



Transitions-Mental Health Association

Inspiring hope, growth, recovery and wellness in our communities

Growing Grounds Farm & Nursery in San Luis Obispo

For over 40 years Growing Grounds Farm & Nursery has offered a supportive and empathetic environment for personal growth, recovery, and the acquisition of soft job skills for individuals with mental illness.

The Nursery is a wholesale business growing succulents, trees, and Mediterranean climate zone perennials including California native plants. We sell to retail nurseries throughout SLO & No. Santa Barbara County, landscapers, and environmental restoration and mitigation organizations, both private and public. While Growing Grounds is primarily a wholesale nursery, we are open to the public, selling at retail prices - this is an educational fundraiser benefitting the Growing Grounds social enterprise mission.

What Services Are Provided?

- Soft job skills training necessary for any job. Including opportunities for increased responsibility and learning leadership skills.
- A safe and supportive environment for strengthening social skills.
- A job and a paycheck.
- Access to trained staff to create personal milestones related to recovery.
- Opportunities to compete for jobs in the community through the Supported Employment Program.

What Is the Work Like?

Most Employees are paid and are involved in every aspect of production from propagation to planting, weeding, watering, pruning, selecting and preparing orders for delivery and helping on deliveries to customers.

Employees work varying shifts, from 3–20, hours per week in an environment that rewards personal growth and initiative with increased responsibility.

Most of the work at Growing Grounds is performed outside and is subject to the prevailing weather conditions. The work is physical, at times demanding, but rewarding and contributes significantly to an individual's recovery and physical well- being.

Who Can Work at Growing Grounds?

Most employees are referred to Growing Grounds by San Luis Obispo County Department of Behavioral Health and Justice Services. Some employees come to the Nursery through the State of California's Department of Rehabilitation in conjunction with TMHA's Supported Employment Program. Individuals with mental illness living in the community who do not receive services from the County Dept. of Behavioral Health may volunteer at the Nursery. Regular volunteers are offered the same job skills training as paid employees, and are held to the Growing Grounds high quality standards. Local civic organizations, corporate volunteer groups, Cal Poly students, Greek organizations and others are encouraged and



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welcome to volunteer at the Nursery as well. Arrangements can be made to accommodate groups of up to 100 individuals.



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