



December 2025 Newsletter

Dear Sunflower Hill Friends,

November was filled with cozy, creative fun as the weather turned colder! We kicked off the month with festive art classes where participants made cornucopias, pilgrim hats, hand turkeys, and paper Thanksgiving feasts. Friday Night Live featured a Fall Festival with seasonal art activities and a visit from the adorable dogs of **Valley Humane Society**. We wrapped up the month with a lively board game night with **Roll for Inclusion**, who brought an amazing selection of adapted and accessible games.

Thank you to **Rubino Estates Winery** for hosting another successful Sip and Shop event benefiting Sunflower Hill! Guests enjoyed delicious wines and found great holiday gifts during this fun and festive evening.

A huge thank you as well to **Ellen Cookman**, **Daniel Cutter**, and **Sara Hire** for generously volunteering their time to lead a three-part financial, tax planning, and public benefits [webinar series](#) for our I/DD community. Your



insight was incredibly valuable, and our community truly benefited from your guidance. We're so grateful for your support and partnership.

The November Food Drive was a great success, and we truly appreciate our community for supporting our residents and program participants with their generous food donations.

With gratitude,
The Sunflower Hill Team



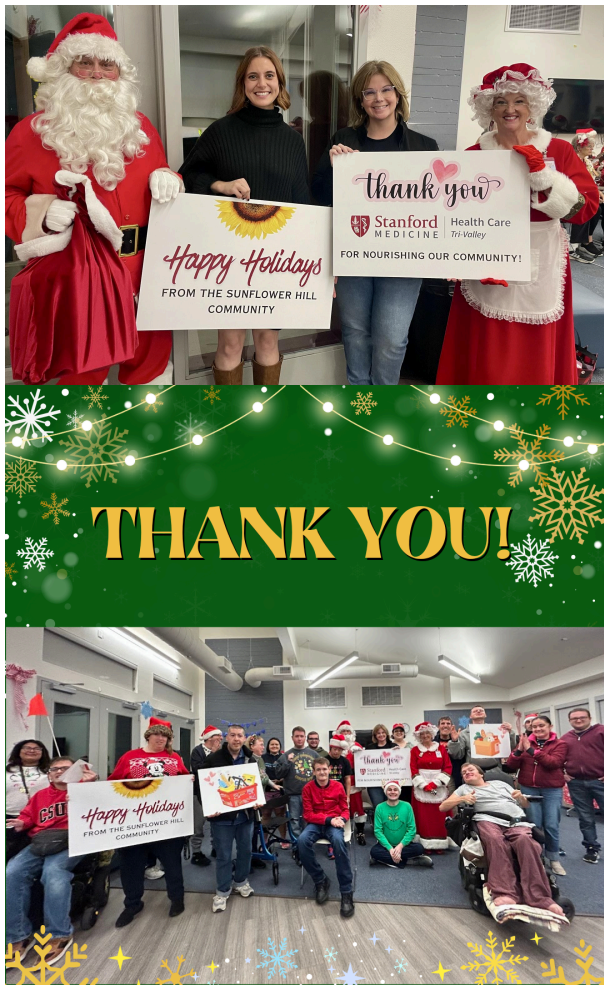
Grace Pointe Approval

Our sincere thanks to the **Dublin Planning Commission** for their green light of approval and 5-0 vote, awarding a site development review permit to Sunflower Hill Grace Pointe – our 60-unit planned development at the corner of Dublin Blvd and Brannigan.

This final approval now allows Sunflower Hill and its partners, Satellite Affordable Housing Associates (SAHA) and architect, Dahlin, to move into the **project financing phase** – a priority for 2026. The new community will offer one- and two-bedroom affordable apartments, a community room and teaching kitchen, art gallery / makerspace, fitness room, and outdoor amenities. In March 2025, Sunflower Hill submitted an application under Senate Bill (SB) 35 to streamline the project and the Dublin City Council declared the parcel surplus land in October 2025.

“We are very grateful to the city of Dublin and their commitment to create a vibrant community for individuals with I/DD,” said Susan Houghton, Sunflower Hill’s founder. There are more than 581 individuals with I/DD living in Dublin alone. **We know the need is great**, and we are very committed to aggressively seeking financing for this project.”

Updates on both Sunflower Hill Grace Pointe and on 949 Moraga, Sunflower Hill’s project in Lafayette, will be shared regularly via this newsletter and on our land webpages. If fully funded and realized, these two new projects will provide a total of 108 new affordable homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Friday Night Live & Special Thanks to Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley

We had a fabulous time at Friday Night Live! The **Serenading Strummers** filled the night with holiday cheer, **Culinary Angels** provided a delicious dinner, and Santa and Mrs. Claus even stopped by for a special visit — thank you, **Corey Chapeta** and **Alicia Spenger**!

We're also incredibly grateful to **Stanford Health Care Tri-Valley** and **CEO Misty Jones** for their amazing generosity. They gifted **\$5,000 in grocery gift cards** to our residents and program participants to support food access this season. Your generosity truly makes a difference and inspires us all.

What a wonderful way to celebrate community, music, and giving!



Chicken Retirement

We will soon bid farewell to our beloved chickens, Ginger, Oreo, Boots, Rosie, Sunny, Peanut, and Peggy. They are set to move to their forever home in January — **Myrtle's Happy Farm in Brentwood** — where they will spend the rest of their lives scratching the earth, digging for bugs, and freely roaming. Now at peak retirement age (around six years old), these hens have lived full, productive lives—laying eggs from around five months old until approximately four to five years. In total, **more than 327 eggs** have been laid this year -- and have gone to **support our frontline food security partners**.

We are thankful for their vital role in the garden, inspiring joy and curiosity among

all our visitors. **We look forward to welcoming new chickens**—along with their very excited adoptive chick parents—in the spring! These parents have selected fabulous names and are committed to spreading the word about the Sunflower Hill Garden. More on who they are and this fun new program in 2026!

**DISCOVER
THE DANI PLAN.**



FREE WEBINAR
January 21 | 6:00 PM Pacific Time

Save the Date: Dani Plan Webinar for Sunflower Hill

Following our successful Fall trust and estate planning series, we're excited to invite you to join us for a live demonstration of [Dani Plan](#)—a smart, simple, and secure way to **manage care for your loved one with a disability**.

Created by a parent of an individual with special needs, the Dani Plan is designed to help parents, conservators, and family members organize and communicate specifics about the care and preferences your loved one might need. As with our financial series, **this webinar is also free of charge**. Register today!

Date: Wednesday, January 21

Time: 6:00 p.m. PT

With Dani Plan, you can:

- Build a personalized care plan
- Upload and organize key documents
- Share plans securely with trusted individuals
- Set text reminders for caregivers
- Prepare for the unexpected with confidence

[View the Dani Plan Video](#) for a sneak peek.

Register Today to secure your spot!



Together We Can Reach \$45,000!



DECEMBER 1-31
DONATIONS MATCHED 50%



Sunflower Hill December 50% Matching Campaign

Our Sunflower Hill December 50% Matching Campaign with **Community Health and Education Foundation (CHEF)** is off to a fantastic start! Thanks to your generosity, we've already raised more than \$11,000 — and with CHEF's incredible \$5,500 match, **we're more than a third of the way toward our \$45,000 goal.**

Will you help us keep this energy going? Your contribution today provides meaningful programs, joyful community experiences, and essential life-skills support for the adults and families we serve.

Donate via CHEF for 50% Match!

COMMUNITY MEMBER *Spotlight*

**KYLE
LAWRENCE**

Irby Ranch
Resident



"Sunflower Hill gives me a sense of independence and freedom. I enjoy the activities such as the board games and bingo hour." —Kyle

By Marilyn Lawrence, Kyle's mom

Kyle arrived 10 weeks early, weighing a whopping 3 1/2 pounds. His entire hand fit into the first digit of my husband's little finger. Right from the start, we realized that Kyle is an

amazing guy. Despite all of the medical issues he has gone through, he continues to be optimistic and has taught our family so much.

Kyle has always had an adventurous nature and enjoyed being outdoors. Our family has taken many camping trips to Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon, the North Cascades, and the Grand Canyon.

Kyle has gone to many camps for people with special needs — Camp Wamp and the W.A.V.E. camp at Sacramento State University were amazing for him when he was very young, giving him the opportunity to be on his own and try new sports. For the past several years, Kyle has attended Camp Krem and looks forward to each summer's sessions.

Speaking of sports: Kyle has surfed, water skied, and snow skied! I'll be honest — sometimes I can't watch.

Kyle is also ambitious in the work world. He has worked many years as a Noon Time Supervisor, first in Castro Valley and then in Pleasanton. He is still very interested in working, so if you have a part-time job, Kyle may be your man.

Sunflower Hill has been an incredibly important part of Kyle's life for the past four years. Living independently with the support of awesome caregivers from AIMS has given him the opportunity to flourish. Kyle is growing into a self-assured young man, and we are so grateful for everyone who has supported him in getting to this point.



East Bay Times Share the Spirit

We're deeply grateful to East Bay Times for selecting us as a **2025 Share the Spirit grant recipient** — and for featuring Irby Resident Jennifer Thomas and the Sunflower Hill story on the front page of the December 2 issue. Thank you to the East Bay Times. This remarkable fund helps elevate and support nonprofits making a difference in the East Bay.

[Read the Article & Support](#)

2025-2026

Pleasanton Weekly *Holiday Fund*

Benefiting Local Nonprofits
Supporting Families and Kids



Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund

Sunflower Hill is honored to be selected as one of this year's **Pleasanton Weekly Holiday Fund** recipients. This generous community-driven campaign helps sustain our programs and services, and we're grateful to be included alongside so many impactful local nonprofits. Thank you to the Embarcadero Media Foundation and the Pleasanton Weekly for supporting our mission and helping make a meaningful difference in the Tri-Valley.

[Learn More & Support](#)



Garden News

Cover crop has all sprouted, and all of our winter veggies are in the ground and growing. This winter we can expect harvests of radish, turnips, mixed salad greens, bok choy, kale, and cabbages. Our compost piles, consisting of fall's plants and horse manure, are cooking away and reaching the ideal temperature of 130–150°F to kill pathogens and weed seeds.

Our worm bin is full of vegetable scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds, and the worms are working hard eating and making castings. Cold-season flowers like ranunculus, calendulas, and sweet peas are slowly growing. Many of our programs and volunteers are helping tackle the grasses as they start popping up.

As we navigate slower times on the land, we are looking forward to brainstorming and planning garden curriculum for the coming year.



2026 Irby Ranch Tour Dates

Join us for an exclusive one-hour tour of **Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch in Pleasanton** and see firsthand how this innovative housing community fosters a vibrant, inclusive environment for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD).

Please note that **our Irby Ranch Resident waiting list is closed**, and we are not currently accepting additional resident applications.

Spaces for the tour are limited, and registration is required.

[Register for a Tour](#)

It's time to fill out updated liability waivers to attend programs at Juby Ranch. Find our 2023/2024 updated liability waiver [HERE](#).

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

To register, go to: <https://sunflowerhill.org/programs/juby-ranch/>

Register for Irby Ranch Activities



Sunflower Hill

