

## Founder's Corner



Now, in our second year, we have a lot of great news to share. Every day there are moments that shine a light on how important it is for ALL children to have an opportunity to learn in an environment that meets their needs. It is equally as important for Learners to be nurtured by educators who connect with them and help them move forward at their own pace. At

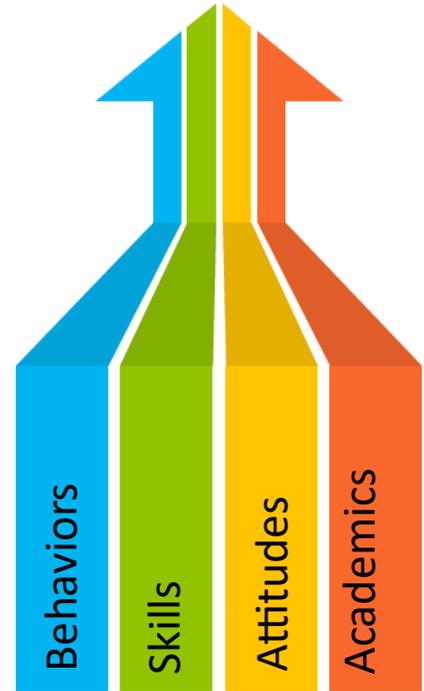
Bloom360, every Learner gets what they need... every minute, every hour and every day. It all adds up to a community where everyone feels safe, nurtured and respected.

### Our Learners are thriving!

Our unique developmental approach meets our Learners where they are at now and helps them progress toward having many options down the road. This may include college, technical school, military service, employment, internships or other programs. Importantly, they are practicing the social and emotional skills that will sustain them in adulthood.

We are pleased to share some national research along with our own findings on the importance and benefits of social-emotional focused educational programs.

Laura Rauman, Founder and President



### National Research

Up to 18 years later, students exposed to social-emotional learning programs in school continue to do better than peers across all four measurements. For the complete research report, please visit:

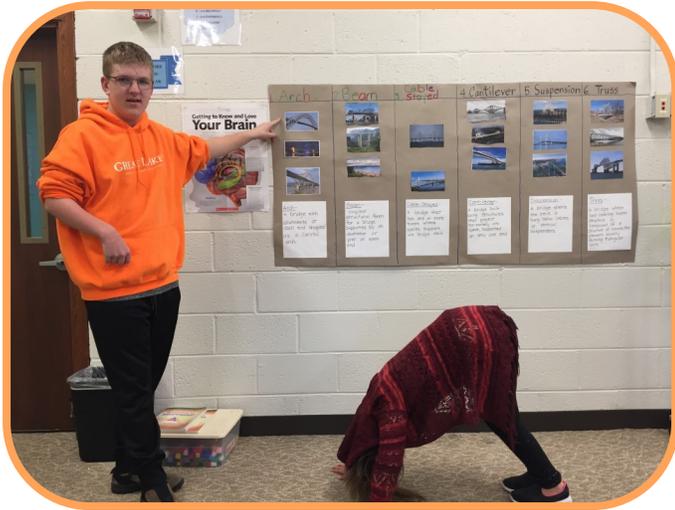
[www.casel.org](http://www.casel.org).



### Our Findings

We are encouraged to share that in their first year, Bloom360 Learners advanced an average of two steps on our seven point Social-Emotional Growth Scale.

# Bloom360 in Action

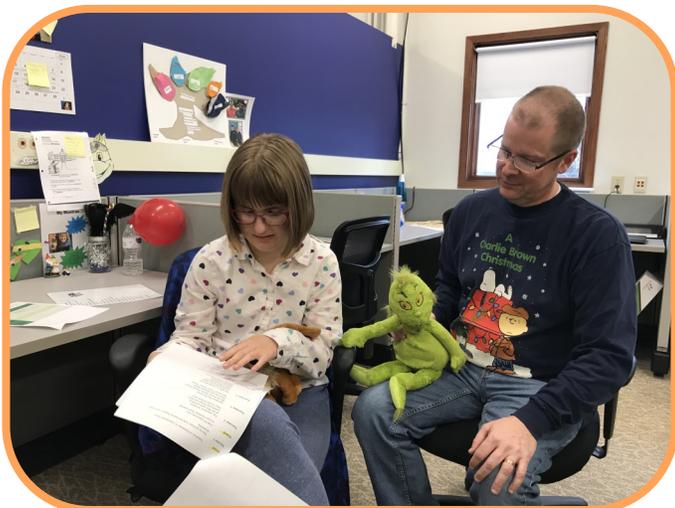


## Building Bridges

Our school-wide project this fall involves learning more about bridges. Learners are researching the different types of bridges; building bridges out of household materials; testing the bridges with different parameters and making revisions to their initial designs. They are engaged, collaborating with each other and our team, and motivated to improve their designs to retest and calculate the changes. It's fascinating to see their insights, their hands-on creating and adjusting, and their confidence to try new things.

## Floral Design Career Exploration Offers Opportunities to Grow

One Learner continues to expand his interests and opportunities with floral designing. What started as a spark with making seasonal arrangements last year literally has blossomed into a possible future career path. Recent projects include creating a fall arrangement for the school and one that was part of the silent auction at our golf outing as well as a field trip to a floral wholesaler to see more of the steps involved in the floral business.



## Reading is Fun with Readers Theater

Readers Theater is a strategy for developing reading fluency. It involves Learners reading through parts in scripts, often several times, to expand their abilities to add expressions. The best reader's theater scripts include a lot of dialogue. So far, our Readers Theater stories have included Billy Goats Gruff . The Three Little Pigs and The Grinch.

# Project-Based Learning

## Community News Hub is up and Running

Two Learners worked for several months to create the beautiful custom cherry wood stand and community board that now is in our lobby. One Learner worked with Mr. Craig, our woodworking volunteer, to design and build the stand, while the other Learner used his creativity to design the community bulletin board. We are happy to have a central place to post survey results, kindness practices and other updates.



## Building Confidence through Hands-on Learning

Each of our Learners enjoy their time in the Create-it Studio developing pieces of art as well as functional items such as bird houses, book ends, etc. Learners bring their ideas and work with Mr. Craig and our team to create a plan, shop for supplies and work toward bringing their creations to life. The sound of hammering nails, the table saw (for some with help), painting and the energy that fills this space is inspiring.

## Lemonade Stand with a Purpose

Our younger Learners worked together to plan and host a lemonade stand. This project included brainstorming, planning, creating posters, shopping for ingredients, preparing the lemonade, communicating the event details, figuring out a price, staffing the table and making change during the sale. The lemonade was a hit with the other learners, parents, grandparents, our team and even some neighbors who stopped by for a roadside treat. This project also raised \$178 that the Learners will determine how to spend on items for the school.



# Third Annual Bloom Open

Thanks to the support from sponsors, silent auction donors, volunteers and nearly 120 golfers and dinner guests, we raised more than \$19,500 at the Third Annual Bloom Open held October 8, 2018 at The Legends at Bristlecone in Hartland.

Congratulations to Renee, from Franklin, WI, who won our Scholarship Fund Trip Raffle. We are thrilled with the success of the raffle and excited that it adds an additional \$6,000 to our Scholarship Fund so more Learners will have access to our school.

A sincere thank you to our generous event sponsors:

## **Presenting Sponsor**

Vista360, LLC

## **“Strengthen” Sponsors**

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Physicians Realty Trust

## **“Nurture” Sponsors**

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PyraMax Bank

Spectrum Investment Advisors

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Summit Wellness, Inc.

The Vision Therapy Center, Inc.



Special Thanks to Laurie Olsen of A Stars and Stripes Flag Company for providing the banner and hole signs.



***With Gratitude*** — Bloom360 Learning Community is grateful for the \$10,000 donation from The Ladish Company Foundation for the second year in a row.

# Our Bloom360 Team



**Laura Rauman – Founder and President**—Laura developed Bloom360 along with a talented team of educators and therapists. Her experience as a mom searching for school options led her to believe she needed to create a new option for her daughter as well as other children who were falling through the cracks in other environments. Laura brings 25 years of business experience to Bloom360, including founding and running Vista360, LLC, a management consulting firm that is co-located with the school. Laura has a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and maintains her license as a CPA.

**Cindy Gosh-Lee, MSW – Program Guide**—Cindy helps lead Bloom360 Learning Community and guides the further development of our unique educational model. She received training through the VIA Institute on Character and leads our efforts to integrate character strength activities throughout our school with Learners and the team. She has more than 20 years of experience working with families, children and adult learners in a variety of educational and community settings. She has a master's degree in social welfare from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Mount Mary University. She is certified by Wisconsin DPI as an early childhood teacher and a school social worker.



**Dawn Frasa – Communications Director**—Dawn supports all of our communication efforts at Bloom360. She brings more than 25 years of experience in marketing, media and public relations, including several years as the communications director for a large school for different learners in Michigan. She also is mom to one of our Learners. Dawn has a bachelor's degree in journalism from Michigan State University.

**Patrick Braun—Operations Manager**—Patrick supports Bloom360's many operational initiatives including overall administration, IT and fundraising. He also enjoys movement activities with the Learners such as basketball and ping pong. He is the Operations Manager for Vista360, bringing 16 years of experience in providing staff support, customer assistance, IT and other operational support.



**Andrea Svoboda, OTR/L – Learning Guide** - Andrea helps Learners grow in their independence, confidence in movement and sensory exploration. She brings more than 15 years of experience as an occupational therapist and is enrolled in the Level 2 certification program through the Floortime Center in Bethesda, MD which provides professional training for practitioners in The Greenspan Floortime Approach. She has a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy from the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



**Zach Moffatt, COTA – Learning Guide** - Zach is instrumental in helping Learners grow in the five core elements of mind, body, spirit, social and emotional. His training in exercise science and experience as an occupational therapist assistant and an adaptive personal trainer provides a unique approach to incorporating movement and learning. He has a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Carroll University and an associate's degree in occupational therapy assistant from Milwaukee Area Technical College.



**Nicci Miller – Learning Guide** - Nicci's goal as an educator is to love and support each child for who they are as an individual and to create a learning environment to support and nurture them. She actively participates in daily Mindfulness and Character Strength practices and is enrolled in the Level 2 certification program through the Floortime Center in Bethesda, MD.



**Brett Oxley – Learning Guide** – Brett brings a diverse and rich background that includes 27 years of teaching experience spanning all subjects and as an IT integration specialist. He has directed and managed numerous school musicals and brings a unique approach to literacy with in-depth experience in Readers Theater, a dynamic approach to improving fluency and confidence by incorporating some theatrical elements into a reading curriculum. Brett has a master's degree in educational computing from Cardinal Stritch University and a bachelor's of science degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin - Whitewater.



**Sam Witthun – Assistant Learning Guide** – Sam is a natural with our Learners, guiding them through movement and strengths-based activities. She values the practice of mindfulness, gratitude, self-awareness and presence in her daily life, which aligns very well with the Bloom360 educational model.



**Note: For complete bios on our team and Development Committee, please visit: [www.bloom360.org](http://www.bloom360.org)**

# Q&A with a Learner



**Darren**

## **How do you feel when you are working on math at Bloom?**

I feel focused and happy. It can be calm and soothing.

## **What is Reflection?**

At the end of each day a Learning Guide picks a question. We think about our answer and write it down in our reflection notebook. The question might be: How did you use your character strengths today?

## **Please describe the community jobs**

I unload the dishwasher, arrange the chairs, wipe down tables, stock the printers with paper, help cut the lawn and worked on the garden. Every Learner has community jobs which help us keep the school up and running well.

## **What should parents know about Bloom?**

Bloom makes me happy and is different from other schools because they don't just give you paper and a pencil. Project-based learning gives me a real experience and hands-on learning about various subjects instead of just reading about them.

## **How is Bloom helping you get prepared for your future?**

I set weekly goals and am responsible for meeting them along with help from the Learning Guides. I have Monday and Friday check-in meetings to make sure I'm staying on the right path to meet my goals. This is helpful now and will be helpful in my life later too.

## Year-End Giving Focused on Scholarships

Our Giving Tuesday and Year-End Giving campaign theme this year highlights the 24 character strengths at the heart of Bloom360. All donations received through Dec. 31 will go toward the Bloom360 Scholarship Fund which will provide financial aid for families in need to help more children attend our school.

We know there are local children who are struggling in their current classrooms. Students need options and some students need extra support now to help them fulfill their potential. We are building a scholarship fund, and with your help, hope to soon offer financial assistance to families so more kids can bloom.

To participate, please visit our website: [www.bloom360.org/donate](http://www.bloom360.org/donate)  
Or, mail a check, made payable to: Bloom360 Learning Community and mail it to:  
Bloom360 Learning Community, N8921 Stone School Road, East Troy, WI 53120.

As a reminder, Bloom360 Learning Community is a registered 501 (c)(3) and donations are tax deductible.

**#GIVING  
TUESDAY**



**Bloom360**

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