



Transitions-Mental Health Association

Inspiring hope, growth, recovery and wellness in our communities

Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria *Nourishing our community since 2000*

Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria is a small-scale, pesticide-free farm and plant nursery. Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria combines therapeutic horticulture and vocational training to provide individuals with mental illness employment and a supportive environment where personal growth can be realized.

What Services Are Provided?

- Enhanced physical, mental and social health through the use of therapeutic horticulture.
- Work experience.
- Job-skills training in a safe, supervised environment among peers.
- Opportunities for job advancement and increased responsibility.
- Opportunities for socialization in a positive, healthy environment.
- Training in the agricultural and horticultural fields.
- An entry point into competitive employment.
- An opportunity to meet with the on-site vocational specialist who can help individuals gain competitive employment through our Supported Employment Program in collaboration with the Mental Health Co-op and the State Department of Vocational Rehabilitation.
- A job and a paycheck.

What Is the Work Like?

Employees are paid and are involved in every aspect of production on a small farm and plant nursery business—from propagation and seeding to transplanting, watering, and weeding to harvesting, flower-arranging, and selling directly to customers.

Employees work varying shifts, from 3–20, hours per week in an environment that rewards personal growth, hard work, responsibility and initiative. Employees perform most of the work at the farm outdoors. The work is physical—at times demanding, rewarding and can contribute significantly to an individual's recovery.

Who Can Work at Growing Grounds?

Potential employees are often referred through the Santa Barbara Department of Behavioral Wellness or another agency. Employees are diagnosed with persistent illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorder or major depression. To get a job at Growing Grounds call 805-934-2182.

Visit the Farm Stand!

Visit our Farm Stand at 820 W. Foster Road near the corner of Foster Road and California Boulevard next to the Sheriff station in Santa Maria. We are open Thursdays from Noon to Dusk and the second Saturday of each month from 10am-4pm. All produce, plants and flowers grown at the Farm are pesticide free.

Like us on Facebook to find out about our special events such as our Everything Edible Plant Sale in the spring.

