




Dear Sunflower Hill Supporter,

A warm welcome to 2025 from Sunflower Hill!

As we begin the new year, we are filled with gratitude and excitement for what lies ahead. We are thrilled to share some fantastic news: Sunflower Hill recently received generous contributions to support our programs and mission. The Real Estate Alliance of Livermore (REAL) donated \$7,600 from their October auction, providing vital funds to sustain and grow our impactful initiatives. Additionally, The Kuehler-Chappell Family Fund awarded us \$2,000, which will directly enhance engaging activities for residents at Irby Ranch.

These contributions empower us to continue creating spaces where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities thrive. Thank you for participating in our journey - we couldn't do this without compassionate organizations and individuals like you!

With Gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team

JANUARY 2025 Activity Calendar 

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Scan the QR Code to Register for Events!	2 Happy New Year! Sunflower Hill Office Closed!	3 Flu Shots	4 Flu Shots	5 Flu Shots	6 Flu Shots	7 Flu Shots
8 Learning with Olivia: Nutrition and Meal Prepping Week 1	9 Cooking Class: Make Your Own Hummus and Pesto	10 Crewlet Group and Bathing	11 Pet Therapy and Coloring Time	12 Flu Shots	13 Flu Shots	14 The Sun Squad Community Clean Up
15 Water Art and Crafts with Lori and Olivia	16 Cooking Class: Make Your Own Hummus and Pesto	17 Crewlet Group and Bathing	18 Flu Shots	19 Flu Shots	20 Flu Shots	21 Walk to the Pleasanton Farmers Market
22 Sunflower Hill and LARFD Collaborative: Bingo Social	23 Crewlet Group and Bathing	24 Flu Shots	25 Flu Shots	26 Flu Shots	27 Flu Shots	28 Flu Shots
29 Learning with Olivia: Nutrition and Meal Prepping Week 2	30 Cooking Class: Make Your Own Hummus and Pesto	31 Crewlet Group and Bathing	32 Pet Therapy and Coloring Time	33 Flu Shots	34 Flu Shots	35 Flu Shots

Sunflower Hill Led Activities
HEER Led Activities
Parent/Resident Led Activities
SAHA Led Activities

Please refer to the Activity Outline for more details. The date, time, and location of activities is subject to change and the community work board for more activities led by residents and caregivers. To register, go to <https://sunflowerhill.org/programs/activities/>.

**Registration is required to participate in Sunflower Hill Activities at Irby Ranch.

Programs Activity Calendar and Guideline

We had an absolute blast at our December activities! From painting wooden Christmas trees to strolling down Candy Cane Lane and enjoying the Hometown Holiday Parade downtown, we truly got into the holiday spirit.

We have some new activities in January that we want YOU to know about and be a part of!

- Learning with Olivia: Starting in January, we're introducing a new activity called "Learning with Olivia," held twice a month. Olivia will focus on a specific life or vocational skill each month and plan engaging activities around that theme. This month's focus will be **meal prepping and healthy nutrition** - don't miss it!

- Virtual Popcorn Chats: Our virtual popcorn chats are back! Join us from near or far for an hour of connection and fun. The first chat of the year is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 16, from 4 - 5 PM**, with a **Show-and-Tell** theme. Participants can bring an item they love or care about to share or simply enjoy hearing others' stories.
- Exciting Collaborations with Livermore Area Recreation and Park District: This year, Sunflower Hill is collaborating with Makenna Nation from LARPD to connect our participants with adaptive programs at the Livermore Recreation Center. To kick off this partnership, we'll host a **Bingo Social** on **Wednesday, January 22, from 5:45 - 6:45 PM** in the Irby Ranch Community Room. Join the fun and meet new friends!

We can't wait to see you at these exciting events and activities. Let's make 2025 a fantastic year together!

- [January Calendar](#)
- [January Guideline](#)

Register for Programs



What's Growing in the Garden

As we welcome the new year, our winter crops are flourishing! We're excited to share a bountiful harvest of bok choy, radishes, lettuce, broccoli, and various kales. Our first delivery to our community partners was January 7th, kicking off 2025 on a strong note.

We'll also be harvesting beets, collards, and more kale in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, our cover crop is steadily growing and will be mowed and incorporated into the soil in February. This essential process enriches the soil with nitrogen-rich organic matter, breaks up dense clay, and helps keep weeds in check.

Here's to another season of growth and giving back!



Supervisor David Haubert's Matching Challenge Goal Reached!

Thanks to YOUR incredible generosity, we've reached our goal for Supervisor David Haubert's \$240,000 Challenge Match! With Supervisor Haubert's amazing support, every dollar you gave has been doubled, helping us create even more opportunities for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to thrive.

We are grateful to Supervisor Haubert for his commitment to Sunflower Hill and for helping us continue to create joyful and inclusive programs for our community.



Community Member Spotlight: Bruce

Who would have known that a young boy adopted at three would rally a family and open new doors to life? When I was 10, my parents asked my brother and me if we wanted a baby brother named Bruce. We were thrilled! When Bruce came home, we learned that he could not talk but could hug. We would hug him, and he would not let go.

When Bruce was 30, he moved into a group home and came home on weekends to live with my parents. My dad and Bruce had many ongoing projects, including building tile trays, hot plates, and windmill planter boxes. They were always in the garage working with their tools or in the living room watching the A's or Raiders play.

Bruce has held several jobs, including washing cars for the Richmond Police Department and being a busboy at Denny's. Bruce also participates in Special Olympics track and field, softball, basketball, and floor hockey, and his favorite activity is golf. He even won a gold medal last year at the Northern California meet. He has also been involved in Pleasanton's Recreational Activities for the Developmentally Disabled (RADD) Program, which allows him to try new activities.

Sunflower Hill has blessed Bruce and me as he has grown substantially in the past 4 years. He loves being with his friends and in a supportive environment that embraces his desire to be active and interested in new things. Bruce turns 60 this year, and we can't wait to celebrate! My very social brother has been such a blessing to our family, and I can't imagine our lives without him.

Written by Debi Zentner



Irby Ranch Tour

Join us on **Friday, January 31, at noon** for an exclusive one-hour tour of [Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch](#) in Pleasanton! Discover how this innovative housing development creates a vibrant, inclusive community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Please note that our Irby Ranch Resident waiting list is closed, and we are not currently accepting additional resident applications.

Spaces for the tour are limited, and registration is required. Register today!

Register for Irby Ranch Tour



Panda Express Fundraiser

Support Sunflower Hill at our Panda Express Fundraiser on **Thursday, January 30, 2025!**

Here's How You Can Participate:

- **When:** All day, Thursday, January 30, 2025
- **How:**

1. Place an online order at www.pandaexpress.com or the Panda Express app (in-person orders not included).
2. Choose "pick up" or delivery for your order.
3. Use **Sunflower Hill's code: 9000456** at checkout.
4. Enjoy your meal knowing **28% of the proceeds** will support Sunflower Hill!

Pro Tip: Plan ahead! You can schedule your online order up to one week in advance, making it even easier to show your support.

This is an excellent opportunity to enjoy your Panda Express favorites while helping Sunflower Hill continue its mission to create vibrant communities and programs for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

Spread the Word!

This fundraiser works at *any Panda Express location nationwide* for online orders, so share the event with friends and family across the country!

Thank you for supporting Sunflower Hill!



When

Thursday, January 30, 2025
Place your order for pickup or delivery on Thursday, January 30



Where

Available at Panda Express locations nationwide
www.pandaexpress.com



How

Online orders only
Apply code **9000456** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at www.pandaexpress.com or via App



Thank You to Our Board of Directors!

We thank our board members for their dedicated service and unwavering commitment to our mission. Your leadership, vision, and countless contributions have impacted Sunflower Hill and the communities we serve.

We are grateful to the following outgoing board members who have served Sunflower Hill so selflessly this past year:

Janeen Rubino-Brumm - 2024 President
Christine Fitzsimmons - 2024 Secretary
Herb Ritter - 2024 Finance Committee
Karen Dito - 2024 Governance Committee
Molly Torres
Rob Combi
Seema Chawla

Welcome to our **2025 Board of Directors:**

Susan Houghton - President
Cindy Everson - Vice President
Ricky Walters – Secretary
Steve Tessler – Treasurer
Rosemary Kirbach
John Steenman
Steve Van Dorn
Kathy Narum
Srilatha Gollapalli

2025 Sunflower Hill Advisors:

Janeen Rubino-Brumm
Lynn Monica
Jon Elfin

Thank you all for your time, energy, and passion!

If you require a tax-deductibility letter for your 2024 donations, please email us at info@sunflowerhill.org, and we'll be happy to help.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of adults with I/DD!

Follow Us

Contact Us



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