



Real Partnerships. Real Opportunities. Real Futures.

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Dutton Farm Receives \$75,000 Grant From The A.A. Van Elslander Foundation

[ROCHESTER HILLS, MI] – Dutton Farm, behavioral health service provider in Oakland County, MI committed to empowering adults with disabilities, accepted a \$75,000 grant awarded by the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation for workforce development and general programming.

Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities experience an astonishing 68% unemployment rate, affecting 5.6% of people aged 21-64 in the State of Michigan.

“It is imperative we look beyond perceived limitations and value the unique abilities and talents of individuals with disabilities in the workforce, which in turn creates inclusive communities and reduces poverty rates,” said Dutton Farm CEO Jenny Brown.

The grant recognizes the 95% job retention rate of Dutton Farm’s unique, person-centered approach to workforce development and provides an opportunity for the program to expand, reaching even more unemployed adults through skill-building and job development initiatives.

Skill-building program activities include community involvement activities related to volunteerism, consumerism, exercise, and activities on the farm related to animal care and horticulture, offering opportunities to develop individual aptitudes and independence.

Job development begins with the person served, revolving around their skills, interests, and talents, and coordinating their interests with an employer invested in their success and supportive of best practices for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

“This funding positively impacts employment outcomes by empowering and supporting adults with disabilities to live a life of purpose, inclusion and dignity,” said Brown.

About Dutton Farm

Dutton Farm is an innovative nonprofit in the behavioral health field whose mission is empowering and supporting adults with developmental disabilities to live a life of purpose,

inclusion and dignity. Through its adult education, community involvement, and workforce development programs, Dutton Farm impacts hundreds of lives both on the farm and in our communities each day. For more information, visit duttonfarm.org.

About The A.A. Van Elslander Foundation

The A.A. Van Elslander Foundation was established in 2016 by Mr. Art Van Elslander. As one of Michigan's most respected businessmen and generous philanthropists, his commitment to helping others was a cornerstone of his life's values, and defines our philanthropic agenda, providing support to Michigan-based charities benefiting children, health and human services. For more information: www.vanelslanderfoundation.org.

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