



Sunflower Hill Newsletter

March 30, 2021

*To plant a Garden
is to believe in
tomorrow.*

Audrey Hepburn



Dear Sunflower Hill Supporter,

This month marks the one-year anniversary of sheltering-in-place. While we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel, we remain cautiously optimistic as the health and well-being of our program participants, volunteers, residents, staff, and their loved ones remain at the forefront of our minds and actions. We hope that those who are near and dear to your heart remain healthy and well. As with many of you, we look forward to the moments when we are able to gather together again in-person. Our team has been hard at work planning for events and activities to adjust to the evolving new normal. Below are a few highlights:

Help Us Win a \$5,000 Grant - Vote by April 7, 2021!

Help us win a \$5,000 grant from Nature's Path! We've submitted our application to [Nature's Path "Gardens For Good"](#) grant but need your vote to help us win! Nature's Path will select 21 winners based on the strength of the application, and the number of votes they receive. **Voting is open now through 10:00AM, April 7, 2021.** [Vote here!](#)

Sunflower Showcase: In-Person Event

We're excited to share that our upcoming Gala fundraiser, the [Sunflower Showcase](#), which will be held on July 23, 2021, will have audience members attending in-person and virtually! For those who are comfortable attending an in-person event, we will celebrate the evening at the beautiful Bankhead Theater in Livermore! Our team is working closely with our colleagues at the Bankhead to ensure all safety precautions will be followed for a fun evening. For guests who prefer to enjoy the live festivities virtually, we are excited to build upon the success of our virtual event last year to deliver a dynamic virtual event experience! This inaugural event will be a visual and performing arts occasion celebrating talented, local adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Emceed by comedian, [Regina Stoops](#), and featuring America's Got Talent Season 14 Winner, [Kodi Lee](#), the Sunflower Showcase will raise funds critical to supporting the mission and vision of Sunflower Hill! Tickets will be available soon. In the meantime, save the date, consider sponsoring or donating, and join us for an inspiring and exceptional night!

Help Us Make the Sunflower Showcase a Success!

Become an Event Sponsor

Your support as an event sponsor highlights your civic engagement and speaks to what you value in the community. The Sunflower Showcase, which will be both in-person and virtual, is a great opportunity to engage with Sunflower Hill and help share our mission with your friends and colleagues. Sponsorship packages offer a wide variety of unique recognition opportunities. [Contact us](#) to learn more.

Donate an Auction or Raffle Item

Help us make the Sunflower Showcase Live and Silent auctions extraordinary! We're looking for unique items or experiences to include in our auctions. For more information on how to donate to our auctions, please [contact us](#).

In the Garden

We were thrilled last week to welcome [Love Livermore](#) out to the Sunflower Hill Garden to talk about our programs and amazing volunteers. Nicole and Robyn are longtime Livermore locals who created Love Livermore as a resource to help Livermore residents and their real estate clients love where they live. Don't miss their [Livermore Inspiration video](#) featuring Sunflower Hill Programs Manager Rebecca Langstaff and interviews with two of our longtime volunteers, Scott and Kyle!

At Irby Ranch

Irby Ranch residents continued to settle into their new homes, coordinate with their supportive services staff, and meet their new neighbors in March! Our programs and activities, while still virtual, saw many residents join for the first time for multiple activities. Don't miss our bi-monthly [Irby Ranch Update videos](#), which feature some of these activities. Also in March, residents shared their [favorite shelter-in-place recipes](#) in our Irby Ranch Resident Tips & Reviews blog article.

One Year of Online Activities

We celebrated a year of Online Activity video programming on March 23, 2021 with a [year-in-review video](#)! We've had so much fun creating over 150 videos designed for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities! We're extremely thankful to all who have supported our efforts, our collaborators, and participants! We hope that you'll continue to watch our new online activities, as well as visit our [video archive](#) or [YouTube Channel](#). Perhaps you'll find an old favorite, or discover something new that will inspire you to move, learn, and explore the world around you!

As we look to April and the ever-changing world we're living in, we hope that you and your family stay healthy, happy and are able to step outside and enjoy the beautiful weather!

All my best,

Edie

Edie Nehls, Executive Director



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Vote!



Irby Ranch Resident Spotlight

Don't miss this month's Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch [resident spotlight on Chris](#)! Chris is a college student, writer, and storyteller with aspirations of being a published author. His spotlight article features some of his poetry, a link to his blog, and a video where he shares why he likes to write. Don't miss Chris' story and our other blog articles, which feature [resident reviews](#), [motivational activities](#), [adaptive cooking tips](#), [adaptive gardening tips](#), and more! [Subscribe](#) to receive the blog in your email inbox each week!



Summer Program Registration

We're getting ready to launch our summer program registration, which will feature our popular in-person, [Hands-On Garden Groups](#) - with an increased participant/caregiver capacity. We'll also be offering live, virtual [Cooking with Teacher Abby](#) classes! Summer programs will run June through August with sessions that run for 4-weeks each. Registration for our summer programs will open soon!



New Garden Volunteer Opportunity

We're looking for Garden volunteers on Thursday and Friday mornings! 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.

New Sunflower Hill T-Shirts

Support Sunflower Hill by ordering one of our [new t-shirts](#)! With a nod to our nostalgic yellow shirt, we hope you'll find the new design a must-have as you support our mission! These new t-shirts are \$24.99 each and come in sizes small to 2XL. Proceeds support the mission and vision of Sunflower Hill. Limited quantities, so [order soon](#)!

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