



Dear Sunflower Hill Supporter,

Happy New Year!

I absolutely love this picture of one of our Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch residents receiving his key and key fob to his very first apartment! It reminds me of the excitement and feeling of hope that I felt myself when I held the keys to my first apartment. And it's why we are committed to supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their efforts to live independently, learn life skills, and thrive. With over 62% of adults with developmental disabilities living at home with an aging caregiver,* and program participants searching for new and innovative ways to learn, develop skills, and engage with one another, our mission has never been more critical.

That's why we're asking you to become a [Sunflower Partner](#) and provide consistent support to Sunflower Hill with your monthly gift.

[Become a Sunflower Partner](#)

As a **Sunflower Partner** you will receive:

- Recognition at Sunflower Hill events.
- Bi-annual impact newsletter with special videos and pictures featuring our residents and program participants.
- Invitation to a Sunflower Partners annual breakfast at Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch each fall (for monthly donors giving at the \$25 per month level and above. Beginning in the fall of 2021 pending COVID-19 restrictions).

As a **Sunflower Partner**, your generosity ensures that Sunflower Hill is able to continue to provide individuals with developmental disabilities life skills and enrichment programming and do the important work of developing residential communities for people with developmental disabilities.

Thank you for being a part of the Sunflower Hill community. We wish you and your family a happy and healthy 2021!

All my best,

Edie

Edie Nehls, Executive Director

*Statewide Strategic Framework for Expanding Housing Opportunities for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

What Your Monthly Donation Supports

			
\$10 a Month	\$25 a Month	\$50 a Month	\$100 a Month
Supports basic operational materials for staff at all locations	Supports ongoing programmatic supplies	Supports programming staff	Supports development of future residential communities

We value each gift, no matter the amount. Your heartfelt donation makes an impact!

All monthly gifts are unrestricted.



Sunflower Hill Blog & Irby Ranch Video Updates

Beginning next month, we'll be launching the Sunflower Hill Blog, featuring monthly Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch resident spotlights, resident tips for living independently, reviews, motivational activities, adaptive cooking tips, adaptive gardening tips, and more! [Subscribe](#) to receive the blog in your email inbox!

Also debuting next month, there will be a bi-monthly Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch update video that will be posted to our YouTube channel! As part of our Online Activity programming, and similar to our [Sunflower Hill Garden](#)

[updates](#), these video updates will feature resident spotlights, recent activities, behind-the-scene tours, and more! [Subscribe to our YouTube channel](#) so you don't miss a single video!



Produce Donations in 2020

The Sunflower Hill Garden has always been first and foremost an instructional, outdoor space for educational, therapeutic, and life skills training for individuals with developmental disabilities. But it is also a space that continues to give back to our community. While produce is typically planted and harvested by Sunflower Hill program participants under the guidance of staff, COVID-19 restrictions forced the Garden to close for much of 2020 to program participants and volunteers. However, deemed an essential business, our staff, and beginning in October a few volunteers and small groups of program participants, were able to continue to plant, grow, harvest, and donate **over 4,500 pounds of produce**, in 2020 to Tri-Valley non-profits supporting low-income households and those with health concerns. We are honored to be the stewards of this extraordinary space.



Clif Family Foundation Grant

In January, we were thrilled to receive a \$2,000 grant from the [Clif Family Foundation](#). The grant will be used to purchase supplies and materials to support our [Hands-On Garden Group program](#), produce donations, and overall operational maintenance of the Sunflower Hill Garden. The generosity from the Clif Family Foundation enables us to provide the materials and supplies needed to ensure our program participants have a successful work experience; one where people of all abilities engage, learn, and give back to the greater community through the donation of produce to our local non-profit partners that have such a great need during this time. Thank you, Clif Family Foundation for your ongoing support of Sunflower Hill and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities!



Event Planning Volunteers Needed

We're looking for volunteers to join our Event Planning Subcommittee! Volunteers will act as ambassadors for our events, and help with some of the small, event planning details, such as generating decorating ideas, distributing marketing materials, and soliciting auction donations for our upcoming events. A commitment of 1-2 hours per month, with potentially

more as we get closer to an event, is preferred. If you're looking for a way to make a difference in your community and are interested in helping make Sunflower Hill's events a success, [contact us!](#)



Garden Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in your community? Volunteer in the Sunflower Hill Garden just a few hours each month planting, pruning, harvesting, washing, and more! Your efforts will help us donate produce to local non-profits serving those who are most in need right now. To learn more and to apply, visit our [Garden Volunteer](#) page.



Cooking Classes Filling Up

Thursday, January 28, 2021 is the deadline to register for Cooking Class with Teacher Abby, Session 1: Skill Building. This 8-week class, focused on teaching common kitchen skills, is live and virtual. Participants can either cook along with Teacher Abby who will provide step-by-step guidance during class time, or choose to enjoy and learn while watching the cooking demonstrations. [Register](#) today!

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