

# Sugar Plum visions

News from Sugar Plum Bakery

Spring 2019

## The sweet scent of spring is in the air

From Easter to Mother's Day to any day in between,  
spring into Sugar Plum Bakery for unique sweets and edible treats



Mozart  
Egg Cake



Mother's Day  
Cakes



Flower  
Pot Cake



Coconut  
Bunny Cake

Call us at  
**757.422.3913**  
to place your order today.



Chick in Egg  
Cake



Chocolate Cotton Tail  
Bunny Cake



Chocolate  
Bunny Face Cake



Bunny  
Tail Cake



## Our Mission

The mission of Sugar Plum Bakery is to serve the needs of persons with disabilities through training, employment, and education. Sugar Plum Bakery will promote the integration of people with developmental disabilities into society by helping them become independent and working, contributing members of our communities.

### Officers

Thad Nowak, **President**  
Ted Britt Automotive Group  
Tim Rivas, **Vice President**  
Future Energy, LLC  
Thomas H. Gustafson, **Secretary**  
Community Leader  
Doug Wilbourne, **Treasurer**  
Community Leader  
Charlie Malbon, **Past President**  
Tank Lines Inc.

### Directors

Ricky Anderson  
CBRE | Hampton Roads  
Michael Disharoon  
Palladium Investment Advisors  
Chuck Ferrer  
American Sugar Group  
Colleen Gard-Craig  
Community Leader  
Bettie Goodman, **Emeritus**  
Community Leader  
Godfrey Grier  
Global Climate Adaptation Partnership  
Joy Jacobson  
Community Leader  
Linda Laibstain  
Community Leader  
Robert Maroon  
The Therapy Network  
Scott C. Miller  
Partner, Williams Mullen  
Jeff Nowak  
Towne Benefits & Investment Group  
George Stepanovich  
The Bagel Baker

### Honorary Director

(Hon.) G. William Whitehurst  
Former Congressman

Patricia Rakes Clark  
Executive Director

# Sugar Plum alum's creations flying off the shelf

If you've been to our bakery recently, you probably noticed the display of charming birdhouses for sale—or maybe you didn't, because we can't restock them fast enough!

These rustic beauties are the work of Stephen Todd, who started out at Sugar Plum nine years ago. He personally donates all proceeds from his birdhouse sales to charity. This remarkable young man has inspired people across the region with his initiative and activism.

When we first met Stephen, he was a high school student in need of job skills. He came to Sugar Plum through the Transition Program with Virginia Beach City Public Schools.

"He learned to break a process into small steps," said his mom, Jamie. "That's been important for making birdhouses. Stephen also learned about teamwork at Sugar Plum. They're really good about making it a team experience."

After completing Transition at Sugar Plum, Stephen moved on to employment at the Great Neck Farm Fresh. He was happy there until the store folded last year, and Stephen needed something new to do with his time. He loves the beach and the environment, he said, and is especially fond



of the bluebirds who frequent his neighborhood. So, Stephen built his first birdhouse in September, to mark his 28th birthday. Then he announced the project on Facebook—and it was shared more than 300 times. Soon the family was receiving calls from media outlets.

Working with his family, Stephen named the operation Bluebird Beach Bungalows. His father and younger brother, Austin, find the reclaimed wood and do all the cutting and power tool work. Older brother Kevin also helps out when he's in town. Stephen handles the assembly and decorating. His favorite detail to add is sea glass, which comes from his mother's collection ("He's depleting my supply!" she said).

Stephen, who has Down syndrome, has brought nearly 30 of his friends in to help. They do tasks depending on their ability level, and each gets to sign the bottom of the birdhouses they've worked on. Some are current and former Sugar Plum workers. Sugar Plum provides a storefront for sales, and the creations are selling much faster than anticipated—40 were snapped up within the first few months.

It was Stephen's dream to donate all the money, and mom Jamie laughs that "he had 20 million groups he wanted to give it to!"

His parents decided to let him choose one charity per month.

"I wanted to help the groups that make life fun," said Stephen. So far his most generous checks (\$1,500 each) have gone to CHKD and the Arts Inclusion Company.

"The biggest blessing," said Jamie, "is that he gets to look up the group and see what he's doing in the community—and to present the check in person." Another perk of success has been more opportunities to come to Sugar Plum, as they deliver a fresh stock of birdhouses. It's a chance to visit friends and pick up a Mozart cake.

"He's always eager to go there," said Jamie. "It's like 'Cheers'—everyone calls 'Stephen!' when he walks in. It's home to him."



"I love Sugar Plum.  
I love the people.  
They're nice and they  
do good things."

—Stephen Todd

# Our vital ingredient is you

Regular support from the community enables Sugar Plum Bakery to continue meeting its mission of serving individuals with disabilities. As always, we appreciate every gift that comes to us, and we offer sincere thanks to all of our donors. The following is a list of donors who made contributions between October 1, 2018 and February 28, 2019.

## Endowment

JoAnn Zafarino Armistead  
Beach Commercial  
Mr. and Mrs. William F. Beasley III  
Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Bell  
Frances M. Benson  
*In Memory of Sarah Benson*  
*In Honor of T. J. Phillips*  
Sara Bonner  
Ann C. Braun  
Julia M. Brock  
Don and Marguerite Burlage  
*In Memory of D.H., Dorothy and Rick Burlage*  
Charles Barker Champions for Charity  
Mary Clark-Janis  
Todd and Michele Danos  
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Dickerson  
Fidelity Charitable  
Charles E. Ford

Barbara "Patti" Gallagher  
Hugh and Pam Hill  
Stuart and Sue Holland  
*In Memory of J. Robert Gray*  
John and Karen Hollinger  
*In Memory of Fred Stern*  
Jain Family Fund  
David and Joan Kaiser  
Christine and Mark Kelly  
Martha P. Lagiglia  
*In Honor of Mary Lee Harris*  
Nancye Lewis  
Norman and Olive Malbon  
Angela Manning  
Suzanne and Thomas Meade  
Evelyn Munden  
Nancy N. and V.H. Nusbaum  
Tim and Maria Nowak  
*In Memory of Mary Ann and Larry Nowak*  
Network for Good  
Maureen Olivieri

## Pam Olson

*In Memory of Tyler McKellan Spruill*  
Olivia J. O'Neal  
Michael Rashkind  
Stanley and Linda Samuels  
Wanda Sannicandro  
Ilse Schall  
Robert and Marion Taylor  
Tee-off for the Children  
Stephen Todd  
E. C. Wareheim Foundation  
Ron and Karen Washburn  
Giselle and Matthew Weinstein  
Isabelle and Kenneth Wilkinson  
Women of Eastern Shore Chapel  
**Programs**  
Charles H. Allred  
Brian Skorup  
Nivea Velazquez  
*In Memory of Miguel and Dominga*

## General Operating

Cecelia W. Anderson  
Harold and Vivian Marshall  
Alexandra Monger  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Moore  
Mr. and Mrs. George M. Whitfield  
*In Honor of Thad Nowak*  
**In Memory of Denise Auman**  
Louis Adams  
Scott and Gaynelle Ayers  
Rob and Donna Claud  
Dunn & Associates Construction, Inc.  
Richard and Lynn Epps  
Mary Benn and John Failes  
Donald and Gail Fentress  
Gary L. Fentress  
Steve and Royce Frazier  
Wendi Gajewski  
Charles and Lynda Malbon  
John and Harriet Malbon  
Brooks and Jenny McLean  
John E. Pappas  
Larry and Sharon Slipow  
Lawrence and Carolyn Sutton  
Sharon Walker and Richard Toscan

Bakery sales help offset our expenses, but the reality is, our organization relies on generous financial support from donors like you. Please consider making a gift to the bakery today using the enclosed remittance envelope.



## Thank you for your year-end gifts

What a way to end 2018—and start 2019! Thank you to all of our friends who remembered Sugar Plum in their year-end giving.

Again, we cannot do what we do without your ongoing support. Because of you, individuals such as Stephen Todd (see facing page) are not only gaining skills, but paying forward the generosity you have shown them. Stories like Stephen's continue to warm my heart and make me smile.

Special thanks to our board of directors, who are already making 2019 an exciting year as we explore initiatives that will help us better serve our wonderful community at the bakery and expand our mission.

Thad Nowak  
President, Sugar Plum Board of Directors



## The perfect centerpiece for your graduation party

Let us create a custom cake to celebrate their special milestone—in any combination of school colors!

Skills, life lessons, and confidence: fresh from the oven.

Sugar Plum Bakery  
1353 Laskin Road  
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23451

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Norfolk, VA  
Permit #2



*Mae's Mango Maeflower*



*Chocolate Chip Decadence*

## Cakes of the month

### May: Mae's Mango Maeflower

Four split layers of peach-flavored cake with two layers of mango filling and one layer of mango butter cream. The cake is iced in mango butter cream and garnished with a mango "Mae" flower!

### June: Chocolate Chip Decadence

Two layers of chocolate cake filled with miniature chocolate chips and iced with chocolate butter cream. The top is decorated with fudge and chocolate butter cream, and the sides are coated with miniature chocolate chips.

### July: Creamsicle

Two whole layers of orange-flavored yellow cake filled with a layer of Bavarian cream and iced in orange-flavored butter cream icing.

### August: Tropical Paradise

Two whole layers of rum cake filled with a pineapple rum butter cream filling, then iced with rum butter cream. The sides are coated with coconut and the cake is topped with maraschino cherries, pineapple filling, and an umbrella.



*Creamsicle Cake*



*Tropical Paradise Cake*

To order a Sugar Plum Sweet Indulgence, call 757.422.3913 or visit the bakery at 1353 Laskin Road.  
Open Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

[www.sugarplumbakery.org](http://www.sugarplumbakery.org)  Check us out on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/sugarplumbakeryvb](https://www.facebook.com/sugarplumbakeryvb)