrod since last July. We just learned that the IU Health Goshen Board of Directors awarded MDC Goldenrod with a \$5,000 grant to further develop our wellness program. The Community Foundation of Elkhart County approved our grant proposal, and provided \$4,800 in support of our strategic planning process.

Thank you all for your continued support!



Getting ready for Spring

Northridge Ability Day volunteers worked with MDC Goldenrod community members and staff to get the barn and greenhouse ready for the season. Great job, everyone!



Churches provide a lot of support for our ministry. A special thanks to the following churches, which recently hosted MDC Goldenrod presentations:

- Kern Road Mennonite
- 1st United Methodist, Middlebury
- East Goshen Mennonite
- Faith Mennonite
- Clinton Frame
- Griner Mennonite

Call the office to have us come speak with your church or other organization!

(574) 533-9720 ext. 6



Mark your calendars!

MDC Goldenrod 2016 Auction

**Shipshewana Auction Barn
Friday, October 14**

- Haystack supper
- Bake sale
- Silent auction
- Live auction

The auction will feature fun, food, and locally created quilts, furniture and crafts. All proceeds support MDC Goldenrod programs that benefit individuals with developmental disabilities.



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Visit us on the web:
www.mdcgoldenrod.org

From the Board of Directors

Jesus is Risen!!



This is the message of the gospel and the guidance for our lives. As the Board of MDC Goldenrod, our mission is to bring all people into community and to give each person the opportunity to express and share their gifts, talents and the joy our life together. The Easter play shows this well and we look for other ways to empower our community members. We also invite you to join us. We have many ways to use your gifts and talents as a volunteer, a board member or even as a direct service employee. Come join us and experience the joy of our community and of the resurrection.

Mary Graber, Board Chair

MDC Goldenrod Community Needs

- Financial support
 - General operations
 - Middlebury development
- Volunteer to coordinate volunteers
- Greenhouse volunteers
- Covered Bicycle Rack (for locking 12 bikes)
- Picnic Tables
- Pottery/ceramics tutor
- 4-door fuel-efficient car
- Woodchips (for landscaping)
- Volunteers for landscaping work

Please contact our office at 574-533-9720
to make a donation. Thank you !