

Pioneer Center Completes Pathway to Greenhouse and Garden Enhancements

We are proud to announce the completion of our new pathway to our greenhouse and garden area, a space designed to nurture growth, connection, and opportunity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

After securing donations from longstanding donors and partners to complete the walkway, construction began in late summer and was completed in early October 2026. During the project, Master Gardeners from the University of Illinois Extension program helped Pioneer Center secure a donated composting system for the area behind the greenhouse. The new composting system allows us to transform everyday organic waste into nutrient-rich material that supports healthy plant growth. The enhanced greenhouse and garden space will provide year-round therapeutic enrichment opportunities through seasonal horticultural and gardening activities, including winter seeding initiatives that extend the growing season beyond traditional planting months.

We are excited to see how these enhancements will strengthen existing programs such as our Culinary Club, Healthy Matters Club, and Residential Services, extending the impact of the garden into everyday life and wellness. Looking ahead, Pioneer Center hopes to introduce a micro-farmer's market as part of the **2027 Spring Craft Fair**, creating new opportunities for community engagement and skill development.

These projects, programs, and enhancements would not be possible without the generous support of our donors, volunteers, and community partners.

Thank you for helping this vision take root and continue to grow.

