



Cultivating Inclusion News

Jul-Dec 2023



History: Cultivating Inclusion Farm is the brainchild of four dedicated women with special needs children. With a vision of helping young adults with special needs develop practical skills in a garden setting, they started this project in Fall 2015 with the support of the City of Murrieta. The garden became a 501(c)(3) non-profit with public charity status in June of 2018.

Mission: To provide garden space for special needs adults to connect with nature and have agricultural experience by growing and caring for produce which in turn is donated to local food banks.

All of us at Cultivating Inclusion Farm close out the year 2023 with gratitude for all the support and funding that we received. The [City of Murrieta](#) increased the Community Development Block Grant award to \$10,000 for 2023-2024. This funding is essential in helping us keep the farming operations going and for repairs and upkeep.

Cultivating Inclusion was also selected as a recipient of a \$2,500 award from the [Garden Conservancy](#), a non-profit organization based in New York State with the goal of helping to preserve exceptional gardens for future generations. We are proud to have been selected for this award!



Cultivating Inclusion Farm photo taken in July 2023

Come to visit our garden. We are open weekdays from 9-11 a.m. 39775 Alta Murrieta Dr, Murrieta. For a tour or to volunteer, call Mary Ann Tams [\(951\) 296-7756](tel:9512967756).



During the second half of 2023, Cultivating Inclusion hosted two community events: Plant Exchange with Inland Valley Plant Traders in July and Crafters Fair-Plant Exchange in October. [BenZBand](#), a musical group of young adults with disabilities, performed live for the October event, estimated about 200 people in attendance that day.





A seed starting station is our new addition this year that was made possible with the grant from the [Santa Rosa Plateau Nature Education Foundation](#). Our special needs participants learned how to start with seeds and to transplant these seedlings into the ground.



6,344 pounds of produce donated in 2023!

Cultivating Inclusion continues to receive support and advice from the [UC Master Gardener Program](#) and is fortunate to start a new partnership with the [TEAM Resource Conservation District](#) in July. TEAM RCD received a one-year planning grant from the [National Association of Conservation Districts](#) to work with Cultivating Inclusion. This grant is instrumental in bringing experts from [Mission RCD](#) and [USDA NRCS](#) to provide agriculture advice.



A big Thank you to our Cultivating Inclusion Volunteers!!! Each one of you is important to our success.



Not included in the picture: Robert & Sharon McCarthy, Doreen Camerota, Ivy Kirshberg, Caryn Ellis, Lisa Dibbell, Barbara Lucas, Thea and her boys.