

Employment and Volunteer Partners Lead Equity and Inclusion



Souren Ohanian (R) of Chance Vintage accepts the Trailblazer Award for pioneering accomplishments in exemplary internship opportunities

When it comes to equity and inclusion, Tierra's Employment & Volunteer Partners lead by example. On November 6th, Tierra honored the businesses and organizations that have taken the leap of faith to join Tierra in its mission to create pathways of employment for people with disabilities.

The event, held at Valley Presbyterian Hospital's Jean & David Fleming Health Education Center, was filled with moving speeches, testimonials, and an abundance of smiles as honorees received their awards.

Souren Ohanian of Chance Vintage in Burbank, an eco-conscious business that resells, recycles, and reworks clothing with the goal of normalizing quality sustainable fashion, shared how his organization and Tierra's mission and values closely align.

"It's a pleasure and a privilege to be working with Tierra del Sol

and their associates. As a business focused on sustainability, we take it upon ourselves to encourage a society that is operating with ethics and consciousness, especially when it comes to the inclusivity of people from all walks of life who seek betterment despite circumstances. We are grateful to facilitate inclusivity together. Tierra del Sol has shaped our environmental working spirit for the better."

Christopher Herrera, owner of Chatsworth Grocery Outlet, echoed similar sentiments and was thrilled to see that partnerships between Grocery Outlet and Tierra are rapidly growing. "I had no idea there were several additional stores being honored tonight and I am so proud to be one of them."

Monique and Dale Mascari, owners of the Canoga Park Grocery Outlet, expressed their gratitude for the recognition and shared, "this has been a great partnership. Everyone is so easy to work with at Tierra, and the support is incredible. We've worked with other employment groups from other agencies in the past, and Tierra is, by far, the best!"



Congratulations to Grocery Outlets Owners in Canoga Park, Chatsworth, Santa Clarita, Sun Valley and Winnetka, for being Awarded the World Changer Award for innovation and leadership in employment diversity and inclusion

Employment & Volunteer Partners (continued)

While the night was filled with uplifting speeches, Rebecca Lienhard, Tierra CEO, delivered a staggering workforce development statistic. “For the last three decades the unemployment rate for people with disabilities has been 75%.”

Rebecca asked, “How do we communicate the benefits of hiring a person with disabilities to the employers at the table? How do we undo the biases....the true barrier? I know that when I look around this room, I am preaching to the choir because you all understand. We can’t change the world alone, but together we can change the unemployment rate for the 800 people that Tierra serves. Join me in our ten year goal to flip the unemployment stat.”

Congratulations to our 2024 Awardees! Thank you for being amazing partners.



Tierra's 2024 Employment & Volunteer Partners Reception



Rebecca Lienhard (L) awards Alicia Burnett of Vaughn International Studies Academy Tierra's 2024 Pacesetter Award for establishing and implementing an exemplary volunteer to employment program



“There are two ways of looking at the world. You can either look at the world through scarcity or through abundance. And if you look at it through scarcity, you’re concerned about what you need, making sure other people don’t get your share, and being at the front of the line. But, if you look at the world through the eyes of abundance, you say, ‘hmm... there’s enough to go around. We can share and help others who might need a little help.’ In this time, we need to remember to look through the eyes of abundance. That to me, is at the heart of volunteering. You’re trying to make a difference in the lives of many people, and you’re also enriching your life as you do it. Thank you very much.”

—Suzi Hoge
Recipient of the Star Thrower Award
for outstanding work as an exemplary volunteer

MEET TIERRA'S Paid Internship Partners

This year, Tierra expanded its Paid Internship Partnerships (PIP) and currently has 34 partners and 68 associate placements.

This was made possible by a state-funded program that covers the wages of individuals with disabilities, while they work and gain valuable on-the-job experience.

Thank you to our current PIP partners for supporting our mission and giving our associates the opportunity to acquire marketable skills that lead to future employment.

Tierra has over 50 years of experience with job placement, training, and long-term support services. We are here to help you meet your diversity, equity, and inclusion goals.

If you are interested in our PIP program, contact us at (818) 231-6879 or pipinfo@tierradelosol.org.



Cynthia Romero, Paid Intern at
Chance Vintage Clothing Store



Gabriel "Gabe" Ubaldo, Paid Intern at
Grocery Outlet, Chatsworth



"Once the whole program was explained to us, we said, 'we can give this a try' and we are so glad we did because we enjoy having Viola and Chris here. The thing about our business is you have to be able to learn to do different things because no order is ever the same. And that's what our two Tierra interns have been able to do. We are very happy with this partnership."

— Frank Chavez,
Production Operator, Minuteman Press Burbank
Tierra PIP Partner

Our Current PIP Partners

818 Boxing Club
Achievers Academy
ACTS Thrift Store
American Cancer Society,
Discovery Shop
Bear Cave CCG
Chance Vintage
Child Care Resource Center
(Arthur Avila Head Start)
Child Care Resource Center
(Zine Head Start)
CSUN (G'mos Cafeteria)
Discovery Cube LA
Grocery Outlet - Canoga Park
Grocery Outlet - Chatsworth
Grocery Outlet - Santa Clarita
Grocery Outlet - Sun Valley
Grocery Outlet - Winnetka
Habitat For Humanity,
Pasadena ReStore
ISS Props
Kotsu Ramen & Gyoza
Minuteman Press Burbank
My Lil Town
NHF Arleta Kitchen
Noah's Place
Olive View Medical Center
ONEgeneration Senior Center
Farmers' Market
Rapid Printing
Response Marketing and Mailing
Tierra Front Office
Tierra Sunland NHF Kitchen
Tierra's Treasures
Victorio's Ristorante, NoHo
Village Christian School
Wildlife Learning Center
Wilkinson Senior Center -
Recreation
YMCA East Valley

*as of November 26, 2024

“To Build, To Build! That is the noblest a



A grant from the **James Bernard and Mildred Jordan Tucker Fund at the Inland Empire Community Foundation** gave Tierra's Upland Art Studio funding to install automatic doors, kick plates, and standing desks, giving the artists increased accessibility.



“While we are grateful for all donations, especially thankful to reflect on the F... our facilities during the last four years... safe, accessible, and functional. Not only has their support enabled our meaningful life, but it has also given... disabilities bring to the world with th...



After a two-year closure due to large tree roots compromising the deck and pool at Tierra's Sunland Campus, **The Ahmanson Foundation's** generous grant funded a complete renovation of this popular venue. Last year's re-opening was a big splash among Tierra associates, who learn water safety and build stamina through daily aquatic exercise programs, as well as children and adults in the community learning to swim.



Thanks to **The Ahmanson Foundation's** support, the asphalt at Tierra's 7.5 acre Sunland headquarters got a facelift, ensuring a safer, more accessible campus, as well as additional parking.

art of all the arts.” —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



John Gogian Family Foundation’s grant enabled Tierra to refurbish its Sunland courtyard, so Tierra artists can create art outside. The space is also used for community and family events.



A legacy grant from **John Gogian Family Foundation** enabled Tierra to purchase an art gallery. Since opening in November of 2023, the West Hollywood location has held seven on-site exhibitions featuring 140 artists.

ns that help us fill the gap in government funding, we are foundations who have helped us repair, refurbish, and renovate s. Thank you for making our campus, art studios, and gallery

ur associates to receive the services that help them lead a Tierra the opportunity to share our sites and the gifts people with e community at large.”

—Rebecca Leinhard, Tierra CEO



Lon V. Smith Foundation’s consistent years of funding has assisted Tierra in the installation of new windows in the Sunland classroom building, the purchase of shade petals for the courtyard, repair of a major pipe that had caused flooding in Tierra’s job training kitchen and renovation of an accessible bathroom in the Upland Art Studios.

A Blossoming Partnership with the Natural History Museum

In April 2024, the leadership teams of Tierra del Sol and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County convened a gathering where we dreamed of all that could be possible between our two organizations. We visualized education, employment, inclusion, and belonging for all our citizens, both with and without disabilities. Since that time, the partnership has blossomed. Tierra's artists have sketched quietly in NHM's dinosaur wing, NHM's experts have introduced "Bats" to our associates, TdS studios have been visited, complimentary tickets to NHM events have been shared, and most recently, on November 17th, Tierra's Artists helped the Natural History Museum launch the grand opening of their new public space, known as *The Commons*. TdS Artists helped participants explore patterns, textures, and colors while making their own dinosaur paws. The public could also shop for handmade items from our creative arts studios, including paintings and drawings, ceramics, fiber arts, and more. A great day was had by all!



CERAMICS ONLY!

JANUARY 11 - MARCH 1, 2025

RECEPTION: JANUARY 11 | 6-8 PM

**A THIRTEEN-PERSON GROUP SHOW
FEATURING CERAMICS BY**

MARLENA ARTHUR
KEVIN BERMUDEZ
LAUREN GERATHS
JENNA GREENE
KAREN GOLDSTEIN
AURA HERRERA
ABRAHAM KHAN
MICHAEL LEVELL
ERICKA LOPEZ
JACKIE MONTES
JOHN PETERSON
JEFFREY RINSKY
ANGEL RODRIGUEZ



Ceramics Only! highlights the breadth of ceramic works coming from the Upland and Sunland studios. These thirteen artists use clay body to experiment, innovate and communicate powerful as well as playful narratives and imagery. *Ceramics Only!* considers how artists who often work side by side can share a medium, yet with their own voice tell their own stories. Tierra del Sol Gallery is committed to amplifying the resonance of these works and all the artists' intentions through the various exhibition opportunities we pursue.

TierraDelSolGallery.org
gallery@tierradelsol.org
7414 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Hollywood, CA
Artwork by Abraham Khan



Checkout
tierradelsolgallery.org
for future openings
and exhibitions.

Thank You to Our 2023-2024 Circle of Inspiration Members

Your exceptional generosity is a true reflection of your commitment and belief in Tierra's mission of inclusion and value for all people with disabilities through employment, education, and the arts.

VISIONARY

(\$50,000 plus)

The Ahmanson Foundation
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The Ralph M. Parsons
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The Rose Hills Foundation

INNOVATOR

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The Quevedo Family
Elizabeth "Lizzie" Quevedo
in Memoriam

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in honor of Robert Stimson
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in honor of Kelly McClenahan
Karen & Tom Zimmerman

BENEFACTOR

(\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Anonymous
Bill Allen & The Weingart Foundation
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Stan Bilchik Carpet Co., Inc.
Bay Buckley & Enterprise
Mobility Foundation
Christa & Matt Chase
Grace & Jay Chase
Shadi & Greg Eisenman
Caroline & Salvador Esparza
Dr. Salvador Esparza in Memoriam
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Interior Removal Specialists
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Laborers' International Union of
North America Local 300
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The Littman Family
Los Angeles Trial Lawyers' Charities

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Emmanuel Gonzalez
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Leah and Jorg Lenninger
Daria Matza
Sally Metry
Mike's Roofing
Sarah & Joseph Montes
One Hundred Percent
Foundation of Pasadena
Pacific Southwest Administrators
Philadelphia Insurance Companies
Anne Marie Rosenstein
Jo Anne & Bill Sadler
Betsy & Daniel Savant
Dean & Doreen Stoutland
Technicolor Federal Credit Union
Gustavo Valdespino
Valley Presbyterian Hospital
Walmart in Porter Ranch
Joyce & John F. Walter
Sharon Young

FRIEND

(\$1,000 - \$1,499)

Christina Anthony & Ted Shatz
in honor of Tierra's Staff
and Tina Anthony
Louise & Hank Arklin
in memory of Bud Brown
Rose Ann Boken
Jeanne & Greg Buesing
The Charitable Foundation
Jackie & Bob Doud

Dana Franklin
Elizabeth & Michael Ford
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IN-KIND

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(\$2,500 and above)

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LEGACY OF LOVE

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Bud & Althea Brown
The Bryant Family
Karen Dermer
Sarah Eisner
The Esparza Family
Fortman Trust
Estate of Lois Hansen
Estate of Patrick Harris
Estate of Mary Ellen Hughes
Jan & Stephen Maseda
Joseph Nicoletta
Estate of Armand Ouellette
Donna Rothchild
Lena Rivkin
Larry & Marlys Sack
Patricia & Steven Smith
The Stanton Family
Sister Harriet Stellern, SSND
Elisabeth & Milt Stimson



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

What's in store for 2025?

Calling All Families!

Don't miss Tierra's Family Forums to learn more about these important topics for your loved one with a disability:

- The Future is Now - Life Planning
- Housing Options
- Why Choose Self Determination?
- Estate & Financial Planning
- Understanding SSI Benefits & Medicare
- Supported Decision-Making vs. Conservatorship

Family Forums take place online on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 4-5 pm and are facilitated by Tierra's Life Planner, Julie Snyder. Watch your email for featured speakers, registration, and details for our *in-person* event coming this Spring!



"Lawrence and I are very grateful for the Tierra Forum that we attend each month without fail. We have found the sessions invaluable. Not only have we gained so much from Julie Snyder's years of insight and knowledge but also from the parents and siblings who generously share their information and lived experiences. It is a wonderful nonjudgmental platform."

—Susan Bedil, Tierra parent

SAVE THE DATE

Tierra's 18th Annual
Golf Tournament, Dinner & Auction

Monday, May 5, 2025
Moorpark Country Club

