

2024

# **MPACT** REPORT

#### MISSION

Empowering and supporting adults with disabilities to live a life of purpose, inclusion and dignity.

## VISION

Our vision is to create a just-world where you will find dignified inclusion in our schools, workplaces, government, communities, churches and beyond.

WWW.DUTTONFARM.ORG

# Table of Contents

Letter from the CEO	3
Board of Directors	4
Dutton Farm Leadership & Staff	5
Our Story	6
Mission Accomplished	7
Dutton Farm at a Glance	11
Mission Awareness	13
Platinum, Gold, Silver Donors	14
Bronze Donors	15

T

1

# Letter from the CEO

#### Greetings,

Last year, Dutton Farm embraced a season of new opportunities to empower and support adults with disabilities, and it was a pivotal year in so many ways. We felt the support from our community along with the dedicated work from our team to bring awareness and create a lasting impact!

We have been encouraged and are hopeful about the possibilities that lie ahead as we have

witnessed foundational changes that we are watching unfold. For the 146 participants in our program who engaged in their community, learned new skills, volunteered at local charities and landed competitively paying jobs, we are building new stories and bright futures.

We are working together to dismantle barriers that once prevented the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in society and painting a new picture of what the world can and should become - where people with disabilities are treated with dignity and respect in all settings.

With continued growth across all our programs, Dutton Farm increased its reach to fuel hope among families and individuals who were waiting to land their first job or given the chance to build skills in their community while making new friendships. The success Dutton Farm realized collectively was nothing short of inspiring!

Mia, a quiet and kindhearted young woman from Pontiac, impressed us all. In our Art Without Limits Program, Mia used her creativity and artistic skill to capture the attention of the Breaking Barriers Art Exhibit judges in Lansing, and they featured her art in Downtown Lansing during Disability Pride Month. We were all filled with pure joy as Mia used her talent to enrich the culture of our state.

Brendan Buresh is a comedic and fun young man from Rochester, and he has maintained steady employment with Palazzo di Bocce for almost three years, putting his steady commitment and skill set to work for fair compensation. Palazzo di Bocce quickly embraced Brendan and valued the richness he contributed to their work culture.

In addition, we proudly delivered high-quality services through our community involvement program, offering enriching experiences at the Detroit Zoo, the Detroit Institute of Arts, Jimmy John's Field, and the Detroit Parade Company, alongside our horticulture and animal care initiatives in Oakland and Macomb counties.

We also provided unique opportunities for our artists in our Art Without Limits program to share their talent and receive compensation for their art. Our commitment extended to providing job development and supported employment services, empowering individuals to showcase their unique talents and secure rewarding opportunities.

As we were busy building the infrastructure to drive quality programming, positioning Dutton Farm to expand our services and meet the growing need reflected by our lengthy waiting list, we also championed our participants' voices through vital advocacy work, ensuring that we remain integral to the evolving landscape of disability services in our state.

We have ambitious goals for 2025, and you will continue to see impressive things from our participants throughout all our programming areas this year. In our organization's 16th year, we remain on a path we know well, challenging, but also full of joy and satisfaction.

The work towards our mission is ongoing and never gets easier, but our commitment remains steadfast, and our north star is simple: to protect human dignity and to live in a world where each person is considered sacred and valuable, with a future full of possibilities.

Jenny Brown CEO Dutton Farm



Jenny Brown Dutton Farm CEO

# Message from the Board Chair

As we reflect on the past year at Dutton Farm, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support of our community and the incredible dedication of our staff, volunteers, and partners. Together, we have continued to create meaningful opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

Our mission remains stronger than ever-to break down barriers and build a world where every individual is valued, respected, and empowered. Over the past year, we have expanded our programs, strengthened our employment initiatives, and deepened our impact on the lives of those we serve. But our work is not done.

Thomas DeAgostino Dutton Farm Chair of the Board

Looking ahead, we are committed to growing our reach even further by fostering inclusive experiences and developing new pathways for employment. With your continued support, we will ensure that more individuals and families experience the dignity, purpose, and belonging they deserve.

Thank you for standing with us in this journey. Together, we are building a more inclusive and compassionate future.

# Board of Directors

Tom DeAgostino - Chair Partner Law Offices of Potter, DeAgostino & Clark Law Firm

#### Michael Spisz - Vice Chair

Oakland County Board of Commissioners District 5

Senator Michael Webber - Treasurer

State of Michigan

#### **Chris Barnett**

Supervisor Orion Township

#### **Cheryl Boodram** Executive Vice President & CFO Chief Financial Credit Union

Laura Kozerski Strategic Account Manager Hughes Primeau Controls

#### **Jim Lambrecht** Associate Broker Lambrecht Realties

Aimee Spurlock

Laura Murphy - Secretary

Advocate

**David McClelland** Vice President Strategy & Partnerships Ford Motor Company

#### **David Mingle Executive Director Rochester Housing Solutions**

Lori Randolph Parent Advocate

#### Senior Vice President Customer Care Mr. Cooper

#### Katie Stark

**Outpatient Mental Health Therapist** 

**Jaymes Vettraino** School of Business, Director of Management and Leadership Rochester Christian University

# Dutton Farm Leadership



Founder **Michele Smither** 

#### Co-Founder / President / CEO

**Jenny Brown** 

# Dutton Farm Administration

# **Carolyn Stickney**

Xitlali Gomez Human Resources Director

Anne Rosario Workforce Development Director

> Rana May Oakland Site Manager

Lily Kakkuri Job Developer

**Matthew Doherty** Field Job Coach

CFO Harrison Kakkuri

Community Involvement Director

Kim Staudacher Special Events and Business **Development Director** 

> **Michael Moorhead** Art Program Manager

Alyx LaBranche Job Coach Manager

**Brent Brown Director of Operations** 

> **Grace Pilarz** Administrative Director

**Lissette Feliciano** Human Resources & Operations Assistant

> Maya Scott Art Program Sales Manager

**Dustin McMillan** Job Coach Manager

Eden Bosca

**Brandy High** 

Paige Musleh

Wildress Williams

Madeline Bosca

Katie Hallett

Colleen Hubbard

**Elizabeth Paden** 

Kai Thomas

AnnMarie Ottoy Communications Director

Alysha Moorhead Grants Manager

**Tyler Maynard** Macomb Site Lead

Jenna Bubka Field Job Coach

# Dutton Farm Staff



Job Coaches

**Direct Support Professionals** 

Brooklyn D'Andria Dena Hopp Lee Sobeck Kaitlin Willett

**Elizabeth Cusulas** 

Marc Harris

Kristie Larsen Anne Pereira

Steven Washburn

# Our story

In 2010, Dutton Farm was founded out of deep love and respect for Rebecca "Becca" Smither, the daughter of Michele Smither. After years of watching Becca struggle to find the right support to nurture her talents and continue growing as an adult, Michele knew it was time for a change. With a generous donation of property and ongoing support from Becca's father, Jim Smither, Dutton Farm established its home in Rochester, MI. The farm became a place of friendship, support, and hope—not just for Becca, but for others seeking similar opportunities.



Recognizing the program's potential, Michele and her daughter, Jenny Brown, assembled a team to advocate for and carry out their mission: "Empowering and supporting adults with disabilities to live a life of purpose, inclusion, and dignity."

Today, Dutton Farm continues to provide opportunities for adults with disabilities through adult education, community involvement, art, and workforce development, inspiring others to recognize the invaluable contributions that individuals with unique abilities bring to the world.



# Mission Accomplished

#### Workforce Development

Our Workforce Development program helps our participants find jobs paying competitive wages in integrated settings (i.e., with other people who don't necessarily have disabilities) in the community in a format known as Supported Employment (SE). The success of our SE program relies on pre-employment assessments and training to help participants find jobs that capitalize on their personal strengths and motivation in industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, and retail. Once employed, Dutton Farm provides the on-the-job supports necessary to ensure success in the workplace.



#### **About Brendan**

Brendan brings joy wherever he goes. Known for his infectious smile and love of dancing, he approaches his work with enthusiasm and commitment. Brendan enjoys spending time with friends and actively participates in Dutton Farm's community outings, embracing every opportunity to engage with others and explore new experiences. His positive spirit and dedication make him a valued member of the program and a bright presence in the community and at his job.

"Brendan has gained so much confidence and pride in himself by working at Palazzo di Bocce. He loves going to work. He enjoys interactions with his co-workers and of course his job coach, Denise, is the best, he says (she really is). The staff and owners treat him very well. He greets co-workers with 'hola' and an occasional fist pump. He's been working there for a couple years, and I'm told he does a good job." Marjorie Buresh, Brendan's parent.

> "Brendan is a hard-working young man. He arrives to Palazzo eager to work and completes all of his job tasks each shift. He is polite and respectful to the employees at Palazzo as well. It is my pleasure to work alongside Brendan each week." Denise Pratt, Job Coach.



**Brendan Buresh** 

"I clean, and clean the flag poles, take out the trash, get ready for parties, and stack chairs. I like Denise (job coach) and turning on the (restaurant) music". Brendan Buresh

"Brendan has been a pleasure to have with us at Palazzo di Bocce. His smile lights up the morning, his conversations are short but so sweet, and his hugs are the absolute best! Brendan also maintains a steady workflow to accomplish all that we ask!" Annette Battaglia Supervisor

# Mission Accomplished

#### **Adult Education**

Our skill-building program is designed to empower individuals with developmental disabilities by enhancing their abilities and fostering independence through structured activities and hands-on learning. We focus on a range of essential and pre-vocational skills, including communication, social interaction, problem-solving, and teamwork. By focusing on individual strengths and promoting continuous growth, our skill-building program plays a crucial role in helping participants lead more fulfilling and self-sufficient lives.



When Kevin first started at Dutton Farm, he was set on attending just one day a week. However, that plan lasted only through his first week. By week two, he was eager to come in for two days, and soon after, it grew to three.
Since then, Kevin has become a committed participant, fully engaged in all of Dutton Farm's programs. He especially enjoys Farmers Market Fridays, working at Everybody, and the morning meeting at the farm, where we value his excellent customer service, sales skills, and his fun tradition of drawing smiley faces for everyone to count.



"Kevin Keefer volunteered every time there was a Farmers Market. He worked on sorting and weighing the veggies and flowers. His customer service was outstanding and customers looked forward to seeing him each week. He is the best salesman and loves interacting with shoppers." Brent Brown Director of Operations.

"Kevin's favorite thing to do is assist with morning meetings. He loves drawing smiley faces, counting them, and helping with the weather. He's the very best helper." Dutton Farm staff

**Kevin Keefer** 

#### Kevin loves DUTTON FARM!

"By attending Dutton Farm, Kevin has a purpose in life; whether it is starting the morning at the Farm; working at Everybody or the Coffee Shop, selling products that are made by the Farmers, caring for the animals, having lunch with friends; as long as he's with his peers, he's loving life with the big heart that beats in his chest As his parents, we couldn't be more grateful for what Dutton Farm has done for Kevin!" Nancy Keefer, parent "I like the morning meeting. I like drawing smiley faces. I like to do the weather alone and the Farmers Market." Kevin Keefer

"Kevin is such a people person. Every time someone walks by the coffee shop, Kevin stands up and says, 'Do you want to buy some coffee?' He draws in customers with his personality," said Lissette Feliciano, Everybody, Inc. Production Manager. "Kevin also loves music and loves to dance. He knows every genre of music!"

# Mission Accomplished

#### **Community Involvement**

Our Community Involvement program focuses on community-based skill-building through a diverse range of extracurricular activities. We intentionally select our daily outings to develop a wide range of skills, including communication, problem-solving, time-management, and self-advocacy in the wider community through volunteerism, consumerism, farming, and exercise. Additionally, the social connections gained through these outings can help provide a buffer against feelings of loneliness.

#### Volunteer Hours

**Rochester Hills Public Library** 850+ Auburn Hills Meals on Wheels 1700 +Woodside Bible Church 450+









**Community Involvement Monthly Outings** Detroit Zoo Parade Company **Emagine Movie theater** Cider Mill Sea Life Aquarium Reptarium **Greenfield Village** Cranbrook Institute of Science Lake George Boating Trip Jimmy John's Field

#### About Anna

Anna Martin began attending Dutton Farm Macomb on August 14th of last year, and during her time there, she has emerged as a natural leader. Anna is consistently eager to help and plays a key role in keeping our group together, with support from our staff. She is always excited for our Community Involvement trips, looking forward to spending time with both participants and staff. Anna truly loves coming to the farm and engaging with the community, especially when it comes to activities like bowling, where she makes sure to include her friends. Each day, she brings high energy and dedication to everything she does, often being one of the first to volunteer and help others in need.

> "I like to go bowling, and I like going to Dovetail to get coffee with my friends." Anna Martin

"Working with Anna is an absolute joy. She's always looking to be incredibly involved in everything we do. Aside from all the activities she already knew she liked, Anna also likes to explore new activities to do. She also looks to include others in what she is already doing. Anna is awesome to be around and a true friend." Eden Bosca, direct support professional



Anna Martin





Amelia Wise Breaking Barriers Art Exhibit

"I enjoy making bracelets and picking out the colors of all the beads." - Amelia Wise "Mia is outstanding when painting with watercolors. She picks out beautiful color palettes in all her work. Mia is also a great helper with teaching and assisting her peers." Mike Moorhead, Art Program Manager DU

"Amelia has flourished from being in the Art Program. On a return trip this year Amelia

pointed out a cloud shaped as a blue elephant and said she could paint that. Most of all she enjoys talking about her art and sharing them with family and friends. Amelia takes great pride in the art she creates and the smiles it brings." - Christina Wise, Mother

"Art has the power to unlock expression, build confidence, and bring joy. Dutton's Art program gives every Farmer - no matter their abilities- a space to create, explore, and shine." - Michelle Kiernan, parent and supporter.

# Dutton Farm at a Glance

1

## Adult Education & Community Involvement



1

# Dutton Farm at a Glance

2024



#### Year over Year



P

pg. 12

1

#### **Participant Achievements**

Mission Awareness

Becca Promoted to Bus Captain Andrew Secured Wheelchair Accessible Transportation Jakob Overcame his Shyness to Engage in Program Robyn Participated in Community Involvement Karianne Engages with Staff and Friends PJ Received a Company Email Address Emerson Hired After a Six-Month Job Search Kristine Received a Raise Lydia Received Her Own Cleaning Cart on the Job Ben Celebrated Four Years at Work Marc Retired from Jomar Valve Amelia's Artwork Selected for Breaking Barriers Art Exhibit Judy's Artwork Selected for Breaking Barriers Virtual Exhibit

#### **Organizational Accomplishments**

Dutton Farm Macomb County Grand Opening Oakland Adult Education Community Center Grand Opening WDIV Go 4 It Award Orion Area Chamber Women of Inspiration Corp! Magazine MVP Award: Dutton Farm Director of Communications 380 Volunteers = 2,100+ Volunteer Hours of Service at Dutton Farm SOLD OUT Driving Fore Dutton SOLD OUT Driving Fore Dutton DTE Foundation Media Campaign

Recognized at Michigan Celebrates Small Business "100 Businesses to Watch

#### Advocacy

OCHN Down Syndrome Awareness Presentation Attended Mackinac Policy Conference Featured at Oakland County State of the County Attended State of the State



24G, LLC A-Auto Point Collision Adam & Jennifer Stier Adam Jaros Adams Booster Club Aimee Spurlock Altria Group Alyxander LaBranche Amber Maskill American Online Giving Amy Chamberlain Amy Muldoon Andrea Gringas Andrea Rollman Ann Downey Anne Burke Anne Rainey Anne Taglione Anthony Vinci Arts, Beats & Eats Foundation Ascend Performance Materials Ashley Chambers Avondale School District Barbara & Paul Makowski Barbara Boggess Barabara Hart Barbara Osebold **Benjamin Stephenson Bernard Mathie Blayne Holland** Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation **Boyse CPA Rochester** Brain Balance of Oakland County Brent Mikulski Bruce & Laura Kennedy Campus Village Technology Carmela Simon **Caroline Adams Carolyn King Mullins** Carolyn Moore Carrie Krebs Catherine McKelvey Catherine Tulkangas Cathy Burnham Cathy Schmidt Cecelia Kruger Charles & Cheryl Duggan **Charles Heth** Cheryl Boodram Chief Financial Credit Union **Chris & Michelle Peyerk Foundation Chris Barnett** Chris Eads Christian Financial Credit Union Christine Pasternak **Christine** Pencak **Clare Hopkins** Clifford & Cindy Dettloff **Club General Motors Colleen Holmes Community Foundation of Greater Rochester Competitive Lighting Connie Shankin Constellation Energy** Cornerstone Community Financial Craig Avery Craig Boogren Management, LLC Crittenton Medical Staff, Inc.

Cynthia Colonna

#### Bronze Donors

D.F. Burnham

Daniel & Deanna Harrison Daniela Boville David Andrus David Astrauckas David McClelland David Meador David Mingle David Prill David Tuomala Dawn Bodzick Dawn Pier Debbie Senyk Deborah Rowe Denise Morgott Denise Weiss Dennis Petri Dewpoint Diane Costa Diysta & Marjan Juncaj Don & Kimberly Clapham Don Courtright Donald & Margaret Martin **Donald Campion** Donna Raphael Donna Stajniak Dort Financial Credit Union **Dwight Evans** Dynamic HVAC Edward and Amelia DiLoreto Memorial Fund **Elaine Faraday** Electrical Power & Design, Inc. Elizabeth Baker **Elizabeth Correa Elizabeth Gerrity** Ellen Athens Ellen DeBartolo Ellen Hopkins **Entech Staffing Solutions** Everybody, Inc. First Presbyterian Church of Troy First State Bank Foundation Systems of Michigan Frank & Patty Albano Franklin & Mary Hare Fred Bartolomei Fred Meisner Gail Golembiewski Gary & Mary Geisler Gary & Janelle Denis Gaspare Ruggirello **Genisys Credit Union** Gerald & Cynthia Genord Geraldine Lee Ginger Heal Gloria & Steve Wolken Goyette Mechanical Grace Pilarz Grant Downs Graydon MacClean Greater Work, Inc. Greg & Jane Hooper Greg Grant Sportsplex Hana Lewis Healthquest Hershey Insurance Holy Family Regional School llana Mark Innovative Corporate Interiors

Internal Procurement Iris Peake J&J Electric Jack DiFranco Jackie Jager Jacob & Jessica Snow Jake Feldman James & Catherine Courtney James & D'Ane Armaly James & Michele Smither James Barr James Koenia James Laudon James Rapelje Jamie Rybar Jane & Neal Mellesmoen Jane Evans Janet & Gasper Novara Janet Kilbride Janet Lawson **Janet** Leslie **Janis Ripple** Jannifer Stromberg Jason Brown Jason Spicko Jay Pollard Jaymes Vettraino Jenn Batey Jennifer Killewald Jill Weir Jim McNaughton Jo Ellen & James Alvarez Joanna Kozlowski Joe Mooney Joe Tignanelli John & Bernadette Duhoski John & Carol Taylor John & Carolyn Stickney John Birmingham John Blower John Libbe John Young Jomar Valve Jonathan Bracci Joseph Galasso Jr. Joy Nagy Joyce Felice Judith Francis Judith Hock Julie Hoensheid JVIS USA, LLC Shelby Township Karen Hopkins Karen Lemon Karen Reinhout Karen Stefani Katherine Groves Katherine Lamia Kathleen Moore Kathy Freer Katie Ackert Katie Stark Katy Witter Kenneth & Eileen Behmer Kevin Dunivin Kim Staudacher Kirkland & Ellis Knights of Columbus Michigan State Council Knights of Columbus Council 5452 Knights of Columbus Council 8659

#### Bronze Donors

Koch Companies Community Fund Kroger Community Rewards Kurt Kazvak Kyle Hamm Larry & Katherine Scharer Larry Parker Laura & George Rios Laura Athens Laura Biggs Laura Claeys Laura Kozerski Laura Murphy Laura Rockymore Laura Shaw Laurel & Anthony Alu Lauren Thomas Laurene & Rich Kaschalk Laurie Ireland Lawrence Blaty Lea Lolley Leah Sidell Lee Campbell Lena Lee Linda & Frank Ruggirello Linda Berger Linda Jones Linda Kajma Linda M. Masterson Linda Neagos Linda Thero Linda Walters Lisa Nash Loma Campbell Lori Asmer Lori Brown Lori Randolph Lori Warner Lori Witz Lucia Ruggirello Lucy Kovacevich Lydia Kaminski Lynn McCabe Macomb County Health Department Maggie Hay Mara Geiger Marcia Moglia Maria Manning Marianne Snell Marie Pizzuti Marjorie Buresh Mark & Cynthia Ventimiglia Mark Mancinotti Mark Vanderheyden Mark Wiedelman Mary Brusstar Mary Kilbride-Cook Mary Kowalski-Wilhelm Mary McDermott Mary Staffhorst Macomb County Community Mental Health MDRT Melissa White Merryl Schwartz Michael & Kim VanBuren Michael Bloomgren Michael Slanec Michael Jennings Michael Krombeen Michael Ostrowski Michael Snyder Michael Somerville

Michael Voorhees Michael Webber Michele Lyons Michele Ostrander Michele Tulak-Gorecki Michelle Denno Michelle Kiernan Michelle Nedwick Mike & Erica Thurman Mike Kotsis Mike Linc Mike Spisz **MJS** Packaging Molex Transportation and Industrial Solutions Mona Freigeh Mouhib Ayas Nancy & Keith Keefer Nancy & Jamie Rainey Nancy Doman Neal Hopkins New Covenant Church, Auburn Hills Noelle Fox Nora Mark Oakland Animal Hospital **Oakland Christian Schools Oakland University** Pam Pudar Pat Krause Patricia Haver Patricia King Patrick Giroux Patrick Riney Jr. Patty Godin Paul & Cathy Tonti Paul Gambka Paul Spina Paul Terrill Jr. Peter & Martha Ruggirello Peter Rekoumis Philip Yanick Pia Elliott Preston Zale Rachelle Vartanian Randal Turner **Raymond Rowe** Real Estate One Rebecca DeHaven Rebecca Thomas Easterseals | MORC **Renee Cortright** Richard & Linda Thompson Richard Gutowski **Rick Affrica** Robert & Andrea Prostko **Robert Sattler** Robert Webber Rochelle E. Thomas Rochester Aerie No. 2634 Rochester Community Schools **Rochester Housing Solutions** Rochester Rotary Charities, Inc. **Roger** Tertocha **Rob Brown** Ronald & Judith Daggett **Rosalba Boville Rosalee** Loria Rosalie Kolling **Rosanne Rule Rose Miller** Ruth Anderson Sameer Hukku

Sandra Clark Sandra Daubenmeyer Sandra Tabacchi Sandy Menzel Sarah McKay Scott Avery Scott Brooks Sequoia Tool, Inc. Serra Ford Rochester Hills Sharon & Dean Moscovic Sharon & Tom Gamm Sharon Jarackas Sharon Kramer Shelley Chastain Sherry Dagostini Sheryl Garwood Shirely Menzel SMART Bus Sport Clips Springhill Housing Corporation St. David Fraternity OFS Stacy McCalpin Stacy Solomon Stephan Lawson Steve Alessandri StratComm, LLC Strunk Foundation Suburban Bolt & Supply Susan & Timothy McAleer Susan Beran Susan Caruso Susanne Guendelsberger T.W. Hallett Landscaping Tangico THC Woman's Club The PNC Financial Services Group The Spice & Tea Exchange of Rochester The Wyndgate Golf Course Services, LLC Theodore & Brenda Kotsis Theresa Ha Theresa Mineau Thomas & Carolyn Grose Thomas & Julie Czarnecki Thomas & Nanette St. Peter Thomas & Connie Tekieli Thomas & Judith Staudacher Thomas DeAgostino Thomas Jordan **Thomas Polisuk Timothy Southwick** Title One, Inc. Twin Pines Landscaping Tyler Maguire United Women in Faith St. Paul's United Methodist Church Vanessa Ahmad Victoria Wesner Westwynd Golf Course & Grille William Mack & Associates YanFeng Zachary Sill