

In the Face of a Pandemic, Tierra Moves Forward

Over the past year, our lives changed drastically. COVID-19 became a global issue, the world hit the pause button, and suddenly the places we once frequented shut their doors. Close human contact was strongly discouraged and in a matter of weeks the faces we saw in person were stacked and tiled on a computer screen.

For the people we serve at Tierra, the impact of COVID-19 cannot be put into words. For those with developmental disabilities, it becomes increasingly important to establish trust, develop relationships, and set a consistent schedule. When those components are impacted, the consequences can be devastating. But the people we serve do not cave. They move forward. The greatest lesson we have learned throughout this pandemic is our unique services can absolutely be provided both virtually and in person.



Brian Goebel, OneGeneration Volunteer



Melinda "Mindy" Zazanis,
Lowe's Employee, Burbank



Amichai Rubinstein, Joshua Haas, and Ryan Burke, Hamer Toyota Employees

Tierra has developed a broad array of eLearning opportunities for our associates to choose from. Six core teaching categories include Art, Career Exploration, Communication, Fitness, Special Interests, and Personal Development. A color-coded schedule and accessibility to up to 50 classes in one day, encourages associates to participate in multiple programs throughout the week.

(continued on next page)

In the Face of a Pandemic (continued)



Ravin Gentry hired by Macy's

In addition to our active eLearning schedule, Tierra's incredible staff are reaching out to associates daily to make sure they are accessing their schedules and that each person served knows how to get into his/her desired classes.

All the while, we continue to support associates in person. As our partners begin to open their doors, many of our associates have returned to their jobs and volunteer sites. We've even celebrated Ravin Gentry being hired by Macy's and Griselda Zamarripa being hired by Curacao.

As we redefine our future, and proceed further into the "new normal", we continue to adhere to our values that concentrate on person-centeredness, passion, honesty, respect, and full engagement. Together, we know anything is possible.



Griselda Zamarripa hired by Curacao

Welcome New Board Member Tara Siener

It's been one year since Tierra welcomed Tara Siener to its leadership team as a newly elected member of the Board of Directors.

"I think I've seen more of my fellow board members via zoom, than in person," smiles Tara whose energy and enthusiasm is apparent, even in virtual settings.

"I love what Tierra not only stands for, but also how they do it. I have dealt with my own sets of limitations and know what an immeasurable gift it is to not only have amazing support and access to skills and resources, but to also be valued for everything that already exists inside."

Tara is a prime example of an individual who has worked hard, achieved success, and elevated projects to their maximum potential.

A two-time Emmy Winning Executive Producer and six-time Nominee for Outstanding Reality Competition Program, Tara began her career on the iconic television series, *Candid Camera*. Through the course of the next 20+ years in the unscripted genre, she produced many benchmark shows such as *Top Chef*, *Big Brother*, *Hell's Kitchen*, and *Sugar Rush*. Tara was also nominated for an Emmy for her role as Consulting Producer on *Eat The World, with Emeril Lagasse*.

"We are thrilled to have someone with such an exciting background join our Board", states Tierra's CEO, Rebecca Lienhard. "And, we look forward to seeing more of Tara's creative skill set being shared with our associates and supporters."



Tierra's 13th Annual Golf Tournament

A Breath of Fresh Air!

Sunny skies melted the frost on November 9th, allowing Tierra's 13th Annual Golf Tournament at Sherwood Country Club to be a truly memorable day. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, golfers navigated Sherwood's challenging course, while enjoying spectacular views and delicious food and beverages. While faces were covered and social distancing observed, smiling eyes and laughter proved this year's tournament was a welcomed occasion for all.

We thank our generous sponsors, enthusiastic golfers, dedicated committee members and valued volunteers for supporting and participating in this significant fundraiser. It was a success that came to fruition because of everyone who made it possible.

Details for our 2021 tournament coming soon!



Tee Off!



Alma Paplauskas, longtime Tierra parent and valued volunteer



Mark McCauley and Matt Chase, Golf Committee Chair and Tierra BOD Member



Tierra Associates, Anthony Shaheen and Kahlil Russell, with Tierra Mentor, Minelva Davila

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Tierra Artists — Back i

Painting, drawing, sculpting, knitting, weaving, hook punch works
In the midst of a pandemic, the artists in Tierra'

Artists' CORNER

Marlena Arthur

Q: Marlena, you've been so busy. Tell us what you have been working on these days.

A: "My art is doing great! I've been working in my home art studio. I have knitted hats and socks. I have many paintings and hook punch pieces I created in my eLearning sessions."

Q: What are your greatest inspirations?

A: I'm inspired by the characters of Tim Burton, My Little Pony, the Loud House, and my own style. I love making art because I am really good at it."



Marlena Arthur, Tierra Sunland Studio Artist



The wonderful world of Marlena Arthur and 24 of her original characters!



Time to Go Home by Douglas Allen



Douglas Allen, Upland Art Studio Artist

Douglas Allen

Q: Douglas, the colors you use in your works are incredible. Tell us more about that.

A: "I like how bright the colors are. They make people look at the artwork more. It makes the picture stand out. When people look at them, they like them."

Q: What do you want people to know about your work?

A: "Some of my work takes a long time. When you see my work, you're thinking, it must have taken him a long time to do that. Yes it did."

For a closer look into the world of Tierra's artists, check out our Artist Corner videos at tierradelsolgallery.org

in their colorful worlds

shops, taking and leading eLearning sessions, and so much more!
s Careers in the Arts program are unstoppable.

Artist Chelsea Leninger

Artist Chelsea Leninger shares her work in a Zoom *art share* class, one of the many art-centric virtual classes Tierra offers each week to develop artists' presentation skills and provide peer feedback on technique, composition, and presentation. Other classes include *studio practice*, *digital art exercise*, *outsider art history*, *animal life drawing*, *hook punch with guest artist Karen Kimmel*, *painting with art mentors Laura & Lori*, *animation drawing*, and more.



Chelsea Leninger — Owl



Tierra Artist, Helen Rae, DriveWay Arts

DriveWay Arts

This Fall, Tierra's art studios launched DriveWay Arts - *when you can't get to the studios, our studios come to YOU!* One of the first artists to participate in this mobile art experience is Helen Rae, whom we see here working from home. For many Tierra artists, DriveWay Arts bridges the in-person gaps that have resulted from the pandemic.

Tierra del Sol and the Academy of Special Dreams were contributing Community Partners in the Thirteen Annual Disability Art Exhibition presented by the City of Los Angeles Department of Disability. This exhibition highlights the artistic talents and abilities of children and adults with disabilities and seeks to promote access to artistic expression for those within the disability community and a means of self-employment.

Art in and of itself is important to develop creativity, adaptability, and self-expression but also provides a means to self-employment and independence.

Congratulations to Featured Tierra Artists:

Douglas Allen
Esmeralda Ballesteros
Anthony Barnes
Liane Kaino

Muluh C. Ningo
Samantha Roman
Abigail Simbana
Daeannaria Smith

THE THIRTEEN ANNUAL

DISABILITY



EXHIBITION

PRESENTED BY
THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY



Circle of Inspiration 2019-20 Annual Giving

Thank You to those who believe in the values, vision and mission of Tierra del Sol. Your exceptional generosity is a true reflection of your commitment to empowering all individuals with developmental disabilities to be accepted, valued and included.

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* Founding Circle of Inspiration Members

Leaving a Legacy of Love

This past year, Tierra's Legacy of Love welcomed Bud & Althea Brown, Larry & Marlys Sack, and in memoriam, Sarah Eisner. We are grateful to each of these longtime Tierra supporters who have made a generous commitment through a planned gift to ensure Tierra's mission continues now and for generations to come.

BUD & ALTHEA BROWN

"Having been involved with Tierra for over 40 years, as a Board Member, Chair, volunteer, and advocate, I know firsthand that Tierra takes excellent care of its clients. And, I'm confident that the planned gift, my wife, Althea, and I make, will be used to take care of the needs of the people Tierra serves. They are the heart of this wonderful organization and we are happy to be able to help."



LARRY & MARLYS SACK

"Tierra has always been there for our daughter, Maria, and our family. We felt it was important to know that they will be there for her even after we're gone," shares Marlys and Larry Sack, whose daughter joined Tierra over 26 years ago.

"Putting Tierra in our estate plan gives us peace of mind that Maria will continue to be surrounded with people who truly care about her and her well being."

SARAH EISNER

Sarah Eisner, mother of longtime Tierra client, Ruth, remembered Tierra in her will, with a planned gift to say thank you for the 20 years of care and support her daughter received.

Ruth Eisner was full of life and loved Tierra. You could see it in her smile every day when she got off the bus and arrived at the Sunland Campus. She had a big personality and made almost everyone who knew her laugh. While Ruth spent many years on Tierra's campus, she surprised everyone with how well she did when she began integrated employment at the North Valley YMCA. Being out in the community and socializing with those who weren't her peers, truly helped her excel. She took tremendous pride in her work and was a shining example of what someone with a disability is capable of accomplishing, when given the opportunity.

LEGACY OF LOVE

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For more details on joining Tierra's Circle of Inspiration or Legacy of Love, contact Cathy Galarneau at (818) 540-5296 or cgalarneau@tierradelsol.org



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www.tierradelsol.org

Snyder Appointed to Newsom's IDD/Aging Work Group



Together We
ENGAGE

Master Plan for Aging

Congratulations to Julie Snyder, who was appointed to Governor Newsom's LA County Intellectual and Developmental Disability/ Aging Work Group.

As Tierra's Life Planner and Aging Specialist, Julie played an instrumental role in composing "Input on the California Master Plan on Aging: Barriers and Recommendations to Ensure Adults with Developmental Disabilities can Access Aging Services."

To read the full article, visit Tierra's blog on tierradelsol.org

Need help with Late Life Planning details?
Contact Julie at jsnyder@tierradelsol.org

***We wish you and your family a
wonderful holiday season, and we
remain hopeful that 2021 will bring us
health, prosperity, and opportunities
to continue moving forward and relish
in possibility and innovation.***