



Newsletter

August 31, 2020



Event Tickets and Details

Friday, October 23, 2020

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Hello Sunflower Hill Supporter!

On October 23rd we hope that you will *dress up from the waist up* in your favorite party attire and join us (via Zoom) as we toast, tour, dine and enjoy a night together to raise funds to support the mission and vision of Sunflower Hill! This unique evening will feature:

- Special toast and Virtual Tour of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch
- Premier meal from [Fraiche Catering](#) – delivered to your home ([view the meal options!](#))
- Online auction
- Chalk art contest
- Entertainment by celebrity emcee and comedian, [Regina Stoops](#)
- Virtual Meet & Greet with Irby Ranch residents
- Heartwarming videos
- Paddle raise
- And much more!

[Purchase Tickets](#)

[Sponsorship Packages](#)

With sincere thanks to you and our program partners, we've published more than [85 online activity videos](#) for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities over the last 21 weeks! In addition, over the past few months we've also hosted weekly Popcorn Chats; a virtual program created to continue building upon the life skills training curriculum that is part of the Sunflower Hill at Stable Cafe program. Many of our program participants and adult day and transition programs have shared with us that the online activity videos have provided excellent opportunities for engagement, skills development, and enriching activity, which are much needed as we continue to shelter-in-place.

Have you or someone you know participated in one of our Online Activities? As we strive to continue to create interesting and engaging content, we would love to [hear from you!](#) Share with us a photo or video of your

participation via [email](#) or on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#). **Videos and photos that are submitted may be included in a highlights video we're creating for our [Moonlight at Home](#) event on October 23, 2020!**

These last few weeks have been challenging for those of us in California as the pandemic continues and we are now experiencing historic fires. We hope that this email finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. We continue to look at the silver lining and find it in the joy, compassion and generosity that fills our organization each day. Thank you for being a part of it!

Warmly,

Edie

Edie Nehls, Executive Director



Become a Sunflower Partner

A family of donors dedicated to supporting adults with developmental disabilities.

Annual breakfast at Irby Ranch every fall*
Recognition at Sunflower Hill events
Bi-annual impact videos & emails

 \$10 a Month <small>Supports basic operational materials for staff at all locations</small>	 \$25 a Month <small>Supports ongoing programmatic supplies</small>	 \$50 a Month <small>Supports programming staff</small>	 \$100 a Month <small>Supports development of future residential communities</small>
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Irby Ranch Update

The last few weeks have been busy as we [wrap up construction](#) of Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch. Community Monument signs have been installed on Nevada Street and Sunflower Hill Way. Furniture for the common areas is beginning to arrive, and planning is under way as we prepare for the arrival of our residents! Each resident will receive a welcome bag that includes coupons from local businesses, a life skills cookbook, first aid kit, hand sanitizer, pens, sticky notes, and bathroom supplies. In addition, we've hired our Residential Programs Manager (see her introduction below) who will be developing fun and exciting programs for our residents.

Become a Sunflower Partner!

Make a long-term impact for adults with developmental disabilities by becoming a monthly Sunflower Partner! As a monthly donor you'll receive bi-annual impact videos and newsletters, recognition at Sunflower Hill events, an annual breakfast at Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch (for donors pledging at the \$50 a month level and above), and more. Your recurring gift as a Sunflower Partner truly makes a difference as it helps Sunflower Hill continue to plant the seeds in our garden, cultivate new residential communities, and support one of our most valued resources – our staff. [Sign up](#) as a monthly Sunflower Partner today!



Welcome Pratima!

We are thrilled to introduce Pratima Kaur, our new Residential Programs Manager for Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch! ([Intro video](#)). Pratima will be onsite at Irby Ranch creating engaging and fun programs and activities for our residents. Pratima has worked with and supported individuals with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities for the past six years. She began her career working with [YAI: Seeing Beyond Disability](#) as a Community Training Specialist, Therapeutic Coach, and Behavior Specialist. Pratima earned her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology at SUNY Stony Brook and is pursuing her Master's Degree in Social Work through Walden University. She is dedicated to creating positive and meaningful life experiences and is ready to welcome our residents and begin developing programs and activities based on their interests and goals. Welcome, Pratima!

Fall In-Person & Virtual Programs

We're excited to be offering limited, socially-distanced **in-person and hands-on programs** at the Sunflower Hill Garden this fall. Each program will offer person-centered programming for adults with developmental disabilities, and provide opportunities to learn, explore, and engage in new and supportive ways through in-person garden experiences. Each program participant will need to attend with a parent or caregiver. We will also offer virtual live, as well as pre-recorded video programs with Teacher Abby and Farmer Caitlin that will appeal to the aspiring chef as well as the outdoor explorer and adventurer! In addition, we will continue to offer our free weekday [Online Activity](#) programming. Our Fall Programs will begin in October 2020 and will be available for purchase soon! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates and registration notifications.



Thank You for Making a Difference

A huge thank you to our supporters, donors, and those who have purchased produce, flowers and plants from the Sunflower Hill Garden! Your support has enabled us to **donate nearly 2,000 pounds of produce** this year to local nonprofits serving those who are most in need at this time. There is more need now than ever, as families here in the Tri-Valley struggle with both the pandemic and nearby wildfires. If you would like to help us continue supporting our community, please consider [donating](#) to Sunflower Hill or [purchasing produce](#) and other items from the Sunflower Hill Garden.

Make a Donation Today!

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