

Founder's Corner

Dear Friends:

It's hard to believe that just a few years ago Bloom360 was just a seed of an idea to create a learning community where children with neuro-diverse needs could learn, grow and thrive. Today, the roots for this new school are firmly planted and I am excited to share our recent progress with you.

- **Now Enrolling** – Register for a February Informational Session and/or fill out an application in the Admissions section of our website.
- **Growing the Bloom360 team** – I am so thankful for the amazing team of talented educators, therapists, developmental experts and business consultants who have joined this effort. Our team has completed strength-based training and coaching, mindfulness coursework and each person has contributed toward the overall development of the school.
- **Formalizing our Educational Model** – We've researched worldwide best practices for different learners and have developed our unique whole child approach that will nurture, strengthen and empower learners.
- **Focusing on Strengths** – We've incorporated a thorough and proven strength-based approach to developing the school that will carry over into how our Learning Guides work with learners focusing on the child's strengths and supporting growth in all areas of human development: emotional, body, social, spirit and mind.
- **Solidifying support from Vista360** – We have a unique relationship with the team at Vista360 LLC, a Milwaukee-based management consulting firm that will provide ongoing business mentorship and opportunities for Project Based Learning centered around our learner's strengths. (See story on page 4)
- **Garnering Community Support** – More than 160 people from numerous organizations attended our inaugural Bloom Open golf outing and dinner in October 2016. We were thrilled to have more than 100 silent auction items. Together we raised over \$33,000! Our Annual Giving campaign raised an additional \$8,160.
- **Launching Several Communication Initiatives** – We tackled two big projects this fall and love our new overview video and website. We now are active on Facebook and LinkedIn and have started some targeted advertising and community relations activities. Follow us through social media.



We begin 2017 filled with the anticipation of meeting and getting to know families who have been searching for a refreshing educational environment for their child.

We are really excited to welcome our first learners for the 2017 school year!

With warmest regards,

Laura Rauman
Founder and President

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Register for an Informational Session

Parents and primary caregivers are invited to attend. Check dates and times of upcoming sessions on our website or email us at info@bloom360.org for information. Let us know if you would like to schedule a Bloom360 overview presentation with an organization you are involved with.

Who's Blooming



Our core Bloom360 Learning Community team brings years of experience and a lot of heart to everything they do. The team members share many signature character strengths: Honesty, Humor, Perseverance, Love and Fairness to name a few. Please visit the Bloom360 website for complete bios on the entire team.

Laura Rauman—President and Founder

Laura leads the development of Bloom360 Learning Community and is establishing a strong root system for the school which will support our learners' growth. She is passionate about her work at Bloom360 and Vista360, a management consulting firm she founded 15 years ago which actively supports the school's development. Laura has a bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.



Cindy Gosh-Lee MSW—Project Manager

Cindy helps lead the development of our educational model while cultivating relationships with community partners and families. She has received extensive training on using character strengths at work, building effective teams and one-on-one strength based coaching. Cindy has more than 20 years of experience working and serving families, children and adult learners. She has a master's degree in Social Welfare from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a bachelors' degree in Early Childhood Education from Mount Mary University.



Erica Scheifflee—M.S. CCC-SLP—Learning Guide—Speech/Language Pathologist and Developmental Coach

Erica brings 15 years of clinical knowledge and experience as a developmental speech-language pathologist (SLP) and DIR/ Floortime practitioner. Erica holds both state and national licensure and credentialing as an SLP and brings experience across numerous healthcare settings. Erica holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication Disorders and an elective minor in Spanish from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire as well as a Master of Science degree in Clinical Speech-Language Pathology with an elective certificate in Disability Studies from Northern Arizona University.



Mandy Clapper—Learning Guide—Educator



Mandy assists in developing our unique educational model. She brings vast experience working "one-on-one" with children within the home and school environments with a drive and determination to help children and youth reach their highest potential. Mandy holds a degree from The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in Psychology specializing in Autism Spectrum Disorders. Mandy is certified by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction of Special Education.

Andrea Svoboda—Learning Guide—Occupational Therapist

Andrea helps learners grow in their independence, confidence in movement and sensory exploration within the context of their daily activities. Andrea has 14 years of experience as an Occupational Therapist in a variety of schools and pediatric outpatient centers. She also worked with a theater company in Illinois that supported children with diverse needs and put on major musical productions. Andrea has a bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and a Minor Certificate in Gerontology.



Nicci Miller—Learning Guide—Educator

Nicci has more than 15 years of experience working with young children as an early education teacher and most recently as a homeschool teacher for a child with neuro-diverse needs. Nicci is a Certified Early Childhood Teacher and has continuing education in Early Childhood Education through Lakeshore Technical College.



A 360 Approach with a Focus on Strengths

Our society often asks kids, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" Management consulting firm Vista360, LLC, is helping to develop a unique school that will link learners with its team of business experts to give kids real-world experiences based on individual interests and project based learning opportunities to help them answer that question, and so much more.



Founder of both organizations, Laura Rauman was intentional about having Vista360 and Bloom360 share the number 360 as both look at the whole through a strength-based lens, from multiple viewpoints. It's a successful approach that has served Vista360 and its clients well for 15 years.

The business and school will utilize an evidence based character strengths framework to help learners and employees realize and grow their strengths, while enhancing their abilities to recognize and appreciate strengths in others.

The business team is employing the character strengths approach in developing, launching and maintaining school operations. In addition, the Vista360 team will support many initiatives with Bloom360 learners to help kids harness their strengths and build organizational and entrepreneurial skills that will serve them as learners today and into adulthood.

The team welcomes input and collaboration with other professionals who would like to join in to help learners grow and thrive. Please let us know if you have an idea for a project-based learning opportunity with your business or organization that may be a good fit for Bloom360 learners. We also welcome individual volunteers who have a specific talent or life skill that they are willing to share with our Learning Community.



Bloom360 website goes Live!

We are thrilled to announce our brand new website www.bloom360.org is live! The website describes our unique Education Model, admissions process, team members, events and more.

Our Gratitude Continues to Grow

#Giving Tuesday Kicked Off Year-End Giving

Thank you to the 42 people who participated in our 2016 year-end giving campaign which raised **\$8,160** that will support opening the school in 2017. Our Annual Giving Co-Chair, 14-year old Darren, worked with Bloom360 Founder, Laura Rauman, to provide weekly Facebook updates over the five week campaign. Bloom360's Giving Tuesday participation also was featured in the online Milwaukee Magazine.

Our Sponsors are Kind!

Thank you to the following organizations for their generous in-kind donations:

- A Stars and Stripes Flag Company - Donated banners and hole signs for 2016 Bloom Open
- Dawn Frasa - Donated time and discounted hourly rates
- South Yard Design and Digital - Discounted fees for web design, donated time for marketing materials
- Northwestern Mutual - Donated office furniture
- Simply Spectacular Photography - Donated photography
- Donna Abler - Waived consulting charge



Bloom Open Demonstrates Strong Community Support

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for your support of our inaugural golf outing and fundraising dinner in October 2016. We are thrilled that together we raised more than \$33,000.

Presenting Sponsor

Vista360, LLC

"Empower" Sponsor

U.S. Bancorp Fund Services, LLC

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"Strengthen" Sponsors

Dolan McEniry Capital Management, LLC

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