Mission & History

Camphill California is a life-sharing community where adults with and without developmental disabilities live, learn and work together. Located on six acres of land between the Santa Cruz mountains and the north shore of Monterey Bay, within walking distance of downtown Soquel. Founded in 1998, our mission is to create a community that supports all individual abilities and recognizes the potential of each person.

Dr. Karl König founded the first community of its kind for children “In need of special care” on an estate called “Camphill” in Scotland. Today, Camphill is an international movement of intentional communities and initiatives that work with children, youth and adults, practicing and promoting inclusive social change, and serving as a model of social renewal for wider society.

Donations & Support

Each year, funds from the state and federal government provide approximately 80% of our operating budget, and we rely on donations for the remaining 20%. Additionally, 100% of our capital expenses must be funded through donations.

Your donations help us:
- Grow and sustain our residential, Supported Living and Community Activities programs
- Recruit, support and train amazing volunteers and students
- Maintain our biodynamic and organic horticulture programs
- Develop our artistic and cultural programs
- Maintain the buildings and grounds of our six properties, including our vegetable and herb gardens
- Purchase and maintain vehicles to support transportation needs

All donations make an incredible impact!

Programs & Services

For eligible adults with developmental disabilities, we offer:
- Residential care
- Daytime community activities
- Individualized Supported Living Services

Residents participate in a rich array of cultural and social activities, including:
- Ongoing education
- Gardening
- Cooking & baking
- Exercise & movement
- Arts & crafts
- Community outings
- Performing arts
- Seasonal festival celebrations

Camphill California receives funding from San Andreas Regional Center, and maintains connections with other local service providers and non-profit community organizations.
Volunteers & Students

Volunteers join us from around the world, spending their time here alongside our residents in shared households. Volunteers are assigned various tasks, including assisting residents in the garden or herb crew, helping cook in the houses, or supporting activities in our artistic studios. Our volunteers make a positive difference, and have a direct impact on the lives of others in our community.

In partnership with the Camphill Academy we offer professional education and certification in Anthroposophic Social Therapy as an in-service program. Students learn how to support adults with developmental disabilities to cultivate their own individual gifts, unfold their potential and contribute to the community and the world.

For more information, visit the Camphill Academy website: camphill.edu