

Tierra's Treasures Open for Business!



Tierra's Treasures volunteers, associates, staff, and Burbank City Officials

Have you heard the news? Tierra opened a Thrift Shop in Burbank! On Saturday, March 25th hundreds of supporters, Tierra associates, families, staff, members of the board, and Burbank city officials attended the historic ribbon-cutting ceremony to commemorate the store's grand opening.

"We're excited to open Tierra's Treasures," says Rebecca Lienhard, Tierra's CEO. "It not only benefits the people that Tierra serves, but also provides both paid and volunteer jobs for our associates. People with developmental disabilities have so many gifts and we know Tierra's Treasures is one more way they can contribute to the community and show the world what people with disabilities are capable of accomplishing."

Marwan El Darzi is a dedicated Tierra volunteer who has worked at the thrift shop since 2021 when it formerly operated as the St. Anne's Guild Thrift Shop, a Tierra partner for over 15 years. At the grand opening, Marwan beamed with pride, sharing, "I enjoy working here and am so happy today!" And to add to the excitement, Marwan did the honors of cutting the ribbon to celebrate this historic Tierra moment.

Tierra's Treasures is open Thursday - Friday, 11 am to 5 pm, and Saturday - Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm. Donations of gently used items are accepted during store hours at the back of the store.

**Tierra's Treasures is located at
3315 Burbank Blvd, Burbank, CA 91505. For questions, call (747) 283-1725.**



Marwan El Darzi, Tierra Volunteer, Workforce Development



Luis Espinoza, CSUN Graduate



Carlos Del Cid, LAMC Graduate



David Garcia, CSUN Graduate



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADS



Through Tierra's College to Career Program, over 178 students receive academic and professional mentoring at California State University Northridge, College of the Canyons, Glendale Community College, and Los Angeles City, Valley, Mission, and Pierce Colleges, as well as West Valley Occupational Center. This year, we had a number of graduates who, through an innovative individualized model, have earned certificates and degrees in fields that match their goals and interests and will ultimately result in meaningful employment. Several students are even headed back to the classroom for their Master's degree in the coming year!

Let's give a round of applause to these remarkable individuals who have exhibited tenacity, excellence, and dedication in their academic careers.

Congratulations to each of you. You can do anything!

CSUN Bachelor's Graduates

Roman Brown, B.S. in Computer Science
Luis Espinoza, B.A. in Sociology
David Garcia, B.A. in Animation
Andrea Gonzales, B.A. in Journalism
Henry Mathias, B.S. in Engineering
Cameron Miana, B.A. in Psychology
Antonio Santana, B.S. in
Geographic Information System
Koko Takavorian, B.A. in Sociology
Pedro Yac, B.A. in Animation

CSUN Associate Graduates

Cesar Bernal
Jarod Tio
Erika Zuniga

Los Angeles Mission College

Logan Breidert
Kevin Creel
Manuel Cunguslu
Carlos Del Cid

College of the Canyons

Frank Peters
Joseph Romero
Gavin Sanches

Los Angeles Valley College

Joshua Nehoray



Roman Brown, CSUN Graduate



Manuel Cunguslu, LAMC Graduate



Kevin Creel, LAMC Graduate



On June 1st, Bud Brown left this world with a legacy of love, service, and making it a better place. And, when it came to Tierra del Sol, he did just exactly that. Whether it was advisor, volunteer, fundraiser, donor, advocate, ambassador, or Board Member, Bud's role in bringing growth and success to Tierra del Sol, for 44 years, was always about the associates.

"Bud's enthusiasm for Tierra and generosity in bringing so many successful and highly respected community leaders into service as Board Members, advisors, and employment partners, helped Tierra mature into a truly community-based organization," recalls Steve Miller, who worked closely with Bud during his 24-year tenure as Tierra's CEO, until 2014.

A sincere and humble individual whose business card read, 'retired twice'; the first time from a 37-year career at GTE and later from eight years with Hamer Toyota, Bud held positions as Manager of Community Relations for both companies and had vast contacts throughout the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.

When Tierra needed funding in the late 90s, Bud was influential in raising \$1 million for Tierra's Burn the Mortgage Campaign, through a series of very successful golf tournaments held in partnership with Hamer Toyota. The milestone event was celebrated in 1997, with a massive bonfire on the Sunland Campus, where associates, families, staff, supporters, and firefighters alike, watched Tierra's mortgage, go up in smoke!

In 2015, Bud initiated the "Opening Doors Campaign" which raised funds to install automatic doors throughout the Sunland Campus, ultimately empowering even the most severely physically disabled individuals to enter and exit buildings with the touch of a button. Later, his efforts paid for the installation of electronic gates, allowing staff who began and ended their day in the early morning hours or late night at Tierra's campus, the safety of remaining in their cars.

While fundraising and advocacy helped make Tierra a better place over the years, Bud never lost sight of his relationship with the associates and staff.

"There simply aren't words to describe all that he has meant to the people served by Tierra del Sol and to those of us who were honored to serve the organization alongside him", states Steve. "He often would say, 'Tierra is a little piece of heaven on earth.' He helped make it so and I, along with many others will always think of him as one of our guiding angels."



Bud and his wife of 67 years, Althea.



A people person who never sought the spotlight, Bud was nonetheless honored with numerous awards throughout his life.

Retired GTE employee wins Fernando honor

By Mary Beth Alexander
Daily News Staff Writer

WOODLAND HILLS — Bud Brown, who has devoted many years to organizations helping children and disabled adults, was named the 1995 Fernando Award winner for volunteerism Friday night.

The 62-year-old retired GTE public affairs director was chosen from five nominees to receive the award, bestowed during a formal dinner ceremony at the Warner Center Marriott Ballroom.

"I'm really humbled," Brown, a Thousand Oaks resident, said after receiving the award. "I'll continue to move on from here, doing more and more volunteer work."

Mayor Richard Riordan presented the award during the ceremony, attended by about 400 business people and civic leaders, including Los Angeles City Council members Laura Chick and Hal Bernson and state Sen. Cathie Wright.

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Bud Brown, 62, of Thousand Oaks received the award for volunteerism



"Opening Doors for the Disabled" Campaign



Bud and Associates



"Burn the Mortgage" Celebration Bonfire

Tierra's Satisfaction Survey and Message from CEO

Dear Tierra Friends and Supporters,

I proudly present a snapshot of our annual satisfaction report for the calendar year 2022.

We work to achieve our mission to champion inclusion and value for all people with disabilities through creative pathways to employment, education, and the arts. We have developed a broad array of Workforce Development Programs, including competitively paid employment and professional volunteerism opportunities, College-to-Career Programs, Careers in the Arts Programs, and Individualized Support Services. Since 2019, we have seen an associate growth of over 40%, from serving 566 associates to 780 associates in 2022!

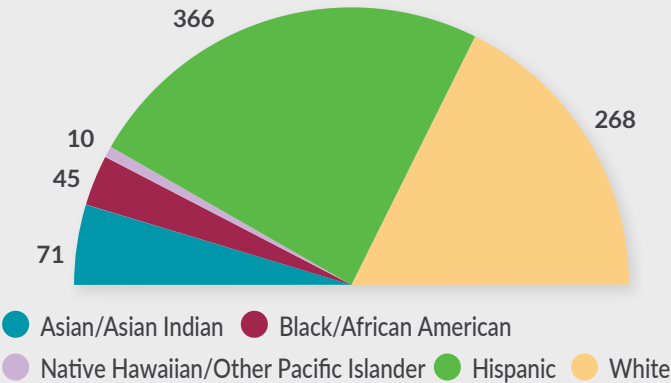
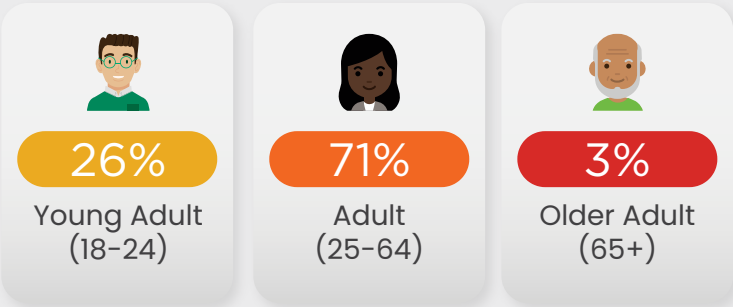
For this year's survey, we received 418 recorded responses. Of these, 240 were associate responses and 147 were family responses, leaving the remainder to our various funding agencies, such as Regional Center. In 2022, we partnered with 780 unduplicated associates with our supports and services that were as geographically diverse, as they were ethnically and racially. Overall, 86.3% of the respondents gave Tierra an A or B score for their experience with our services.

Thank you for your support, and I hope you will continue to stand with us as we work to ensure that all people live productive and personally meaningful lives, regardless of the notion of disability.

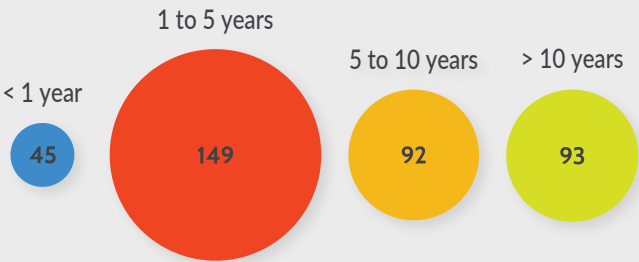
Sincerely,
Rebecca Lienhard
Chief Executive Officer



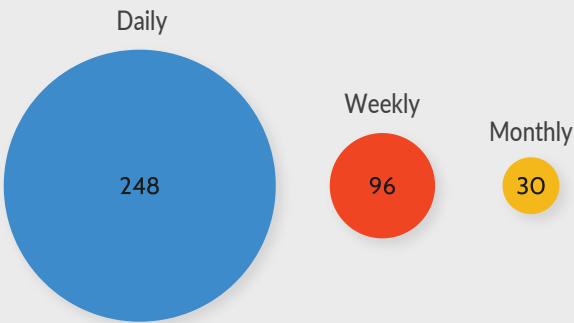
Key Demographics



Respondent Service Length



Respondent Service Utilization



“The best professional services for developmentally disabled adults in California, possibly the entire nation.” — Tierra del Sol parent

Effectiveness of Services

In 2020, Tierra del Sol migrated from a standard deficit-driven service plan structure to a plan that records each person's productive and personally-meaningful life plan (PPML). Each associate/student/artist articulates their life plan and the meaningful steps to get there. Our goal is for 90% of respondents to be satisfied with the effectiveness of our services to meet the task stated in each PPML. 95% satisfaction obtained in 2022.



335

respondents were either very happy or happy with our services



17

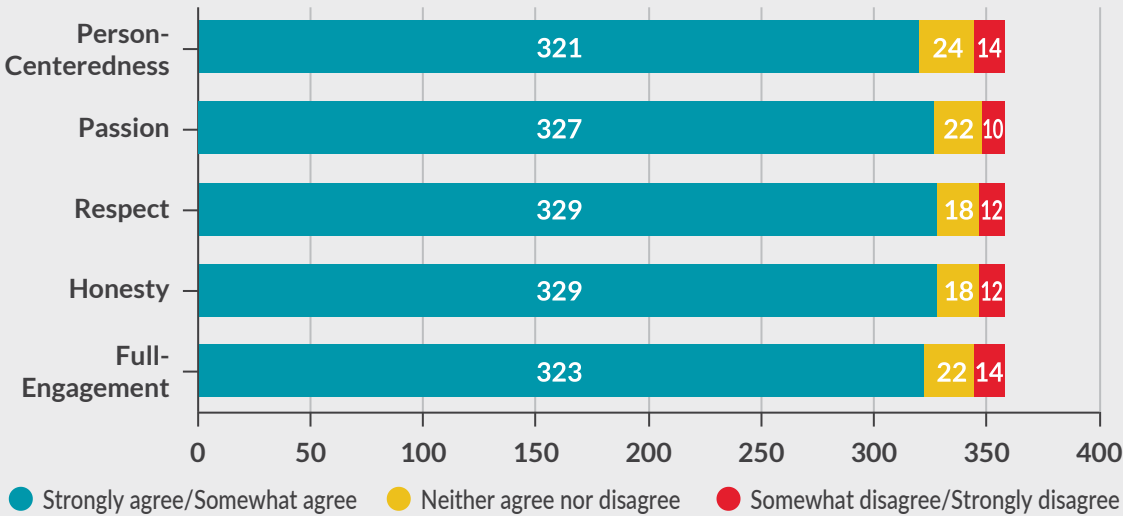
respondents were neither happy or unhappy



4

respondents were unhappy or very unhappy

Does Tierra del Sol lead with its values? Respondents say...



How likely were the respondents to refer a friend or colleague to Tierra?

This net promoter score is a powerful indicator of loyalty to quality services.

68%

Promoter

Score of 9 or 10

19%

Passive

Score of 7 or 8

12%

Detractor

Score of 6 or under

Tierra del Sol's Goals at a Glance

1

Find a pathway forward...

for the handful of associates not being served due to COVID-19, as well as developing creative hybrid schedules based on each productive and personally meaningful life plan (PPML).

2

Increase employment opportunities...

for all associates, including developing smooth transitions from paid internships to employment settings of choice.

3

Increase opportunities for our artists...

to show and sell their work in the contemporary art world

4

Diversify Board of Directors...

All voices must be heard, including those from our ethnically diverse families and associates.



"Very caring and compassionate. Helped me more than you can imagine when I really needed it."
—TDS Associate

Did you know, since last June, Tierra has developed 29 Paid Internship Program (PIP) sites! Here's what one of our valued partners had to say about the program:



"I would tell other business owners, Tierra's PIP is great! The best way for businesses to be relevant in the community, to be a resource - what sets our business apart - is that we're human and relatable. Customers generally don't care about businesses... but if folks see you doing something different, that's when they care. And this program can do that for any business."

—Monique Mascari
Manager of Grocery Outlet
Bargain Market, Canoga Park





(L to R) Rebecca Hamm, and Upland Art Studios Program Director, Lauren Romero; Gallery Director, Paige Wery; and Sunland Studio Arts Program Director, Maria Jones.

Farewell to Rebecca Hamm

Dear Friends of Tierra,

Earlier this year, Rebecca Hamm announced that she will be moving on in August to exciting new opportunities. Tierra is both saddened and joyful by this announcement. We will always be grateful for her 33-year era of developing and delivering innovative arts services throughout Southern California and we will miss her presence deeply. Her commitment to each artist, our studios, and our organization has been unwavering. Yet, we are also filled with joy as we share in the beauty and creativity of her next journey as it unfolds.

Rebecca Hamm writes:

My thanks go to all who have shared with me this adventurous and creative path where love expresses itself in action for the greater good. I have joyful reflections of being a Guest Artist in 1990, Art Instructor, Gallery Director, Program Director and, for the past 12 years, serving as Director of Arts. I am humbled and honored to have been part of growing Tierra's groundbreaking and innovative services.

My heart holds gifts that will only continue to grow. I celebrate the treasure of supporting the powerful accomplishments of the people we serve, the honor of working alongside the artists and their families, the creative experiences of working with like organizations and community leaders, and the efforts of upholding the selfless and dedicated work done daily by all involved with Tierra to create and live the vision of an inclusive world. This vision goes with me as I now expand my career in art production and university teaching.

I will look forward to supporting Tierra in new ways and I invite you to stay connected with me through www.rebeccahamm.org



(L to R) Rebecca Lienhard, Rebecca Hamm, and Steve Miller at the 25th First Street Gallery Anniversary

Sarit Halo's Solo Show, Now - September 2nd!



Tierra del Sol Gallery is pleased to celebrate Sarit Halo, whose debut solo exhibition *It's a Colorful World* will be on view at our Chinatown space July 8 through September 2, 2023. Born in 1977 in Los Angeles, Sarit has been making art in Tierra del Sol Studios for more than two decades. Traversing drawing, painting, and ceramic sculpture, Sarit's practice has seen numerous evolutions over the years, but retains an intrinsic playfulness that has become a signature of her work. Sarit creates mixed media portraits, interiors, and landscapes that fuse memory and imagination, integrating imagery from her everyday life and dreams with patterns and poses she gathers from source materials. With a maximalist application of media and texture, Sarit fills each composition with bold, repetitive patterns that order her densely populated works with kaleidoscopic grace. Verging on abstraction while focusing on her relationship to her subjects, Sarit wants her art to remind the viewer of interactions and moments with their own family.

Visit Sarit Halo: *It's a Colorful World* at Tierra del Sol Gallery Wednesday-Saturday, noon - 6 pm. For more information, contact galler@tierradelosol.org.

Art Reception with Los Angeles County 5th District Supervisor Kathryn Barger

In celebration of National Developmental Disabilities Awareness month in March, Los Angeles County 5th District Supervisor, Kathryn Barger, hosted an intimate reception honoring Tierra artists.

"I'm proud of my partnership with the Tierra del Sol Foundation because it empowers individuals to pursue their passion by providing formal training and support for a career in the arts," said Supervisor Kathryn Barger. "For more than 30 years, their art gallery has shined a light on the talent of their artists and reminded us that creativity and careers in art are for everyone."



Tierra artists beamed with pride as they each took turns presenting their respective paintings, and each artist also received a certificate of recognition from Supervisor Barger.

"Tierra del Sol is so appreciative of Supervisor Barger's office, not only for the opportunities they have shown our artists by exhibiting their art, but also the ongoing support of our organization," said Rebecca Lienhard, Chief Executive Officer of Tierra del Sol. "After all these years, Kathryn has been such a champion for Tierra. I know that when she says she supports people with disabilities, she means it with all her heart."

A Multigenerational Impact...

Karren McClenahan, the mother of Tierra associate Kelly, and Tierra Board member, shared a unique story of how her ancestors' contributions and values helped shape Christianity in South Korea and made a meaningful impact on establishing the country's sustainable democracy.

The story, as told by Karren's brother, Kevin Brown, a longtime and generous Tierra supporter, who learned details of the legacy last summer, ultimately benefitted Tierra del Sol.

"Our great grandparents, Frank and Alice Williams, who married in Colorado in 1906 shortly after graduating from college, were brought up in the Methodist Church. As a result, they chose to become missionaries and journeyed to Korea, which at that time was very much a third-world country; without a nation-state and essentially colonized by China and Japan for centuries. Once there, the young couple worked with other missionaries in the GongJu region, a rural community south of Seoul, where they built a K-12 school. Students learned basic education and Christianity, as well as farming and gardening techniques which helped promote a self-sustained and thriving community.

They also raised four children, one of whom was Howard, our grandfather. As they approached adulthood, the kids eventually left Korea to return to the States, but Frank and Alice stayed on, expanding the school's buildings, faculty, and curriculum. Shortly after the war broke out in 1939, the couple was expelled to India, where they continued their missionary work until returning to Korea from 1945-50.

After the war, our great Uncle, George (Zur) Williams, who served in the Navy, was sent to Korea to serve as a translator for a transition team that was setting up a first-ever Korean Government. Stationed in Seoul, he spent three years as part of a U.S. military team teaching the Koreans how to model the democratic republic structure of the U.S. George's impact on the formation of the new government was significant as his upbringing in Korea proved valuable in helping identify and place many Korean locals in important government jobs."

The multigenerational impact of Karren and Kevin's ancestors was honored last summer with an invitation for four generations of American descendants to visit South Korea and learn more about the legacy their family had left. During the tour, a Korean Christian business group who sponsored the trip made a generous donation to the family, asking that they use the gift to help others. Karren and Kevin's mother, the closest descendant of the William's family, Marilyn Brown, chose Tierra del Sol as a recipient of this storied gift.

Thank you Marilyn. We are grateful for the tradition of giving and service that runs deep in your family and all they have made possible!



The Williams Family



Darryl Ann, Julie and Patti

Remembering Patti Gilroy

When it came to her sister Darryl Ann Parker, a Tierra associate for 30 years, Patti Gilroy always had her best interests in mind. Patti and her husband of 63 years, Tel Gilroy, appreciated the Tierra staff who worked with Daryl Ann making sure she led her best life, until passing away in 2021. When Patti left this world fifteen months later, Tel respected his wife's wishes to have the balance of a Special Needs Trust they had set up for Daryl Ann, gifted to Tierra del Sol.

The generous planned gift was synonymous with Patti's altruistic lifestyle of faith and family. While living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she and Tel made annual trips to Tierra to visit her sister and Tierra staff, Julie Snyder and Kevin Lehman, who made sure Darryl Ann's needs and interests in music,

volunteerism, and her love for animals were met. Despite the distance, Patti and Julie were able to partner together through Tierra's Late-Life Planning Service, to make sure that Daryl Ann was comfortable, at peace and her wishes were met at the end of her life.

"Patti always knew that as long as Darryl Ann was at Tierra del Sol, she would be living a life of value and meaning," shares Tel Gilroy. "She knew this gift would be put to good use to continue helping others like her sister, reach their full potential. And she was grateful for what Tierra did, not only for Darryl Ann, but for her peers as well."

Tierra thanks Patti & Tel Gilroy for all that their many years of generous support and this legacy of love has made possible.



9919 Sunland Boulevard, Sunland, California 91040
www.tierradelsol.org

Tierra's 16th Annual Golf Tournament - a Hole-in-One!

Tierra's 16th Annual Golf Tournament, awards dinner, and auction at North Ranch Country Club was the place to be on Monday, April 24th. The program was filled with incredible speeches from associates in Tierra's Workforce Development Program, Jesse Siciliano and Kim Tomasino, as well as a heartfelt message from LA County 5th District Supervisor, Kathryn Barger.



On behalf of all the people Tierra serves, we express our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, golfers, donors, dinner guests, volunteers, and Golf Committee - Matt Chase, Chair; Ray Leinhard, Liz Likes, Kyle Stoutland, and Bill Van Laningham.



"I am grateful to Tierra for giving me the opportunity to learn new job skills and build my resume. There are many more people like me at Tierra who are capable and ready to work. We hope you will consider getting to know these individuals and giving them the chance to fulfill their potential and have a meaningful life."

– Jesse Siciliano
Tierra HR Orientation Facilitator



"Thank you, Tierra del Sol, for helping me achieve my goals, and for encouraging me to work towards my dreams and live an independent life. To the business owners in this audience, I am encouraging you to give people like me a chance. People with disabilities don't often get the same opportunities as others and I am here today to help you change that."

– Kim Tomasino
Mind & Body Gym and Spa Employee