



June 2025 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

May was filled with fun, learning, and community!

We hosted our third Friday Night Live event, featuring a lively ukulele and hula performance by the Serenading Strummers. Participants dressed in their finest Hawaiian attire and danced the night away—it was a blast!

In *Learning with Olivia*, we focused on building financial awareness. Participants learned the basics of budgeting and saving, with a special guest presentation from Patelco Credit Union.

Our cooking programs stayed as delicious as ever! In our virtual Trader Joe's Cooking Class, we whipped up Carnitas Street Tacos, while in-person classes created custom kabobs and flatbread pizzas—so tasty!

Exciting news! Tickets for the annual [Sunflower Hill Gala](#) are now on sale! Join us for an unforgettable evening of celebration, community, and impact.



With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team



Gala Tickets Now On Sale!

Get ready for a night of glitz, glamour, and giving at our **Mardi Gras Gala!**

Saturday, September 27, 2025

6-10 PM

Shannon Community Center, Dublin, CA

\$175 per person

\$1,500 for a Table of 10

Includes hors d'oeuvres, dinner, and wine

Buy your tickets early — we expect to sell out!

Get ready for an unforgettable evening of glitz, glamour, and giving in support of a great cause!

A huge thank you to the incredible sponsors already on board — your generosity is making this magical night possible!

[Purchase Gala Tickets](#)



Garden Explorers Summer Camp

We're thrilled to be hosting our first-ever *Garden Explorers Summer Camp* from **July 21–25**, 9 AM–2 PM. Open to individuals with I/DD, ages 14 and up, this hands-on camp includes:

- Flower bouquet making
- Garden scavenger hunts
- Basic cooking activities
- Produce harvesting
- And more fun outdoor learning!

Regional Center clients can request coverage, or you may choose the private pay option.

Spots are filling up fast — sign up today!

[Register for Garden Explorers Camp!](#)



Camp Volunteers Needed!

We're seeking enthusiastic volunteers (ages 16+) to support our Garden Explorers Summer Camp!

If you're interested in joining the fun and making a difference, please complete our volunteer application. A team member will be in touch with you shortly.

[Submit Camp Volunteer Application](#)



Lafayette Project Update

Sunflower Hill, in conjunction with Satellite Affordable Housing Associates, Griggs Resource Group and Ascend Architecture, is actively working on a vision for an affordable supportive housing residential community in Lafayette, California at [949 Moraga Road](#).

Last month, the team presented an initial version of the new community at a Planning Commission and Design Review Study Session.

[View more on the Lafayette project](#)



Shop Sunflower Hill

We're excited to announce the opening of the *Sunflower Hill Shop*! You can purchase exclusive Sunflower Hill shirts and hats—perfect for showing your support in style. Every purchase helps fund our programs for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Shop now and wear your sunflower pride!

[Shop at the Sunflower Hill Shop](#)



Community Support

A big shout-out to our friends at **Robert Half** for their generous grant of \$1,400 supporting both our Sun Squad and Learning with Olivia programs. Our participants are looking good while doing good in their awesome new Sun Squad hats!

We are thankful to the **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon** for their generous \$1,000 grant! This support helps ensure that day



program participants from the San Ramon and Danville area can visit and enjoy meaningful activities in our beautiful garden.

A heartfelt thank-you also goes to the **Soroptimist Club** for their wonderful \$1,000 gift to Sunflower Hill — your generosity helps us continue to grow and thrive!



Summer Hands-On Garden Programs Start Soon!

Join our **Hands-On Garden Group** starting this week!

We have limited spots available for our **Wednesday group**.

Wednesdays | 9–10:30 AM

11-week program | \$165 for the full summer

We can't wait to spend the summer gardening, growing, and having fun in the sun! Don't miss out—secure your spot today!

[Register for Garden Programs](#)



Garden News

Summer crops are in full swing! Our team, program participants, and volunteers have been hard at work planting and mulching the beds for the season. Beans and cucumbers are already climbing their trellises, fruit is beginning to set on the trees, and we're harvesting bumper crops of radishes and turnips—soon to be replaced by vibrant summer flowers.

Our weekly deliveries now regularly include beautiful flower bouquets, combining edible and decorative blooms to brighten recipients' days. After months of patient growth, the fava beans have been harvested, and their beds are now resting under silage tarps to rejuvenate the soil.

We're excited to care for and harvest the many beds of tomatoes, squash, peppers, and eggplant in the months ahead!



Programs and Garden Assistant Summer Intern

We're happy to welcome **Stephanie Austin**, who will join us as our Programs and Garden Assistant for the summer!

Stephanie is a biochemistry major at San Jose State University and brings a rich background in environmental education, community engagement, and sustainability. She has led outdoor youth programs, coordinated food rescue and gardening efforts, and contributed to scientific research in academic and field settings.

While her time with us will be short-term, we're thrilled to have her on board to support and enhance our efforts during the busy season.



Corporate Garden Volunteers

Big thanks to the incredible volunteer teams from **Armanino**, **Aprio**, and **Robert Half**! Your time and energy have made a real impact—our garden is thriving because of you!

[Learn about Corporate Volunteer Days](#)



Irby Ranch Activities

We're kicking off summer with exciting, hands-on experiences:

Learning with Olivia will focus on *friendship*—what it means to be a good friend and how to maintain healthy friendships.

We're heading out on field trips to the *Alameda County Fairgrounds* and downtown Pleasanton to see the *BMX Bike Show!*

Our *Friday Night Live* event will be *rodeo-themed* in honor of Livermore Rodeo Month. Get ready for western wear, rodeo-themed bingo, and a line dancing activity!

Register for Irby Ranch Activities

COMMUNITY MEMBER

Spotlight

SHANNON FOGARTY

Irby Ranch Resident

Hi, I am Shannon Fogarty and I am 42 years old. I was born in Alameda, California and I grew up in Castro Valley, California. I was born with Spina Bifida as a kid. When I went through school, I was in Special Ed classes because of a Physical Disability and a Cognitive learning Disability. I even experienced a lot of living situations as well. I experienced a co-ed group home, an apartment complex, a female reach house, another apartment complex and then moved into Sunflower Hill.

I am currently a Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch Resident and have been living here since December of 2020. I like being in the Sunflower Hill Community because of being more independent and it is very safe. Sunflower Hill has positively impacted my life in a lot of ways. I love the freedom and the independence. There are no curfew requirements. Plus, I don't have to ask permission from my parents as well. Another reason that Sunflower Hill has positively impacted my life is because I have been able to meet resident friends and others in the community. Next, I love being in the different activities in the community because I have learned a lot with the life skills activities, vocational skills (since I used to work for Sunflower Hill), and being sociable. I am very grateful to live in such a safe, secure and positive community and I am looking forward to learning more skills and continuing my independence as well.

Donate to Sunflower Hill

Our Contact Information

Sunflower Hill
P.O Box 11436
Pleasanton, CA 94588
925-800-1042
<http://www.sunflowerhill.org>
info@sunflowerhill.org



This email was sent to the *Monthly Newsletter* interest group.

You are being sent this email because you are a subscriber.

If you wish to update your Email Preferences or Unsubscribe, click [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)