



Sunflower Hill

SUNFLOWER HILL

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



CREATING SPACES AND PLACES

FEBRUARY 2022



Dear Sunflower Hill Supporter,

2021 was a year full of milestones, and while the pandemic brought many challenges, there were also plenty of silver linings. With your support, we were able to continue to create places and spaces where adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) live, work, learn, and thrive. Below are a few highlights of 2021:

It's hard to believe, but in September we celebrated the one-year anniversary of residents moving into Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton. In that time, residents have learned vital skills to support independent living, how to make and build friendships, and how to create their own personal schedules and activities. We're proud to be able to support their efforts!

In 2021 we announced partnerships for two new residential communities. The need for additional affordable housing for people with I/DD has never been more critical. That's why we're delighted to be a part of the Lafayette Lane project in partnership with Miramar Capital and Pacific West Communities, and a proposed project in Dublin in partnership with Trumark Homes and Eden Housing called Croak Ranch.

In September we were excited to welcome adult day and adult-in-transition program participants back to the Garden. It was heartening to see so many familiar faces after so long! Since then, program participants have been busy harvesting the last of the winter crops for donation, turning over and preparing beds for spring planting, enjoying lots of greens and citrus on their snack trays, and pulling out old winter crops and feeding them to the chickens!

Thanks in part to our Garden Program participants and volunteers, we donated over 3,400 pounds of fresh, organic produce in 2021 to our friends at Culinary Angels, Tri-Valley Haven, and Shepherd's Gate.

Cooking Classes with Teacher Abby continued to be incredibly popular with participants, parents, and caregivers in 2021. Participants practiced following a recipe, measuring ingredients, cooking with heat, and using safe knife skills. Recipe favorites have included a Broccoli Salad, Homemade Chili, and the internet-famous TikTok Pasta. Yum!

Our popular Popcorn Chat Program finished up its

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CREATING SPACES AND PLACES

first full year in 2021. This unique and free program focuses on empowering participants to gain vital social skills. "I love being able to chat with everyone, especially high school buddies," shared one participant recently. In addition to working on social interaction skills, participants have strengthened their self-advocacy skills and discussed moral dilemmas. Registration for our first session of 2022 has already filled up!

This tremendous progress is not possible without your generous support. We simply could not do our work without you!

Your support allows us to continue to co-develop affordable residential communities and offer vibrant, engaging programs for adults with I/DD. Together, we can ensure that adults with I/DD continue to have places and spaces in our community where they can live, learn, work, and thrive!

On behalf of everyone here at Sunflower Hill, we wish you a healthy and joy-filled 2022!

With gratitude,

Jan

Jan Cohen
Interim Executive Director

Pamela

Pamela Zielske
Advancement Director



HOW YOU CAN HELP



Become a Monthly Donor



Volunteer



Share our mission with
family & friends

SUNFLOWER HILL AT IRBY RANCH



35 IRBY RANCH RESIDENTS

"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." – *Irby Ranch Resident*



9 RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT BLOG ARTICLES

"I feel accepted for who I am – I feel like I belong here!" – *Irby Ranch Resident*

250 ACTIVITIES IN 2021



I like to "hang out at my place and attend activities at Irby Ranch." – *Irby Ranch Resident*



SUNFLOWER HILL NEW COMMUNITIES



2 NEW COMMUNITIES ANNOUNCED

Lafayette Lane in Lafayette, CA



Building 1
Sunflower Hill at Lafayette Lane

38 UNITS FOR PEOPLE
WITH I/DD



"It would be a dream come true for him to be able to live independently with his peers in the community he has grown up in."

- Lafayette Resident and Parent

Croak Ranch in Dublin, CA

22 UNITS FOR PEOPLE
WITH I/DD

"I believe that the Croak Ranch Community will enrich the lives of the Dublin community and provide an affordable housing opportunity that will continue to make Dublin the inclusive community that we are all striving for."

- Dublin Teacher and Resident



Proposed Croak Ranch
Development

SUNFLOWER HILL GARDEN PROGRAM



134 PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

"I like to harvest stuff. It makes me feel good that I helped a lot of people today."

– Program Participant



10 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS

ADULT-IN-TRANSITION | ADULT DAY |
IRBY RANCH RESIDENTS

10 CITIES REPRESENTED BY PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS



My son
"discovered a
new passion for
planting and
watering, but the
most favorite was
harvesting cherry
tomatoes!"

Parent of Program
Participant



SUNFLOWER HILL GARDEN



3,454 POUNDS
PRODUCE DONATED



94% **PRODUCE GROWN**
DONATED TO



205 **GARDEN VOLUNTEERS**

"Without your wonderful produce donations we could not make the beautiful meals that we do. Our recipients and organization truly appreciate the local organic greens."
- Culinary Angels



1,799 **HOURS**
VOLUNTEERED

"Knowing that all of this food is going to a good cause - knowing that it's going to non-profits and that we're just feeding people and helping people - it's very meaningful to me."
- Garden Volunteer

- Garden Volunteer

SUNFLOWER HILL VIRTUAL PROGRAMS



33 COOKING CLASS
PARTICIPANTS

"I like trying new recipes and cooking with friends!"

- Cooking Class Program Participant

96 COOKING CLASS
INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS



26 POPCORN CHAT
PARTICIPANTS

"I love to talk and say 'hi' to everyone!"

- Popcorn Chat Program Participant

**ONLINE ACTIVITY
VIDEOS***

71	16,965	522
NEW VIDEOS CREATED	VIEWS	HOURS WATCHED

*Includes 2021 data only.



SUNFLOWER HILL FUNDRAISING - SUNFLOWER SHOWCASE



**OVER \$171,000
RAISED**



**31% INCREASE IN
SPONSOR REVENUE**

"I was not prepared for how deeply I was impacted by the experience (of attending the event); to witness firsthand the growth and independence that Sunflower Hill is making in the lives of these adults is nothing short of extraordinary."

- Event Attendee and Sponsor

**77% INCREASE IN NEW
SPONSORS**



Performance by Kodi Lee

"I'm here...to support adults with developmental disabilities. It will be a night to remember...Heck Yeah!!"

**11 ARTISTS, MUSCIANS, AND
POET WITH I/DD FEATURED**



"When people were looking at my art and complimenting me, it made me very happy."

- Showcase Artist

SUNFLOWER HILL FUNDRAISING



**GIVING
TUESDAY**

Together
we give.

OVER \$41,000

**RAISED IN GIVING TUESDAY
AND YEAR-END CAMPAIGNS**

"Giving money (to Sunflower Hill) makes me more invested. I get a lot more out of it than I put in."

- Monthly Donor

**160% INCREASE IN MONTHLY
DONOR REVENUE**

LAUNCHED "SUNFLOWER PARTNER"
MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM IN JANUARY

**2 NEWSLETTERS SENT WITH
EXCLUSIVE VIDEOS AND PICS**

**19% INCREASE IN
GRANT REVENUE**





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STAFF

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Sarah Renton | Advancement Coordinator

Michael Roberts | Annual Giving Manager

Rebecca Speakman | Administrative and HR Coordinator

Caitee Valdez | Residential Programs Coordinator

Pamela Zielske | Advancement Director



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Detailed financials at sunflowerhill.org/annualreport