

## Program Application: 83180140

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### Linked Pre-Application Form - DO NOT DELETE

Blooming in Nature

### Grant Amount Requested

\$75,000.00

### Organization Name

Sunday Friends Foundation

## Urban Grant Program Application Questions

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### Overview

#### Type of project (check all that apply)

#### Grant category (check all that apply)

Environmental Stewardship and Restoration, Parks, Trails, and Public Access, Environmental Education

### Project Location: Address / Neighborhood

**What is the physical location of the project? If there is no physical location, please enter "N/A." If the project will be in multiple locations, please list all. Note: project location(s) must be within the Authority's jurisdiction.**

Sunday Friends Headquarters: 645 Wool Creek Dr. San José, CA 95112; Sunday Friends offices: 1400 Parkmoor Ave., San Jose, CA 95126; sites along the Guadalupe River in San José; Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (550 Palm Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037), Máyyan 'Ooyákma - Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (9611 Malech Rd., Morgan Hill, CA 95013); Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve (4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037) and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve (Sierra Road, San José, CA 95132).

### Project Location

#### Open Space Authority District of Project Location(s)(check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 2, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 7

#### Who does the project serve? Please indicate which Open Space Authority Districts are served (where do the people served by the program live) (check all that apply)

Authority District 1, Authority District 3, Authority District 4, Authority District 7

#### Project Abstract

Established in 1997 to serve low-income families in Santa Clara County, Sunday Friends is a small, but powerful Latina-led non-profit based in San José. Our proposed Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature program will expand our current environmental education and experiential initiative to 375 adults and 150 youth from low-income, underserved, socioeconomically challenged neighborhoods in Santa Clara County. Project components will include: workshops centering on nature, conservation, recycling, and reducing the use of single use plastics; two habitat restoration and river cleanup projects; and six trips to local open space preserves for participants. By educating, engaging, and connecting families with the region's natural resources, Blooming in Nature will provide short-term environmental benefits and build the social networks, knowledge, and behaviors that make communities more responsive and resilient to the long-term impacts of climate change.

### Project Planning

#### Describe the proposed project.

Intended audience: Sunday Friends serves 2,000 individuals of all ages annually. Historically, all of our participants have been low-income people of color. Currently, 93% of our members identify as Latinx, 6% as Asian, and 1% as "other." We estimate that 50% of members with children are single parents. Approximately 85% are monolingual in their native language. Families face overlapping risks rooted in poverty: housing instability, food insecurity, under-resourced schools, barriers to living-wage work, limited access to quality healthcare, and immigration-related challenges. Many live in unsafe conditions, sharing small apartments with multiple families, in neighborhoods with constant police presence but little protection—conditions

that heighten stress and exposure to violence. The economic context is stark. In our primary census tract, per-capita income is \$26,278 (U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2023, 5-year data), while average rent (August 2025) is just over \$3,500/month. The average unit size is 910 sq. ft. Santa Clara County's cost of living forces many to work multiple jobs simply to maintain housing and meet basic needs. The severe strain of rent burden and food insecurity fuels mental and physical health challenges, compounding vulnerability and limiting mobility. However, our community is resilient, determined, and resourceful. With culturally responsive navigation, practical supports, and clear pathways to education and employment, families convert resilience into progress. Sunday Friends' whole-family, dignity-centered approach meets people where they are and helps them move toward stability, safety, and opportunity.

Locations: Our headquarters is co-located with the Franklin McKinley School District main offices at 645 Wool Creek Dr. San José, CA 95112. Educational workshops will be provided at George Shirakawa Elementary School located at 665 Wool Creek Dr. San José, CA 95112. We will be opening an office in the Sobrato Building at 1400 Parkmoor Ave, San José, CA 95126 as well. Other anticipated locations include: Sites along the Guadalupe River in San José; Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve (550 Palm Ave., Morgan Hill, CA 95037), Máyyan 'Ooyákma - Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve (9611 Malech Rd., Morgan Hill, CA 95013); Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve (4289 Casa Loma Rd, Morgan Hill, CA 95037) and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve (Sierra Road, San José, CA 95132).

Project background and description: In 2023, Sunday Friends launched its Wellness in Bloom initiative designed to help low-income community members, especially Latinx and Vietnamese families living in San Jose's most disadvantaged neighborhoods, to improve their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. As part of this initiative, we also implemented Blooming in Nature, an educational and experiential series that connects participants to nature, conservation, and ways to enhance climate resilience. Sunday Friends has been successfully operating Wellness in Bloom and various components in partnership with The California Coastal Commission, Kaiser, Sierra Health Foundation and community partners. For example, in partnership with the California Coastal Commission, our Blooming in Nature initiative provided low-income families of color with an educational series about nature conservation as it relates to climate change, local watershed and rivers and how families can be empowered to take leadership in conserving California's natural resources. Hands-on community services projects gave our members the opportunity to provide clean up of a park and an important urban river (the Guadalupe) in San José. We also conduct clean ups at other parks and Coyote Creek. Sunday Friends has also been hosting marine/aquatic conservancy and wildlife preservation activities and workshops to raise awareness during our monthly Community Days events.

The proposed project will expand Blooming in Nature, recruiting from our membership. We conduct ongoing outreach within our membership. We also maintain a strong community presence through school fairs, citywide events like baseball games and Día de los Muertos celebrations, and at city and county-sponsored resource fairs. Additionally, we cultivate partnerships within the communities we serve that generate referrals and leverage word of mouth, sharing information with our existing members who, in turn, refer friends, family, and neighbors. Over the years, we have cultivated a strong, engaged and passionate community that is eager and ready for opportunities to learn and impact the broader community. This strong, engaged community forms the foundation for a project that draws on research-based environmental education and aligns with NGSS principles like three-dimensional learning, while remaining flexible and not bound to specific Common Core or NGSS standards.

Project components will include:

1) Educational classes: At least 250 Sunday Friends members per year will participate in workshops centering on nature, conservation, recycling, and reducing the use of single use plastics. This educational series will be provided one Sunday per month, ongoing, from February-September. As a result of the workshops, members will show an increased understanding of recycling and its impact on the environment, as measured by a survey.

2) Clean-ups at local rivers /waterways: 75 individuals will participate in habitat restoration and river cleanup projects. We anticipate hosting two cleanup events annually at the Guadalupe River or another local waterway within the Open Space Authority's jurisdiction. Participants will demonstrate increased awareness of the importance of nature conservation, as measured by a survey.

3) Visiting the local open space preserves: We will organize 6 trips, 3 per year for 50 members to participate in a meaningful open space preserve experience. Accompanied by our staff, members will visit a preserve for the day, choosing from Coyote Valley Open Space Preserve; Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve; Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve and Sierra Vista Open Space Preserve. To reduce barriers, Sunday Friends will ensure that transportation is available to all participants at no cost.

By educating, engaging, and connecting families with the region's natural resources, Blooming in Nature not only supports immediate environmental stewardship but also helps build the social networks, knowledge, and behaviors that make communities more adaptive and resilient to the long-term impacts of climate change.

**Describe key project deliverables and estimated completion dates.**

Two- Year Project Timeline and Deliverables (project period: June 2026-May 2028):

Month 1 of project (June 2026): Staff kick-off meeting, confirm project workplan and data collection protocols for program tracking and evaluation

Month 2 (July 2026 - ongoing): Recruit 250 participants throughout the life of the project; enter and track participant and service data

August 2026 - May 2028: 8 educational workshops - 4 per year - for 250 participants annually

August 2026 - April 2028: Open space visits - 6 trips, 3 per year for 50 participants

August 2026 - April 2028: Provide 2 habitat restoration and river cleanup events for 75 people annually

May 2028: Data collection and final reports and evaluations

**Does this project require permission, permits, or other approvals? If so, please describe the status of these.**

Permits are not required for this project. Sunday Friends coordinates closely with local park and community facility staff in advance of any events, such as clean-ups, outdoor activities, or open space visits, to ensure proper scheduling, site use, and compliance with all applicable guidelines.

While formal permits are not necessary, the organization maintains open communication with city and county representatives to confirm that all activities are conducted safely, responsibly, and in accordance with local requirements.

**What is the lifetime of this project? If applicable, describe plans for operating and maintaining the project in the future.**

The project is designed as a two-year program under this grant period. However, Sunday Friends is committed to sustaining and expanding the program beyond the initial funding. Our fund development team actively identifies and applies for grant opportunities, cultivates individual and corporate donors, and engages community partners to ensure long-term program viability. Through these efforts, we aim to integrate the project's activities into our ongoing operations, maintaining its impact and continuity well beyond the grant term.

**Describe the project's readiness for implementation.**

Sunday Friends is fully prepared to implement this project upon award. Key staff and program infrastructure are already in place, and we are currently operating similar program components. Our experienced team has established systems for program delivery, participant engagement, data tracking, and partnership coordination. In addition, we have strong relationships with community partners and venues, ensuring a smooth launch and immediate impact once funding is secured.

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## Project Budget

Budget Summary - Grant Request & Budget Summary - Matching Funds

**Grant request: Personnel**

\$54,750.00

**Grant request: Contracted Services**

\$0.00

**Grant request: Supplies / Materials**

\$9,000.00

**Grant request: Other Direct Costs**

\$0.00

**Grant request: Indirect Costs**

\$11,250.00

**Total Matching Funds**

\$0.00

**Total Budget**

\$75,000.00

**Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:**

Sunday Friends Urban Grant Program Project Budget 2025.xlsx

Materials and Budget Template (item #9) found here: <https://www.openspaceauthority.org/programs/grant.html#Materials>

**Provide a brief budget narrative to explain the expenses listed in each of the budget categories (e.g. Personnel).**

Budget Narrative

Staff

Director of Programs - 4% FTE

166 hours @ \$114.68. (83 hours per year) Has general oversight of wellness in bloom and oversees program evaluation. Costs includes employer taxes and benefits calculated at 22% of salary.

Education Coordinator - 29% FTE

1,224 hours @ \$29.28. (612 per year) Designs and implements programming wellness in bloom programming, recruits participants and volunteers. Includes employer taxes and benefits calculated at 22% of salary

Materials and Supplies

Tiendita de Apoyo Supplies (part of LSE Model) \$5,000

Includes basic needs supplies purchased to stock La Tiendita de Apoyo ("the little store of support").

Supplies for Habitat Restoration - \$4,000

Includes supplies to support two habitat restoration projects.

Indirect Expense - \$11,250

Includes costs calculated at 15%. Costs associated with running the organization including, human resources, accounting, administrative positions, and systems that are crucial for program delivery.

**Award Amount: The Board reserves the right to award partial funding on projects. If your project were to receive partial funding, what would this mean for your project?**

If we received partial funding, we would adjust programming to be commensurate with the amount of funding received to ensure implementation is still viable.

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## Project Goals

**Describe the specific problems, issues, or unserved needs the project will address.**

Santa Clara County's low-income and immigrant families (particularly those served by Sunday Friends) face significant barriers to accessing safe, welcoming, and restorative green spaces. Most of the families we serve live in densely populated urban areas of San José with limited tree canopy, minimal public parks, and few opportunities for consistent outdoor education. For many, transportation, time, and cultural accessibility further restrict their ability to engage with nature.

These barriers are not just environmental, they are deeply connected to health equity, social isolation, and intergenerational opportunity gaps. Families report high levels of stress, chronic health conditions, and limited access to wellness activities that are free, family-friendly, and culturally responsive. Young people, in particular, often lack exposure to the outdoors as a place for learning, healing, and community leadership. Our Blooming in Nature program addresses these inequities by bringing environmental education, wellness, and climate awareness directly to underrepresented communities. Through hands-on nature-based activities, habitat restoration projects, and guided outdoor learning, families will build skills in environmental stewardship while improving their physical and mental well-being.

This project also fills a gap in representation; ensuring that low-income, immigrant families are not just participants but leaders in shaping local conservation and climate resilience efforts. By providing equitable access to open spaces and the knowledge to care for them, Sunday Friends will help nurture the next generation of environmental stewards and community advocates who see themselves as integral to the county's sustainable future.

How does this project serve the community?

**Number of people served**

375

**Number of youth served**

150

**Number of programs provided**

16

### **Other Grantee Goal #1 (optional)**

To increase access to safe, welcoming, and culturally responsive nature-based learning experiences for low-income, immigrant, and underrepresented families in Santa Clara County fostering environmental awareness, connection to the outdoors, and lifelong stewardship. 375 people will be served.

### **Other Grantee Goal #2 (optional)**

To engage families and youth in hands-on environmental projects (e.g. native planting, pollinator habitat creation, and green space revitalization) that contribute to local biodiversity, climate resilience, and community health. A total of 75 will be served.

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## Impact

**Describe the lasting impact of the project. Please include whether the program is open to the public and whether any materials developed will be available to the public.**

The project will have an enduring impact by deepening participants' connection to the natural environment and empowering families to see themselves as active stewards of local ecosystems. By providing culturally responsive and welcoming outdoor learning experiences, the project helps dismantle barriers to nature access and fosters a sense of belonging in public green spaces.

Hands-on restoration and habitat projects will produce visible, short and long-term benefits, such as improved biodiversity, healthier habitats, and revitalized community green spaces. Beyond these environmental outcomes, participants will carry forward knowledge, skills, and confidence that inspire ongoing environmental action and intergenerational stewardship, creating ripple effects that strengthen community resilience and environmental awareness long after the program ends.

The project is open to those who qualify for Sunday Friends' services. We will not be developing material that is available to the public.

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## Climate Resilience

**How does this project enhance and/or raise awareness about climate resilience? Please include any metrics that can be used to help quantify or understand the climate benefits of the project.**

Addressing Community Climate Resilience: The proposed project promotes community climate resilience by increasing environmental literacy, fostering direct stewardship of natural resources, and creating equitable access to local open spaces. Through a combination of education, hands-on engagement, and community-building activities, the program helps build a community better prepared to understand, respond to, and mitigate the local impacts of climate change.

Educational classes equip community members—many of whom face systemic barriers to environmental education—with knowledge about conservation, recycling, and reducing single-use plastics. By increasing awareness of individual and collective actions that benefit the environment, the program helps build a culture of environmental responsibility, an essential component of long-term climate resilience.

River and habitat cleanups directly improve the health of local ecosystems, which are critical natural buffers against climate impacts like flooding and heat. Engaging residents in habitat restoration increases their connection to and investment in local waterways and open spaces, which strengthens community capacity to participate in and advocate for local climate solutions.

Open space visits address climate equity by removing transportation and financial barriers that prevent many families from accessing green spaces. Exposure to open spaces promotes mental and physical health, builds community cohesion, and fosters a personal connection to nature—essential elements of social resilience in the face of climate-related stressors.

Metrics that we will utilize include:

- Number of square feet or acres restored (green space)
  - Number of families participating in water conservation workshops.
  - Number of participants reporting increased access to cooler, greener spaces during hot months
  - Number of youth and families completing environmental education sessions
  - Number of participants adopting new sustainable practices
- 

## Community Engagement / Stakeholder Support / Community Building

**Describe the community support and/or community engagement process. Please upload any community support letters in the Documents Upload section below.**

As a community-led, community-driven, family-centered space, engagement is at the core of our services. Our programs are co-designed, implemented, and evaluated with direct community input, ensuring they are culturally relevant, responsive, and rooted in real-world experiences. We will incorporate our primary vehicles for engaging community members into the proposed project, including:

**Community Day:** Held monthly on Sundays, this event brings families together to achieve common goals, learn new skills, celebrate their community, and provide feedback on programming.

**Tu Programa, Tu Voz ("Your Program, Your Voice"):** We hold these member listening sessions virtually twice per month as an opportunity for people to share their feedback and suggestions about our programming.

**Community Champions:** This is a program for experienced members who support our mission by providing mentorship, guidance, and resources to families as they join. Community Champions also serve as advisors on program approaches, implementation, and evaluation.

Guided by our "for the community, by the community" approach, we center community voice, elevate neighborhood leadership, and celebrate culture to create long-lasting change. This also ensures that members identify their needs, and plan services accordingly with Sunday Friends providing access, tools, and guidance as relevant.

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## Underserved Communities

**Describe how the project addresses open space needs for sensitive populations such as residents of park-poor neighborhoods, underserved, or disadvantaged communities, youth, seniors, persons with disabilities, or is located within an under-resourced community.**

Sunday Friends members are low-income, historically underserved individuals of all ages who live in San Jose's Santee, Alum Rock, Valley Palms, and similar neighborhoods, as well as in South County. Many of these communities bear the visible marks of disinvestment—blight, aging infrastructure, few safe places to play or gather, and scarce green spaces. Our families face not only economic hardship but also systemic barriers that make stability and opportunity difficult to achieve. A typical Sunday Friends household is a single mother with two children, earning about \$23,500 per year—far below Silicon Valley's average income of roughly \$160,000. Families contend with the challenges of generational poverty, low-wage employment (71% work more than 40 hours per week, and 67% hold multiple jobs), limited access to quality healthcare and education, and disproportionate exposure to crime and gang activity. Over 90% of our members identify as Latino, and 85% speak only their native language, primarily Spanish. Many are recent immigrants navigating complex systems as they strive to build a better future for their families. Yet Latinx youth continue to face systemic inequities: in 2023–24, 27% were chronically absent from school, and even those who graduate often lack the financial means or support systems to pursue higher education. We also serve a smaller percentage of Vietnamese and Black families who experience similar economic and social challenges. Our offices, program, and events sites are located in or directly adjacent to the neighborhoods we serve, ensuring accessibility and deep community connection.

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## Organizational Capacity

**Briefly describe the organization and its ability to successfully implement this project. This might include successful past projects, key staff qualifications, financial resources, etc.**

Sunday Friends Foundation is a small, but powerful Latina-led 501(c)(3) organization operating in Santa Clara County. Established in 1997, our mission is to help low income families break the intergenerational cycle of poverty and achieve health equity by activating their internal power and providing resources through a supportive community across multiple generations. Our "for the community by the community" approach prioritizes community-driven solutions that engage and strengthen neighborhood leadership, celebrate culture, and deepen local resilience. We refer to our participants as "members" to cultivate a sense of belonging and community. All of our programs incorporate our innovative Learn, Serve, and Earn (LSE) framework, which integrates education, volunteerism, and access to essential resources. Participants earn points through financial literacy, skill-building, and service activities—offered in multiple languages and led by culturally reflective staff—which they use to access groceries, hygiene products, and dignity-affirming items in our on-site marketplace. This system removes stigma, fosters agency, and transforms charity into a pathway of contribution and empowerment. The LSE cycle creates a culture of reciprocity in which families not only receive support but also play an active role in uplifting others. Our programs span food equity, youth mentorship, parenting support, environmental education, and community-building events, all designed to uplift families through a strengths-based, generational approach.

We have built a strong and efficient infrastructure that provides the administrative capacity to manage complex programs, as demonstrated by more than 25 years of successfully fulfilling grants and contracts with government, foundation, and corporate funders. Our Fiscal team includes a fractional Chief Financial Officer, a Controller, and a bookkeeper who together have built the needed systems and provide the necessary oversight.

to ensure successful monitoring of contractual obligations. Over the past two years, we have increased our funding by 62% via a concentrated effort through new leadership and a team of fund developers leading to financial stability and the ability to serve more Santa Clara County residents in need.

Sunday Friends is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of advocates for the organization who bring a diverse skillset to drive our mission and impact. Our staff consists of an experienced team with deep knowledge of grassroots work in un and underserved communities of color. All staff have lived experience similar to our members - and some are members who have chosen to work for our organization.

Key team members and their qualifications include:

Tatiana Colón-Rivera, Executive Director: Tatiana is a dynamic Latina leader with over 20 years of experience in non-profit leadership, program development and evaluation with extensive expertise in designing effective programs for underserved and diverse populations in Santa Clara County. Her expertise in grassroots program development ensures that the voices of diverse communities in Santa Clara County are not only heard but that they are actively involved in shaping, implementing, and evaluating services that make a difference. As Chief Impact and Strategy Officer at Unity Care Group for five years, she led the organization through a significant expansion and diversification of funding streams, developed its housing and client services strategy, and guided the shift toward becoming a data-driven organization. Prior to that, she held leadership positions at Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County, where she oversaw Older Adult Services as Division Director. Earlier in her career, she held several leadership roles spearheading local, state, and national efforts focused on domestic violence and sexual assault prevention. Tatiana holds a Master's degree in Public Administration with an emphasis in public policy development and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Tatiana is bilingual in English and Spanish.

Andy Garcia-Romo, Director of Programs: Andy has been a dedicated member of the Sunday Friends team since 2020, advancing through roles of increasing impact. He has played a vital role in strengthening program evaluation, enhancing the volunteer experience, and expanding Sunday Friends' digital presence through engaging content on social media and the website. Andy also hosts Spanish-language classes for members, fosters strong community partnerships, and actively supports development initiatives. As a first-generation son of a Mexican immigrant, his personal experiences, along with his bilingual skills in Spanish and English, enable him to connect effectively with our members. Andy holds a Bachelor's degree in Economics.

Tia TranHoang, Community Health Manager: Tia leads Sunday Friends community health and wellness portfolio. She is also responsible for implementing educational programs, supervising staff, and tracking data. As the daughter of immigrant parents and a first-generation college graduate, she has a deep, personal understanding of the challenges faced by diverse communities. She has interned with CommUniverCity as a student coordinator and with the San José State University Wellness Center as a Health Educator, giving her valuable hands-on experience in public health education. Tia holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Health with minors in Nutrition & Food Science and Child & Adolescent Development and a Master of Public Health degree. Fluent in English and Vietnamese, Tia bridges cultural connections to support the community's well-being.

Support staff:

Our administrative team is skilled in handling complex reporting requirements, financial tracking, and compliance obligations. We utilize robust project management and accounting software to maintain accurate financial records, monitor fund allocation, and ensure transparency in spending. We currently operate community-based facilities in San José and Gilroy with multipurpose spaces, supported by a trained staff and a volunteer network experienced in delivering prevention and family-strengthening programs. We have established partnerships with local schools, community-based organizations, healthcare providers, law enforcement, local municipalities, and the State of California.

Successful projects:

- Our core ongoing project that makes a substantial difference in the everyday lives of our members includes distribution of food and other basic necessities such as hygiene products, diapers, and toiletries coupled with educational and skills-building workshops. Annually, we distribute 112,000 pounds of food, provide over 24,000 units of basic necessities, and conduct more than 130 classes.

- Launched in 2024 and supported by partners such as FIRST 5 of Santa Clara County, the Santa Clara County District 2, Supervisor's office, Santa Clara Family Health Plan, Chavez Family Foundation and John and Marcia Goldman Foundation, our Dream. Build. Mentor. (DBM) Lab Entrepreneurship Accelerator recently started its third cohort. DBM Lab provides comprehensive training, mentorship, and practical resources for family businesses run by low-income immigrant families in Santa Clara County. DBM Lab integrates wraparound supports, including food distribution, culturally relevant nutrition education, case management, and referrals to health, legal, and financial services. The Lab is complemented by system navigation, youth leadership development, and job placement services—ensuring families not only stabilize in crisis but move toward long-term self-sufficiency. Recent outcomes show that 94% of participants reported significant improvements in their knowledge of business operations and income-generating strategies; 78.9% feel more capable of managing their businesses and making informed financial decisions; 94.8% reported reduced financial stress directly tied to the security provided by DBM's holistic approach; and 78.9% of families felt much more connected to their communities, strengthening local support networks and entrepreneurial ecosystems.

- Wellness in Bloom and its sub initiatives launched in 2023 to help our members improve their overall wellness by connecting them to education and nature. Funded by the state, local jurisdictions, and foundations, this initiative has demonstrated tangible positive outcomes in terms of overall family wellness. In subsequent debriefings, 100% of families reported the outdoor beach outing as a top highlight of their year. Participants also reported that their children had increased their own efforts to recycle in their homes, and that the knowledge gained had changed their behaviors in terms of water conservation, recycling, and use of plastics.

- In 2024, Sunday Friends partnered with the Santa Clara County Probation Department's Neighborhood Services Unit (NSU) to implement its leadership and economic development services program. Through this initiative, 40 families improved their digital literacy skills and gained access to laptops, 50 families were introduced to entrepreneurship concepts, and 7 families successfully launched their own businesses.

- Sunday Friends operates multiple, successful homelessness prevention programs, including two capacity-building projects with Destination: Home and a housing assistance program offering financial aid, case management, and essential supplies for families.

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## Leadership & Innovation

### **Describe how this project employs innovative approaches or encourages collaboration and partnerships.**

Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature employs a community-powered and equity-centered approach that bridges environmental education, wellness, and civic participation—designed specifically for families who have historically been excluded from outdoor and conservation spaces. This project is innovative because it integrates nature connection, health, and economic mobility into one holistic framework. Through Sunday Friends' Learn, Serve, Earn (LSE) model, families not only participate in environmental education but also earn tangible benefits (such as food, household supplies, or wellness resources) for engaging in stewardship and climate-learning activities. This approach transforms traditional service into mutual empowerment, ensuring that environmental action and family well-being reinforce one another.

The program also emphasizes intergenerational collaboration, inviting parents, youth, and even grandparents to participate together—linking cultural wisdom with new climate knowledge. By involving families as co-designers and facilitators, the project transforms participants into leaders, ensuring solutions are community-informed and culturally relevant.

Partnership is central to this effort. Sunday Friends will collaborate with:

- Santa Clara County Open Space Authority and local parks agencies to host nature-based learning and habitat restoration projects.
- Franklin-McKinley School District to connect students and families to environmental education opportunities.
- Local nonprofits and environmental groups (e.g., Keep Coyote Creek Beautiful, Guadalupe River Park Conservancy) to coordinate restoration and stewardship events.
- Healthcare and wellness partners to link nature engagement with mental and physical health outcomes.

These collaborations model an inclusive, community-led approach to climate resilience where access to nature becomes both a public health intervention and a pathway to environmental justice.

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## Documents Section

### **Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)**

Sunday Friends Letters of Support Urban Grant Program 2025.pdf

### **Additional files (if needed)**

### **Additional files (if needed)**

### **Submitted Date - Internal**

## Summary Field:

Name: Average Score (no bonus)

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: average

Field: Base Score Total

Decimal: 2

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
  - isComplete | is | true

#### **Summary Field:**

Name: Total Count of Submitted Reviews

Form: Staff Review

Summary Type: count

Field: NONE

Decimal: NONE

Currency: No

Description/Help Text: NONE

Short Name: NONE

Field Purpose: NONE

Filter:

- ALL:
  - isComplete | is | true
  - Folder | is | Submitted

#### **Program Application: File Attachments**

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Please upload a detailed version of your budget by accessing the link below:

Sunday Friends Urban Grant Program Project Budget 2025.xlsx

**Document Uploads (please combine into one file if possible)**  
Sunday Friends Letters of Support Urban Grant Program 2025.pdf







Budget Form

				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
				\$ -
<b>TOTAL OTHER DIRECT COSTS</b>		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>				
Indirect costs are eligible for grant funding only for 501(c)(3) Nonprofits and are <u>limited to 20%</u> of grant funding. Indirect costs cannot be counted as matching funds.				
<b>Item</b>	<b>Description of Budget Item</b>	<b>Grant Request (\$)</b>	<b>Matching Funds (\$)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Indirect Expense	Includes costs associated with running the organization including, HR, accounting, administrative positions, and systems that are crucial for program delivery.	\$ 11,250.00	n/a	\$ 11,250.00
<b>TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS</b>		\$ 11,250.00	n/a	\$ 11,250.00
<b>PERCENT OF GRANT REQUEST</b>		15.0%	n/a	n/a
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>				
		<b>Grant Request (\$)</b>	<b>Matching Funds (\$)</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>		\$ 75,000.00	\$ -	\$ 75,000.00
<b>COST SHARE</b>				
				(%)
A minimum of 25% of grant request in matching funds may be required. This field is automatically calculated.				<b>0.0%</b>





# Letters of Support



October 9, 2025

**Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**  
Conservation Investments Program

RE: Letter of Support for Sunday Friends Foundation's Grant Application

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, I am pleased to express our strong support for the Sunday Friends Foundation's application to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority grant program.

For nearly three decades, Sunday Friends has empowered low-income and immigrant families to build cycles of opportunity through education, economic mobility, and community action. Their work centers dignity, inclusion, and environmental awareness—values we deeply share.

We're especially excited about the ***Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature*** expansion, which connects families—many with limited access to green spaces—to nature-based learning, environmental stewardship, and wellness opportunities. This effort aligns closely with the Open Space Authority's mission and will help cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

We have witnessed Sunday Friends' lasting impact in uniting families, building trust, and transforming lives. We fully support this proposal and look forward to continuing our partnership to advance equitable, family-centered environmental engagement across our county.

Sincerely,

Linda Chu  
Regional Program Manager – Santa Clara County  
Second Harvest of Silicon Valley  
o: 408-266-8866, ext. 173  
c: 408-831-2539  
e: [lchu@shfb.org](mailto:lchu@shfb.org)

Curtner Center  
408-266-8866  
750 Curtner Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95125

Cypress Center  
408-266-8866  
4001 North First Street  
San Jose, CA 95134

Bing Center  
650-610-0800  
1051 Bing Street  
San Carlos, CA 94070

[shfb.org](http://shfb.org)



October 11, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Conservation Investments Program

**RE: Letter of Support for Sunday Friends Foundation's Grant Application**

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of KeyPoint Credit Union, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Sunday Friends Foundation and its application to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's grant program.

For nearly three decades, Sunday Friends has been a trusted partner and vital community resource in Santa Clara County, empowering low-income and immigrant families to build cycles of opportunity through education, economic mobility, environmental awareness, and mutual aid. Their initiatives consistently center community voice, dignity, and inclusion: values we deeply share.

We are particularly excited about Sunday Friends' proposed Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature expansion, which connects families, many of whom have limited access to green spaces, to nature-based education, environmental stewardship, and wellness opportunities. This initiative aligns closely with the Open Space Authority's mission by fostering equitable access to outdoor experiences and cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Our organization has witnessed firsthand Sunday Friends' ability to bring families together, build trust, and transform lives through community-driven action. Their approach, engaging families as learners, leaders, and advocates, creates meaningful, lasting impact. We are confident that this project will further that impact by deepening families' connection to nature, community, and well-being.

We strongly support Sunday Friends' proposal and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing equitable, family-centered environmental engagement across our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doron Noyman".

Doron Noyman  
Vice President of Business Development and Community Relations  
KeyPoint Credit Union  
[dnoyman@kpcu.com](mailto:dnoyman@kpcu.com)  
650-814-1790



**October 8, 2025**

**Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority**  
Conservation Investments Program

**RE: Letter of Support for Sunday Friends Foundation's Grant Application**

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of **Tech Exchange**, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the **Sunday Friends Foundation** and its application to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's grant program.

For nearly three decades, Sunday Friends has been a trusted partner and vital community resource in Santa Clara County, empowering low-income and immigrant families to build cycles of opportunity through education, economic mobility, environmental awareness, and mutual aid. Their initiatives consistently center community voice, dignity, and inclusion—values we deeply share.

We are particularly excited about Sunday Friends' proposed **Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature** expansion, which connects families—many of whom have limited access to green spaces—to nature-based education, environmental stewardship, and wellness opportunities. This initiative aligns closely with the Open Space Authority's mission by fostering equitable access to outdoor experiences and cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Our organization has witnessed firsthand Sunday Friends' ability to bring families together, build trust, and transform lives through community-driven action. Their approach—engaging families as learners, leaders, and advocates—creates meaningful, lasting impact. We are confident that this project will further that impact by deepening families' connection to nature, community, and well-being.

We strongly support Sunday Friends' proposal and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing equitable, family-centered environmental engagement across our county.

Sincerely,  
Claudia Garcia  
Director of Programs  
**Tech Exchange**  
[claudia@techexchange.org](mailto:claudia@techexchange.org)



October 9, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Conservation Investments Program

**RE: Letter of Support for Sunday Friends Foundation's Grant Application**

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of **Women and Allies (WANDA)**, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the **Sunday Friends Foundation** and its application to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's grant program.

Sunday Friends is a trusted partner and vital community resource in Santa Clara County. Like Women and Allies, Sunday Friends empowers low-income and immigrant families to build cycles of opportunity through education and economic mobility. Their initiatives consistently center community voice, dignity, and inclusion—values we deeply share.

We are particularly enthusiastic in our support of Sunday Friends' proposed **Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature** expansion, which connects families—many of whom have limited access to green spaces—to nature-based education, environmental stewardship, and wellness opportunities. Such programs enable a holistic approach to supporting the well-being of the families they serve. This initiative aligns closely with the Open Space Authority's mission by fostering equitable access to outdoor experiences and cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Our organization has witnessed firsthand Sunday Friends' ability to bring families together, build trust, and transform lives through community-driven action. Their approach—engaging families as learners, leaders, and advocates—creates meaningful, lasting impact. We are confident that this project will further that impact by deepening families' connection to nature, community, and well-being.

We strongly support Sunday Friends' proposal and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing equitable, family-centered environmental engagement across our county.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Advani". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more stylized than the others.

Jennifer Advani  
Director of Programs  
Women and Allies (WANDA)

[jennifer@womenandallies.org](mailto:jennifer@womenandallies.org)  
650-283-0133



## ***project sentinel***

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### **Fair Housing Center**

1490 El Camino Real  
Santa Clara, CA 95050  
Tel. (408) 720-9888  
Fax (408) 216-9968  
[www.housing.org](http://www.housing.org)

For all types of relay calls (TTY,  
VCO, HCO, etc.):

- English: 1-800-735-2929
- Spanish: 1-800-855-3000

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### **Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority** Conservation Investments Program

October 9, 2025

#### **RE: Letter of Support for Sunday Friends Foundation's Grant Application**

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of Project Sentinel, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the **Sunday Friends Foundation** and its application to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's grant program.

For nearly three decades, Sunday Friends has been a trusted partner and vital community resource in Santa Clara County, empowering low-income and immigrant families to build cycles of opportunity through education, economic mobility, environmental awareness, and mutual aid. Their initiatives consistently center community voice, dignity, and inclusion—values we deeply share.

We are particularly excited about Sunday Friends' proposed **Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature** expansion, which connects families—many of whom have limited access to green spaces—to nature-based education, environmental stewardship, and wellness opportunities. This initiative aligns closely with the Open Space Authority's mission by fostering equitable access to outdoor experiences and cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Our organization has witnessed firsthand Sunday Friends' ability to bring families together, build trust, and transform lives through community-driven action. Their approach—engaging families as learners, leaders, and advocates—creates meaningful, lasting impact. We are confident that this project will further that impact by deepening families' connection to nature, community, and well-being.

We strongly support Sunday Friends' proposal and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing equitable, family-centered environmental engagement across our county.

Sincerely,  
**Elizabeth Sanchez**  
Fair Housing Director  
Project Sentinel

Email: [esanchez@housing.org](mailto:esanchez@housing.org)

**Direct: 209.499.2626**



Grief Support for Children, Teens, Families & Adults

October 9, 2025

Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority  
Conservation Investments Program

RE: Letter of Support for Sunday Friends Foundation’s Grant Application

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of Kara, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Sunday Friends Foundation and its application to the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority’s grant program.

For nearly three decades, Sunday Friends has been a trusted partner and vital community resource in Santa Clara County, empowering low-income and immigrant families to build cycles of opportunity through education, economic mobility, environmental awareness, and mutual aid. Their initiatives consistently center community voice, dignity, and inclusion—values we deeply share.

We are particularly excited about Sunday Friends’ proposed Wellness in Bloom: Blooming in Nature expansion, which connects families — many of whom have limited access to green spaces — to nature-based education, environmental stewardship, and wellness opportunities. This initiative aligns closely with the Open Space Authority’s mission by fostering equitable access to outdoor experiences and cultivating the next generation of environmental stewards.

Our organization has witnessed firsthand Sunday Friends’ ability to bring families together, build trust, and transform lives through community-driven action. Their approach — engaging families as learners, leaders, and advocates — creates meaningful, lasting impact. We are confident that this project will further that impact by deepening families’ connection to nature, community, and well-being.

We strongly support Sunday Friends’ proposal and look forward to continued collaboration in advancing equitable, family-centered environmental engagement across our county.

Sincerely,

Romina Kim  
Director of Spanish Services, Kara  
[romina@kara-grief.org](mailto:romina@kara-grief.org) (650) 321-5272 x 105