

Funding Request to
Tempe Diablos
February 1, 2018
Explore, Experience, Empower

TCH has been changing lives of people with disabilities for over 50 years. We serve hundreds of people throughout the state, providing job skills training, employment services, day programs, group homes, home-based services and transportation. TCH serves the most vulnerable adults with developmental disabilities such as cerebral palsy, seizure disorders, Down syndrome, and autism. Many utilize a wheelchair for mobility and some are completely dependent on TCH for their most basic needs, including shelter, food and personal care. At our main campus in Tempe; 110 clients attend the day program, 55 live in our group homes, and over 100 participate in our various employment programs.



We are requesting \$15,000 for our *Explore, Experience, Empower Program*. We have partnered with Tempe Leadership to begin the process of creating a sensory garden at our main location in Tempe, which is an extension of our Diamondback-yard. We received the Ken Kendrick Grand Slam Award from the Arizona Diamondbacks to transform our backyard to create an accessible physical activity space. This project is to convert an unused outdoor area, in the front of the property, into an accessible interactive sensory garden. This renovation will include; garden art, a mural, shade structure, and interactive activities. We see this area as a place to relax, garden, and spend time with friends. Being out in fresh air, having a calming place to go, finding tranquility and peace helps to regulate levels of serotonin, promote happiness and well-being, enhances brain connectivity, improves blood pressure, and lowers stress hormones. Living a healthy lifestyle, finding ways to relax, and will minimize the effects of individual special needs on their quality of life.

People with disabilities face barriers, to everyday life that can become very frustrating for the individual. This type of space will provide our clients a chance to “get away from it all”, take a break, find clarity, rejuvenate, and relax. The interactive sensory activities are therapeutic, stimulate all of the senses, and relieve stress.



Tempe Leadership is committed to designing the space, raising some funds, and to provide volunteers to begin the transformation of the space. Funds requested in this application would go toward equipment such as; a shade structure, an accessible swing, musical instruments, and activity centers. We are hoping that you will join the partnership to transform the space. There will be a permanent recognition sign for all of our partners on this project.