



THE OUTREACH ISSUE

Extending our *mission*

Outreach is rooted in intention. It is a unique opportunity to connect with older adults outside our community to share information, offer support, or build relationships. Through communication, collaboration, and resources, outreach is a strong focus of the Gardens' culture. The intentional expansion of our mission is key to maximizing our impact.

YOUR CONNECTION TO LIFE AT THE GARDENS

MORE INSIDE



Mt. San Antonio Gardens was the first community to pilot *Joyous*, a transformed dining experience for independent living communities, built on deep insights from Sodexo, a partner with the Gardens. *Joyous*, which rolled out in November, is culinary inspiration from noted chef and entrepreneur Gabe Kennedy, who shares in Sodexo's culinary philosophy of enriching lives through experiences with food that promote wellness, curiosity and community. *Joyous* translates into action, centering on connection, comfort, freedom and inspiration to celebrate the joy of living and eating well.

Joyous menus will feature globally inspired dishes such as Fall Vegetable & Walnut White Pizzetta and Chorizo, Potato & Egg Galette all made with fresh, seasonal ingredients that support heart and brain health for a wellness-driven approach.

In addition to typical dining offerings, *Joyous* also brings a curated collection of programming and events, all supported by staff who help forge connections through a hospitality-centric “savor the moment” ethos.

A 'joyous' *experience*

New dining program offers options, connection and 'savoring' moments



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a year of *expression*



“Together, we have experienced moments of tremendous growth, meaningful connection, and collective accomplishment.”

Being grateful means recognizing the value of the people, moments and accomplishments that enrich our lives. It encourages us to show appreciation and give recognition to opportunities that shape our culture.

Before we close the year, I want to highlight several awards that reflect the excellence, innovation, and stewardship that define the Gardens:

- Top 25 “Best in Wellness” Community in North America
- City of Pomona Recycling Winner
- Sodexo Showcase Account of the Year & JOYOUS Pilot Site
- Continued CMS 5-Star Rating Across All Categories

These recognitions represents the shared



PATRICIA WILLIAMS
President/CEO

commitment that makes the Gardens extraordinary.
Looking Ahead to 2026

As we enter a new year, our work continues with renewed purpose. We will advance several important initiatives—from sustainability projects such as expanded solar installations, to strengthening clinical programs, to enhancing communication across the campus. Each of these priorities is made stronger by resident involvement. Resident insights, questions, and thoughtful feedback consistently help us evolve and improve. Together, we have experienced moments of tremendous growth, meaningful connection, and collective accomplishment. Our future direction is shaped not only by staff and Board leadership, but by our residents.



A GARDEN FOR ALL TO ENJOY

a sense of *belonging*

The grand opening of our Sensory Garden—affectionately dedicated as Christine’s Garden, honoring Drs. Robert and Christine Johnson, was held in November. The celebration marked the culmination of years of visioning, persistence, and heartfelt collaboration among residents, staff, and generous benefactors.

“This new garden brings to life a dream that has been nurtured for many years at the Gardens,” said Patricia Williams, President and CEO at Mt. San Antonio Gardens. “Thanks to the generosity of those connected to our community, we’re thrilled

to see this vision realized. Our sensory garden adds to the many features and green spaces already in place at the Gardens. We are excited for the potential this opens for our community.”

Looking at the eight dimensions of wellness, environment is a key element in the overall outlook of health. Sensory gardens are widely known for engaging the senses, offering therapeutic effects, encouraging exploration, promoting inclusivity for those of all abilities, and providing educational opportunities.

“This garden opens the doors to residents to experience

the outdoors through the five senses,” Williams, said. “We have amazing staff members at the Gardens and this is also a benefit for them.”

The sensory garden will directly benefit 20 residents residing in the Gardens Green House® villas. The Green House® concept was developed in 2003 and is a small, home-like setting prioritizing dignity, autonomy, and quality of life for older adults. The Gardens is the only Green House® community in California.

Christine’s Garden is now open for all to enjoy. Visit us to embrace this special garden.

GARDENS WELLNESS RECEIVES RECOGNITION FOR HEALTH PROGRAM

nationally-ranked in *wellness*

Mt. San Antonio Gardens has been recognized with the 2025 ICAA NuStep Beacon Award, earning a place among North America's Top 25 "Best in Wellness" senior living communities.

The honor celebrates communities that put wellness at the heart of everything they do—creating places where older adults thrive in mind, body, and spirit.

"This recognition reflects the immeasurable impact of our wellness program," said Patricia Williams, President and CEO at Mt. San Antonio Gardens.

"We are proud of our commitment to a high quality of life for the residents at the Gardens and happy to carry the ranking of second in the state for this prestigious award."

Presented by the International Council on Active Aging® (ICAA) and NuStep, LLC, the Beacon Award spotlights communities that redefine what senior living can be—moving beyond care models to champion wellness, engagement, growth, and joy.



Together, ICAA and NuStep celebrate organizations that are transforming the experience of aging across North America. "The ICAA NuStep Best in Wellness Awards are more than a recognition program—they represent a benchmark for excellence in our field," said Colin Milner, CEO, International Council on Active Aging.

"By spotlighting organizations and leaders who embed wellness into every level of their culture, these awards demonstrate how wellness elevates the entire industry, setting standards that others can

aspire to and build upon."

"We are proud to recognize this year's winners for their outstanding leadership and commitment to building communities where wellness is a way of life," said Eric Sklar, CEO, NuStep. "Through their efforts, they are empowering residents to live with vitality and purpose—while inspiring meaningful change across the industry."

Earning the Beacon Award is both an achievement and an inspiration for Mt. San Antonio Gardens — a milestone that reinforces its mission to empower older adults to live fully and age actively.

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A CAMPUS WITH A SUSTAINING FOCUS

the power of *community*

This summer there was a huge increase in the number of solar panels providing electricity at the Gardens. Solar arrays are completed at the Villas and at Oak Tree Lodge. The new total amount of electricity produced annually from the Villas and the Lodge is expected to be close to 900,000 kilowatt hours (kWh). This is more than double the output of the solar arrays already producing electricity at the Gardens.

The investment in the new arrays will be repaid in about 5 years – and then continue to provide an annual benefit that will far exceed any maintenance

costs for the arrays.

The Gardens has three large arrays at other locations: the roofs on Evergreens Commons, the Cedars, and the Cedars Carport. There are also small arrays on 11 of the Taylor Drive homes. These existing arrays produce about 400,000 kWh per year and save the Gardens \$100,000 this year. In addition, the electricity produced by the Gardens arrays each year will eliminate more than 325 tons of global-warming carbon dioxide that would have been emitted into the atmosphere if the electricity came from SCE.

The number of solar panels installed for electricity



generation at the Gardens has significantly surged this summer. These projects are expected to generate 440,000 kilowatt hours. The success of these projects is a testament to the strong partnership between residents and leadership dedicated to campus sustainability.

GARDENS MAINTAINS 5-STAR RATING



best in *care*

Achieving and maintaining the prestigious 5-Star CMS rating for several consecutive years demonstrates the Gardens' unwavering dedication to excellence in health care. The 5-Star rating attributes to the superior performance in health inspections, quality measures, and staffing. "This rating confirms the exceptional care our team delivers and our commitment to our mission of ensuring a high quality of life for our residents," Lisa Atilano, COO, said.



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when Touring

5 things not to miss when
you visit the Gardens

1. The Fringe Tree

The Gardens' signature tree becomes alive in the spring. You can spot several spread throughout the 31 acres and it is worth stopping by to see it in full bloom.

2. The Koi Ponds

Did you know that we have six ponds at the Gardens? Greeting you to our community are several schools of fish. Bring the grandchildren and you can feed these with food available at the reception desk.

3. The Gardens

Not only will you find many different plants and trees that call the Gardens home, but there are three dedicated gardens. Visit the Rose, Cutting and new Sensory Gardens for the full experience.

4. The Mountain Views

What would Southern California be without a view? There are several spots to view the mountains spread throughout campus. Some residences even show off the lure of the peaks.

5. The Opportunities

Living a life of intentional fellowship is only half of the culture at the Gardens. Learning opportunities abound if you are ready to shape the next chapter of your life.

WELCOMING YOU TO THE GARDENS

meet the Team



ARIANA VILLAPUDUA

Director of Admissions

Ariana's wealth of knowledge is the key to making your dream community become a reality. She is ready to make the connection and help you feel at ease with your decision when the time is right for you.



LYDIA EARHART

Director of Marketing

Having worked in a couple of different Life Plan Communities, Lydia is someone you will want to visit with to hear why she thinks the Gardens is the best community in California. She's got many reasons to share!



JULIE KOLODGE

MARKETING/ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR

She stages, tours and does everything in her power to help you through the application process. Meet Julie and you will feel right at home and she gets excited when you find the perfect home at the Gardens.



CLAUDE BAHOUTH

MARKETING/ADMISSIONS COORDINATOR

Claude is the first voice you hear if you call to learn more. Her welcoming nature and willingness to help give a lot of prospective residents peace of mind when journeying through the process.

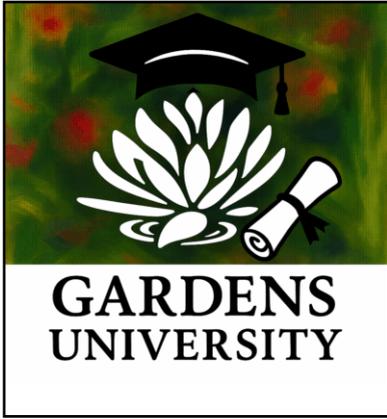


FRANK SALAS

MULTIMEDIA SPECIALIST

Lights, camera, action... is a big part of what Frank does at the Gardens. Besides sharing the lifestyle across platforms, he also gives a great tour and can speak to our emergency preparedness.

**Call 909-399-1208 to schedule a visit and tour.
We would love to meet you.**



LEARN MORE ABOUT YOUR OPTIONS

beyond the FAQs

Spend some time with us online learning about the Gardens. In this online resource center titled, "Gardens University", we go beyond the FAQs and provide information on contracts, lifestyle, the Deferred Entry Program (DEP), and more. Use the QR code to visit our page online.



SCAN ABOVE TO VIEW ONLINE

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE GARDENS

casual Fridays

Have you ever wanted to stop in at the Gardens for a tour without scheduling a time? Each first Friday of the month at noon, you can join us casually for lunch and a tour. Join us for our first Casual Friday at noon Jan. 9th. Meet us at the koi ponds near the administration building.



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Mt. San Antonio Gardens is a Life Care senior community in Claremont and Pomona, California.

The New Leaf is a newsletter for friends and family of residents, board and staff, as well as individuals who have inquired about life at the Gardens.

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