



Sunflower Hill Newsletter

January 11, 2021



Dear Sunflower Hill Supporter,

Happy New Year from all of us at Sunflower Hill!

As we begin 2022 with more uncertainty than we had hoped due to the new COVID variant, we at Sunflower Hill remain steadfastly focused on our mission to create places and spaces where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live, work, learn, and thrive as part of the greater community.

As a supporter of Sunflower Hill, we know you share our dedication to supporting adults with I/DD. Your support is evident in our recent fundraising efforts where we raised over \$41,000 through our Giving Tuesday and year-end campaigns. We were honored by the community's tremendous response and humbled by the incredible outpouring of support that we received in the last couple of weeks of 2021. Thank you!

2022 will be an exciting year of growth for Sunflower Hill with new affordable residential communities in [Lafayette](#) and [Dublin](#) moving forward, and Irby Ranch residents continuing to grow their independence as they enjoy a variety of engaging and enriching programs. Sunflower Hill [Garden](#) program participants were so excited to be back in the Garden in 2021 and eagerly anticipate our Spring Garden Program resuming in February. Teachers Abby and Molly have been busy creating fresh curriculum for the next sessions of [Cooking Classes](#) and [Popcorn Chat](#), which will also begin next month. With our [Strategic Plan](#) in place, we're excited to continue to move forward!

As we embark on the 10th year of our organization, we remain resolute and hopeful. Our vision is a world where people of all abilities are welcomed, empowered, and valued. We hope you will continue to join us as we endeavor to support adults with I/DD to live, work, learn, and thrive!

Wishing you and your family health and happiness in 2022 and beyond.

With gratitude,

Pamela

Pamela Zielske
Advancement Director

Jan

Jan Cohen
Interim Executive Director



Register for Cooking Classes

Registration is now open and classes are filling up for Teacher Abby's virtual, live [Skill Building Cooking Class](#). Perfect for budding chefs of all abilities, this eight-week class focuses on developing participants' skills in their own kitchen through demonstrations, practice, and repetition. Participants will engage in lessons that teach cooking basics such as following a recipe, measuring ingredients, practicing safe knife skills, and cooking with heat. Sessions begin in February with classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00pm - 5:30pm via Zoom. Registration is now open! **For more details and information and to register, [visit our website](#).**

Clif Family Foundation Grant

We're thankful to the [Clif Family Foundation](#) for their recent \$5,000 grant! The [grant](#) will be used to purchase tools, materials, and programmatic supplies to support our Hands-On Garden Group Program, organic produce donations, and overall operational maintenance of the Sunflower Hill Garden. The Clif Family Foundation supports organizations working to strengthen the food system and communities, enhance public health, and safeguard the environment and its natural resources. The Foundation also awarded Sunflower Hill a grant in 2021. Thank you, Clif Family Foundation for continuing to support Sunflower Hill and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities!



Resident Spotlight on Jennifer

Don't miss our most recent Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch Resident Spotlight on Jennifer, who lives at Irby Ranch with her young daughter and partner. Jennifer is a great advocate for living independently. "Just because we have different kinds of learning and other types of disabilities, it doesn't mean that we can't do what other people do," she said. "You can't judge a book by its cover – a lot of people have disabilities but these same people are doctors, engineers, and stuff. You can't doubt their ability to live how they want to live." Don't miss Jennifer's story and our other blog articles, which feature more [resident spotlights](#), [motivational activities](#), and [more](#).

Thank
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rh Robert Half®

Grant from Robert Half

We're honored that Robert Half has awarded Sunflower Hill with a grant, totaling \$3,000. Grant funds will support our Culinary Program and virtual cooking classes, and will be used to purchase ingredients, tools, and utensils, including adaptive kitchen tools to increase accessibility for participants. Robert Half, a global staffing firm with offices in the Tri-Valley, previously awarded Sunflower Hill with grants in 2020 and 2019. The company also volunteered in 2020 to co-create a short educational video titled, [Join the Team - Wear Your Face Mask](#), designed for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

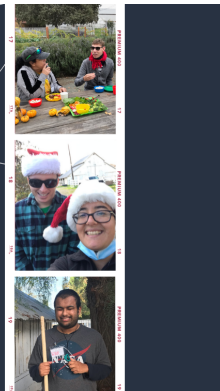
THANKYOU



Lawrence Livermore National Security Gift

2021
Garden
Update
Recap

WITH TEACHER ABBY



2021 Garden Update Recap Video

We're excited to announce that we've received a gift from Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS), which manages the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. The gift, totaling \$2,190, is part of its 2021 Community Gift Program and will be used to purchase tools, materials, and supplies to support our Garden Programs. Thank you, LLNS for generously supporting Sunflower Hill and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

Don't miss this special year-end Garden Update with Teacher Abby and Shadow, the cat! Our [2021 Garden Recap video](#) features highlights from the year: watch our program participants plant the last of our cover crops and harvest produce for donation. Teacher Abby then shares a month-by-month recap of all that our program participants and volunteers accomplished in 2021. [Watch the video](#) on our YouTube channel.

Support Sunflower Hill!



**SUPPORT
SUNFLOWER HILL
BY BECOMING A
MONTHLY DONOR!**

Click here to join a special, dedicated group of people donating each month to provide residential housing options and robust programming for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities!

If you are over 70 1/2 years old and need to take a required minimum distribution from your retirement account each year, you can instead donate the distribution and pay no taxes on that additional income.

RMD

Required Minimum Distributions

Please discuss this philanthropic giving strategy with your tax advisor.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAY OR ANNIVERSARY ?



Click to create a Facebook Fundraiser to benefit Sunflower Hill



**SUPPORT
SUNFLOWER HILL**

Donate your vehicle, whether it's running or not!

Click to Learn More!





Click here to choose **Sunflower Hill** as your "Charitable Organization"

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