

**New Grant Fuels Butterfly Pavilion's Expansion of Healing Gardens to More Senior Living Facilities**  
**Public Invited to Nominate Jefferson County Care Centers to Receive Pollinator Gardens That Transform Lives**

**Westminster, CO., January 9, 2024** — Butterfly Pavilion is thrilled to announce the expansion of its *Healthy Habitats Gardening Program (HHG)* through a generous grant from Colorado Gives Foundation. This transformative initiative, which engages residents of long-term care facilities in creating pollinator-friendly gardens, will add six new Jefferson County locations in 2025–2026.

**A Legacy of Connection and Care**

Since its inception in 2002, the Healthy Habitats Gardening Program has provided social, cognitive, psychological, and physical benefits to individuals residing in facilities specializing in memory care, rehabilitation, mental health, skilled nursing, and more across the Front Range. To date, it has impacted over 3,000 individuals at more than 60 different facilities. Over the course of a year, participants at selected facilities learn about habitat gardening, engage in therapeutic horticulture, and enjoy the butterflies and blooms with guidance from Butterfly Pavilion's horticulture experts.

"The program's goal is to provide a home for Colorado butterflies and other wildlife while facilitating a connection to nature, continued education, and a route to physical and mental health in humans," said Ashley White, Community Habitats Manager at Butterfly Pavilion.

**About the Healthy Habitats Gardening Program**

The program collaborates closely with facility staff and residents to plan and install pollinator gardens tailored to each site. This is particularly valuable for memory care facilities where residents may be unable to leave unaccompanied or for individuals with disabilities that confine them to the grounds.

Each garden is uniquely designed based on the available space, accessibility needs, and the desires of the residents. Butterfly Pavilion's horticulture and education teams work together to provide hands-on programs about pollinators and gardening. Residents, many of whom have extensive gardening experience, are encouraged to share their expertise and take leadership roles in the planning process.

Butterfly Pavilion facilitates discussions, prepares the site, and leads planting days with residents, ensuring their full participation. For facilities serving low-income individuals, the program provides tools, soil amendments, and plants. Residents are gifted the tools needed to enable continued care for the garden.

"The benefits of creating a garden go beyond just building something beautiful," said White. "Nurturing the life of a plant can give us a sense of purpose, connection, and a way to be in charge of our own minds and bodies. We want to facilitate this and have learned from past HHG facilities that these garden spaces stand as a link between residents and nature and develop into significant hubs for social and physical activity."

## **How You Can Help**

From January through March 2025 and 2026, Butterfly Pavilion will accept nominations for residential care facilities in Jefferson County and other counties across Colorado to participate in the program. In April of each year, three facilities will be selected, including one existing partner and two new partners, with preference given to centers serving low-income residents.

The public can get involved by nominating facilities to be considered for the program and voting on selected locations. Visit [<https://forms.gle/d9irJMkbT1qbAMV78>] to nominate a facility and help bring this program to those who need it most.

## **A Vision for Vibrant Communities**

The Colorado Gives Foundation expressed its excitement about the initiative, "We're thrilled to announce Butterfly Pavilion as a recipient of a \$18,000 Convenient Neighborhoods Grant," said Savinay Nathan, Community Impact Vice President at Colorado Gives Foundation. "This program exemplifies our mission to foster vibrant Jeffco communities where holistic well-being and connectivity thrive. Together, we're building spaces that improve quality of life and offer lasting benefits for residents of all ages."

Butterfly Pavilion invites everyone to join this mission by nominating care facilities and supporting the creation of thriving pollinator habitats that bring nature's healing power to Jefferson County communities.

## **About Butterfly Pavilion**

Butterfly Pavilion, based in Westminster, Colorado, the world's first Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited standalone, nonprofit invertebrate zoo, inspires the appreciation and conservation of invertebrates and their ecosystems. Through innovative programs like HHGP, Butterfly Pavilion continues to connect people to nature's wonders while supporting biodiversity and community well-being.

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