



Fall Newsletter 2020

Summer In Review

What Have We Been Up To?

Seeds of Hope has experienced incredible growth over the course of this summer. To begin, we have greatly improved our vocational and horticulture skills program by continuing to teach valuable real-life work experience to adults with developmental and other disabilities. This summer, we expanded our outreach to local farmers markets from just one last year, to an impressive seven. Our participants have gained not only important vocational skills, but also an improved sense of confidence, as a direct result of these unique opportunities.

Despite all this hard work and immense growth, Seeds Of Hope has also made plenty of time for participants to engage in a variety of outdoor summer activities. These included beach outings, nature hikes at a few of the local state parks and trails, berry picking, and several others.



Pandemic Response

Strategies to Maintain Health and Safety



The current global pandemic has brought about a variety of concerns and obstacles for many local small businesses and organizations throughout the country. Seeds of Hope followed the recommended state quarantine at the beginning of the outbreak, with additional periodic

closures to address COVID-19 related issues. Our team continues to take appropriate precautionary measures by following the mandates issued by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the recommendations of CDC professionals and health experts.

Since reopening, Seeds Of Hope has implemented a variety of strategies to help ensure and maintain the health and safety of our participants, team members, parents, guardians, and the general public. These include mandatory masks indoors or when social distancing is not possible, as well as the development of smaller group sizes with a rotating schedule. Generally speaking, we greatly encourage social distancing, and we recognize that working outdoors and breathing fresh air is one of the most effective ways to stay healthy and lower the risk of contact and spread of the virus.

Despite the implementation of these strategies, we still recognize that Seeds Of Hope provides services to a population that is generally more vulnerable and at a higher risk of negative health effects due to the virus. This makes precautionary measures, such as social distancing, an absolute necessity. Seeds Of Hope is currently raising funds to help pay for additional staff that will allow us to maintain social distancing with smaller groups and rotations. These funds will also be utilized for the development of an additional greenhouse, that will serve two purposes: to help mitigate these concerns and increase plant productivity.

"Camp Seeds" Summer Camp

September Camp Week

As 2020 has been a year of cancellations and changes for all of us, we recognized how difficult it has been, especially for our participants. With this in mind, Seeds Of Hope organized a summer camp event, "Camp Seeds", during the week of September 14th through 18th. Camp Seeds was a week of camp style activities during regular program hours, to help recreate the summer camp experience, while still allowing participants to receive Seeds of Hope daily programming services.

Camp activities included boat rides, tug of war, fishing, crafts, tie dye, rock painting, a scavenger hunt, an obstacle course, picnic lunches, outdoor games, live music, an outdoor dance party with bubbles, a talent show, show and tell, and much more!

Future Plans

Where Are We Going?

With summer now coming to a close, Seeds of Hope is shifting its focus to preparing and planning for the fall and winter months ahead. While farmers market sales are starting to slow down this time of year, we are very excited to announce that we have started our fall fundraiser with evergreens, and currently have pumpkins and mums for sale. This coming winter, we will also have hand-made Christmas wreaths available for purchase.

We have also visited with other co-ops to explore what a Seeds Of Hope community might look like. More to come as we are in the discovery phase.



Planting More Possibilities

Thank You to Our Donors and Sponsors

As a nonprofit organization, Seeds of Hope relies heavily on fundraising efforts and the generosity of our local community. We would like to thank our 2020 sponsors and donors for helping us continue to Plant Possibilities in the lives of our participants, team members, and the Walworth County Community.

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- Saint Patricks Parish
- Scherrer Construction (*Buddy Bench made possible by the Scherrer Cares Program*)
- SeedMoney
- Southern Lakes Credit Union
- The United Way of Walworth County
- Walworth County Aging and Disability Resource Center
- We Energies Foundation

Help Seeds of Hope Grow

Donate

If you would like to make a donation to Seeds of Hope, please visit our Facebook page or website at www.seedsofhopewi.org/donate.

Volunteer or Intern

If you would like to learn more about volunteering or internship opportunities at Seeds of Hope, please visit our website at www.seedsofhopewi.org/volunteer, or email info@seedsofhopewi.org for more information.

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You can help support Seeds of Hope every time you shop on Amazon by using the AmazonSmile program. To set this up, simply visit www.smile.amazon.com and choose J1224 Seeds of Hope Inc. as the nonprofit organization you would like to support. A percentage of every order will go to Seeds of Hope.

Farmers Markets, Roadside Stand, Online Flower Store

If you would like to support our vocational and horticulture skills program, consider visiting one of our weekly farmers markets in Whitewater, Mukwonago, Lake Geneva, Delavan, Burlington, or Williams Bay. You can also support our roadside stand at our Potter Road address (see below), or our online flower store on our website at www.seedsofhopewi.org/flower-store.



We Plant Possibilities.

Seeds Of Hope is a horticultural and recreational community that brings new growth opportunities to adults with developmental and other disabilities.

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