



October 2026 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

Our **Roll Out the Red Carpet Gala** was a huge success! From Hollywood-inspired cocktails and a wonderful dinner to inspiring speeches and a heartfelt video showcasing Sunflower Hill's impact, it was an amazing night filled with celebration, connection, and purpose.

Enjoy these photos capturing the memorable moments from the night!

[View Gala Photo Album](#)

Thank you to [our incredible sponsors](#) for making this magical night possible!

In addition to our generous sponsors, we are incredibly grateful to our dedicated volunteers and every guest who joined us for this special evening. Your support, energy, and commitment shone as brightly as any Hollywood spotlight! Because of you, we can continue advancing our mission and creating more opportunities for adults with



intellectual and developmental disabilities to live meaningful, connected, and fulfilling lives.

Save the Date!

We are thrilled to announce that we will be returning to The Club at Castlewood in Pleasanton for next year's gala on **October 23, 2027**. Mark your calendars - we can't wait to celebrate with you!

With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team



Special Needs Tools, Charitable and Tax Planning, Public Benefits Webinar Series



Sunflower Hill presents a FREE webinar series offering **practical guidance for families supporting a loved one with special needs** to create a secure, well-structured plan for their loved one's future.

Session 1: Dani Plan

Wednesday, November 4 | 5:00 PM

A modern way to share and securely manage life's important information about your special needs loved one.

Session 2: Tax Efficient Charitable Planning for the Special Needs Family

Wednesday, November 11 | 5:00 PM

Learn how to donate to your favorite charities in a tax efficient manner while ensuring your loved ones remain financially secure.

Session 3: Public Benefits

Wednesday, November 18 | 5:00 PM

Understand maximizing public resources for your special needs loved one.

Register for Webinar Series

Lafayette Res Run for Education



2026 Lafayette Res Run Shirt Design by Irby Ranch Resident Robby Houghton

Sunflower Hill is thrilled to participate in this year's [Lafayette Res Run for Education](#), and we're especially proud that Irby Ranch Resident **Robby Houghton** designed the **official race shirt** - a creative, joyful reflection of community spirit. Participants who join the **Sunflower Hill team** for the run will receive a **10% registration discount**, making it even easier to support local schools while celebrating inclusion, wellness, and fun.

Sunday, October 18, 2026
5k: 8am, 10k: 8:15am, 2-mile: 8:45am
Downtown Lafayette, CA

Register for the Sunflower Hill Lafayette Res Run Team

Garden News



Several participants from the Fall Garden Program and Garden volunteers contributed to the beautiful transformation of the mural.

Extended early-fall warmth granted us an extra harvest of summer crops like tomatoes and peppers. As we wind down the summer season, garden programs are actively saving seeds for next year. Bed spaces are now shifting to early cool-season crops, including turnips, radishes, and salad greens, while our greenhouse is fully stocked with brassicas and onions for upcoming plantings.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our September corporate partner groups - **Workday**, **Kaiser**, and **First United Credit Union**. Their hands-on support enabled us to sheet mulch our fruit trees, plant winter seeds, and maintain our sensory garden.

We are grateful to **The Livermore Commission for the Arts** for their generous grant supporting a new educational mural on our garden shed! This vibrant artwork will help teach about soil health and the lifecycle of a seed. A huge thank-you to our talented artists, Inara and Grace, for creating the beautiful design and outline - as well as to our residents and volunteers who helped bring the mural to life - one colorful section at a time.



Community Member Spotlight

COMMUNITY MEMBER *Spotlight*

LOUISE HAIL

Garden
Volunteer



Louise began volunteering with Sunflower Hill in 2021, when she and her daughter were looking for a meaningful way to spend time together while giving back to their community. With a shared love of plants and being outdoors, the Sunflower Hill Garden quickly became the perfect fit. While her daughter has since moved on to new pursuits, Louise continues to volunteer in the Garden every Friday.

A devoted lover and rescuer of ladybugs, Louise enjoys watching the Garden grow and change through the seasons, feeding the chickens, and creating beautiful flower bouquets in the summer. Her time at the Garden has also deepened her knowledge of organic gardening, inspired her to become an even more skilled home gardener, and encouraged her to incorporate fresh produce into her daily life.

Louise volunteers at the Garden because she values the broad impact it has across the community. She appreciates that Sunflower Hill actively supports Irby Ranch residents, offers meaningful programs for adult day groups and schools, and donates organic produce to the wider community. She loves meeting new people and finds joy in giving back through her time and effort.

As a dedicated volunteer, Louise is reliable, consistent, and always willing to lend a hand. Sunflower Hill is grateful for all of Louise's contributions and the heart she brings to the community.

Save the Date: November 18 - Rubino Sip 'n Shop



Get a head start on your holiday shopping while supporting Sunflower Hill! Join us for the Rubino Estates Sip 'n Shop, a festive shopping experience featuring local vendors, wine, and a fun raffle. It's the perfect opportunity to find unique gifts for everyone on your list, enjoy a little holiday cheer, and make a difference in the lives of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Sip 'n Shop at Rubino Estates

Wednesday, November 18 | 6:00 PM
1188 Vineyard Ave, Pleasanton

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for more details. We hope to see you there!

Save the Date: December 4 - Sunshine Saloon



Join us at Sunshine Saloon in Pleasanton for a festive Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest! Break out your most outrageous holiday sweater and get ready for a fun night of karaoke, a raffle, and plenty of holiday cheer. It's a great way to kick off the holiday season while supporting Sunflower Hill; we'll have a donation link available (all December donations will be matched at 50% through CHEF). Come join the fun, bring your holiday spirit, and help make a difference!

Holiday Ugly Sweater Contest

Friday, December 4 | 6:00 PM

Sunshine Saloon

1807 Santa Rita Rd Ste K, Pleasanton

Irby Ranch Activities

OCTOBER 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Scan the QR Code to Register for Events!  Sunflower Hill Led Activities HCEB Led Activities Parent/Resident Led Activities SAHA Led Activities				1. Cooking with Crystal Caesar Salad 4:00 - 5:00 PM Adaptive Yoga with Kristen 5:30 - 6:15 PM	2. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM	3. Saturday Morning Stretch with Crystal 9:00 - 10:00 AM
4. Outdoor Sports Night 5:15 - 6:15 PM	5. Let's go Batty for Halloween with Adama 5:30 - 6:30 PM	6. Fitness Class with Bri 4:00 - 5:00 PM	7. Jean's Pumpkin Patch with Annie 3:30 - 5:15 PM Adaptive Yoga with Kristen 5:30 - 6:15 PM	8. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM Board Games with Roll for Inclusion 5:30 - 7:00 PM	9. Walk to Farmers Market with Annie 9:00 - 10:00 AM	10. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM
11. Movement Monday with Crystal 10:00 - 11:00 AM Fun with YIP Pumpkin Painting 4:00 - 5:00 PM	12. Itsy Bitsy Spider Craft with Adama 5:30 - 6:30 PM	13. Fitness Class with Bri 4:00 - 5:00 PM	14. Cooking with Crystal Healthy Energy Bars 4:00 - 5:00 PM Adaptive Yoga with Kristen 5:30 - 6:15 PM	15. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM Friday Night Live! Live Performances, House Trivia, Hand on Activities and More! 5:00 - 7:00 PM	16. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM	17. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM
18. Learning with Olivia Living Independently and Apartment Basics 3:30 - 4:30 PM	19. Sun Squad: Create cards and place mats for Community Thanksgiving dinner 3:30 - 5:00 PM Puzzles Galore with Adama 5:30 - 6:30 PM	20. Fitness Class with Bri 4:00 - 5:00 PM	21. Halloween Story Time with Adama 5:30 - 6:30 PM Adaptive Yoga with Kristen 5:30 - 6:15 PM	22. Judging for Decor Contest 4:00 - 5:00 PM Adaptive Yoga with Kristen 5:30 - 6:15 PM	23. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM	24. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM
25. Pet Therapy and Coloring Hour 4:00 - 5:00 PM Marital Arts with Pulles Marial Arts 5:00 - 6:00 PM	26. Halloween Karaoke Costume and Monster Mash with Adama 5:30 - 6:30 PM	27. Fitness Class with Bri 4:00 - 5:00 PM Scary Movie and Candy Popcorn-A-Palooza 5:30 - 7:30 PM	28. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM	29. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM	30. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM	31. Fitness Class with Keith 4:00 - 5:00 PM
 Jack Nicolson: October 8 Please refer to the Activity Outline for more details. The date, time, and location of activities is subject to change. Please check the community cork board for more activities led by residents and caregivers. https://sunflowerhill.org/programs/irby-ranch/ *If a participant requires 1:1 support to engage in an activity, it is required to bring your own support. Parent/caregiver/support staff should plan to attend and fully participate in each activity supporting the participant as needed. Sunflower Hill staff does not provide 1:1 support during activities. **Registration is required to participate in Sunflower Hill Activities at Irby Ranch.						

Featured Upcoming Activities:

- 10/19 - Learning with Olivia**
 Olivia is back with tips on living independently and basics of apartment living.
- 10/27 - Halloween Karaoke Costume and Monster Mash**
 Step into the spooky season at our monster mash where you can dress up, sing your favorite tracks, and show off your best dance moves.

Register for Irby Ranch Activities

Donate to Sunflower Hill