

Peppermint Ridge



CELEBRATING
65
YEARS
OF
DEDICATED SERVICE

Celebrating 65 Years of Heart, Home, and Hope



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Letter From Executive Director

Celebrating 65 Years of Heart and Home at Peppermint Ridge

Sixty-five years. That's how long Peppermint Ridge has been here — providing homes, services, and unwavering support for individuals with developmental disabilities. A milestone like this speaks not just to endurance, but to a legacy built on love, vision, and community.

Honoring Our Founders

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to our founders, Bob and Mary Jeffrey. Driven by a dream for their son, Roger, they built a foundation strong enough to support generations of men and women who would come to call The Ridge home.

Their leadership — and the leadership of many others — helped raise the walls. Our volunteers and generous donors helped put roofs over heads. And our devoted staff brought warmth and life into each space, creating homes filled with care and compassion.

A Community Effort

Over the decades, families, friends, and neighbors have opened doors and brought light into the lives of our Ridgers. Thousands of people have touched Peppermint Ridge in some way, leaving behind a legacy of commitment and love that continues to sustain us in both good times and difficult ones.

Because of you, hundreds of Ridgers have found more than just shelter — they've found belonging. And perhaps, in turn, they've built a home in your heart as well.

What It Means to Be a Ridger

At Peppermint Ridge, once someone walks through our doors, they become a "Ridger." For those of us who work here, that means we are dedicated to ensuring their happiness, health, and safety. Every decision we make — every activity planned, every resource used — is guided by our mission: to help each Ridger live a fulfilling life for as long as they choose to call The Ridge home.

Partners in Empowerment

As supporters, advocates, and friends, you walk beside us. Your generosity, time, and passion help empower Ridgers to enjoy a full life today — and look forward to a hopeful future.

Together, we're not just marking 65 years — we're celebrating every life, every story, and every step forward. Thank you for being part of the journey.



Danette McCarns
Executive Director

Who We Are

Peppermint Ridge is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing compassionate, person-centered care to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Located in Corona, California, we operate 12 homes and additional independent living services throughout the community where each individual — whom we call "Ridgers" — is supported to live with dignity, joy, and a sense of belonging.



2024 Peppermint Ridge Leadership and Administrative Team

2024 Board Of Directors

George Guayante
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Brian Young
Jim Steiner
C.C. Vest
Susie Rawson
Karen Maldonado
Kristie Reardon

Jacquetta Adewole
Julie Fredrickson
Dave Seltzer
Sandy Klein
Karl Stager
Stuart Hartman
Joe Pendergast

For more than 65 years, Peppermint Ridge has provided a place where individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are supported, valued, and empowered to thrive. This legacy continues thanks to a dedicated team of caregivers, staff, families, and community partners who work together to meet each Ridger's needs with compassion and purpose. As Board Chair, I am proud to join our Executive Director and leadership team in strengthening this mission. With a shared focus on stability, innovation, and heart, we are committed to building a strong future for the next 65 years and beyond.

George Guayante
Chair, Board of Directors
Peppermint Ridge



In 2024, Peppermint Ridge proudly celebrates **65 years** of dedicated service to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since opening our doors in 1959, we have remained rooted in our mission to provide a safe, loving, and empowering environment where individuals can thrive with dignity and independence. What began as a bold vision has grown into a vibrant community of 12 homes, each filled with compassion, connection, and opportunity. Our legacy is reflected in the lives we've touched—some of our residents have been part of The Ridge for decades—and in the unwavering commitment of our staff, families, and supporters who believe in the potential of every individual we serve.

This milestone is not ours alone. It belongs to everyone—**donors, volunteers, community partners, and advocates**—whose generosity has made our work possible year after year. We are deeply grateful for your trust, your partnership, and your shared belief in a more inclusive world. As we honor the past and look ahead to the future, we carry forward the same passion that guided our founding, strengthened by the love and support that have sustained us for 65 years. Thank you for being part of our story.



Peppermint Ridge

Empowering Individuals with Developmental Disabilities Since 1959



Community Involvement

At Peppermint Ridge, community is at the heart of everything we do. Throughout the year, generous volunteers from schools, churches, businesses, and civic groups give their time and energy to support The Ridge—helping with special events, assisting in homes, tending gardens, and most importantly, building meaningful relationships with our residents. Their involvement fosters a deep sense of belonging and creates moments of joy and connection that go far beyond service hours.

Our residents are also proud and active members of the broader Corona community. Through programs like our Recycling Club and Tree Planting Team, clients contribute to a cleaner, greener environment while building life skills and confidence. Whether volunteering at food banks, participating in community clean-ups, or lending a hand at local nonprofits, our residents are always eager to give back. These reciprocal relationships reflect the true spirit of inclusion and help break down barriers between people with developmental disabilities and the communities they live in.



We would like to thank you for the time you have dedicated towards the newest additions to the City of Corona's Urban Forest!

The 105 trees that you helped us add along Via Pacifica will reduce carbon emissions, provide valuable habitats, and give our community shade and environmental cooling for years to come.

city of
Corona

Thank you!



Peppermint Ridge

ACTIVITIES

DEPT.

At Peppermint Ridge, every resident enjoys a life filled with **friendship, joy, and discovery**. Our Activities Department brings that, and more through outings to theme parks, sports events, theaters, museums, and community festivals. These are some of the ways our residents stay active, included, and engaged.

Holidays are shared together, from the excitement of Fourth of July festivities to the warmth of Thanksgiving and Christmas gatherings. The Ridge is more than just a place to live — it's a true extended family.

The Activities Department is funded by Peppermint Ridge, because we believe every Ridger deserves opportunities for joy, connection, and personal growth.

Residents enjoy a full calendar of engaging activities designed to enrich daily life. Weekends often include local outings and adventures, creating memorable experiences and lasting bonds.

At The Ridge, life isn't just supported — it's celebrated.





Our Ridgers stayed active and connected all year long. These experiences spark joy, build confidence, and create lasting memories, keeping our mission of empowering fulfilling lives at the heart of everything we do.

🍃 Voices from The Ridge

Residents share what makes Peppermint Ridge a true home and community.

"I really like The Ridge because I love going on outings. I love the staff and its a nice place to live. I love the activities."



Bret

"I moved to the Ridge in June 2024; I have been a client of IRC for 29 years, and I think Peppermint Ridge is by far the best place I have lived. The staff, the activities, and the environment make it a special place."



Leah

"I liked going to camp and all the other things we do at Peppermint Ridge. I'm excited to go to camp again."



Claude

"I enjoy being out in the community on outings with my peers."

I enjoy celebrating the holidays with the Ridge because it feels like one family."



Hali

Family Perspective



The Power of Family Support

At Peppermint Ridge, the unwavering support of our residents' families plays a vital role in everything we do. **Families are not just part of the circle of support — they're a vital part of our community.** Their trust, involvement, and advocacy help us create a nurturing environment where residents feel valued, understood, and at home. As we look to the future, continued partnership with families will be essential to expanding our programs, opening new homes, and ensuring each individual we serve has the opportunity to thrive.

“

Peppermint Ridge really impresses me in that, not only do they meet Alissa's physical and medical needs, they provide a full social life for her through the relationships she has built with her co-residents and staff, and all of the activities she attends.

— Linda Stager

”

“

It's hard to express how grateful we feel to have found a community such as Peppermint Ridge for our daughter Chelsea. She is so happy living there. And we have peace of mind knowing she is cared for in a loving, safe and secure home. It has been a blessing for our entire family.

— Laura Seltzer

”

Peppermint Possibilities Gala

Our 2024 Peppermint Possibilities gala was a night to remember as we came together to celebrate 65 years of compassionate care and community at Peppermint Ridge. Held in honor of this incredible milestone, **the evening brought together supporters, families, and friends for an unforgettable celebration.** Guests enjoyed a delicious sit-down dinner, while the atmosphere was brought to life with performances by our very own Rejoicer Choir — whose joyful voices reminded us all why The Ridge exists. Attendees browsed an impressive silent auction, participated in an exciting live auction, and tried their luck with fun raffles, all in support of the individuals we serve.

The generosity of our community sparkled brightly throughout the evening, helping us raise **nearly \$180,000** to directly benefit the programs and services at Peppermint Ridge. The night also included meaningful moments of recognition, as we presented several awards to individuals and partners whose dedication has helped shape our journey over the past six and a half decades. Peppermint Possibilities 2024 was a heartfelt tribute to the mission, the people, and the possibilities that continue to guide us forward. We are beyond grateful to everyone who helped make this celebration so impactful and inspiring; including our 2024 Gala Chair Celeste Hartman.



Financials

Peppermint Ridge remains committed to responsible stewardship of the funds entrusted to us.

In 2024, our financial health was supported by a balanced blend of individual contributions, program income, and generous grant funding. We are proud to highlight the grants received this year, which played a vital role in advancing our mission to support adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This snapshot reflects both our dedication to transparency and our ongoing investment in high-quality care and services.



FINANCIALS BY THE NUMBERS

Revenue

Program and Service Fees	\$10,103,364	87.6%
Contributions	\$514,046	4.5%
Rent (HUD)	\$66,441	0.6%
Special Events	\$210,579	1.8%
Peppermint Possibilities	\$193,654	1.7%
Other Income	\$446,560	3.9%
Total Revenue:	\$11,534,644	

Expenses

Program Services	\$9,960,526	83.0%
Support Services		
- Management and General	\$1,774,696	14.8%
- Fund Raising	\$258,950	2.2%
Total Support Services	\$2,033,646	17.0%
Total Operating Expense:	\$11,994,172	

Grants

Charities Aid Foundation (3M)
CBO Reimbursement
Circle City Rotary
City of Corona CDBG
Corona Rotary
County of Riverside CID
Dermody Properties
Suzi Boyle Giving Foundation
Whole Foods
Carl E. Wynn Foundation

Future Goals: What's Next?



Thank You

Thanks to the inaugural “Golden Ticket” grant from Circle City Rotary, we’ve begun construction on a permanent outdoor space at Peppermint Ridge called **Circle City Rotary Square**. With site clearing complete and framing underway, our next goal is to finish construction and start hosting gatherings, joy-filled events like talent shows, movie nights, and fundraisers. This space will become a vibrant centerpiece for connection, creativity, and community celebration.

Looking Towards the Future:

01.

To ensure our programs remain strong and sustainable, we will grow our Peppermint Partners monthly donor program and expand our base of foundation and corporate support. By diversifying revenue and building reliable, recurring funding streams, we can continue to offer consistent, high-quality care and services for the people who depend on us.

02.

As the need for essential compassionate care continues to grow, we are committed to welcoming more residents into our community. In 2025, our goal is to reach full occupancy across all homes, ensuring that every available space is used to provide a safe, supportive, and enriching environment for individuals with developmental disabilities.

03.

To address aging infrastructure, especially in our main campus homes, we are prioritizing renovation and repair to ensure safe, comfortable, and modern living spaces.



Our Donors

\$100,000 - \$150,000

Carl E Wynn Foundation
Jean Bellwood

\$25,000 - \$49,999

City of Corona
Dan and C.C. Vest
Jim and Patricia Wheeler

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Jorge and Barbara Aranguren
Richard and Shirley Carroll
Downs Energy/Fuel the Cause
Terence and Jane Gibson
Sharon Guzy
Timothy and Julie Lietaert
Danette McCarns
Mark and Elaine Norland
Susan Reed
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Thomas Miller Mortuary and Crematory

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Charities Aid Foundation of America
Circle City Rotary Club
Mark Daniels
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Robert and Linda Hemborg
Judy Morrill
Don and Teresa Peck
Retirement Housing Foundation
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The Howard & Nikki Applebaum Foundation
William and Christa Wilk

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Access Services, Plus
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Kiran Agrey
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Palbinder Badesha
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Teri Boge
Kathy Bonney
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Circle City Trade Group LLC dba Chkn 'n Wafflez
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 Wes and Mary Speake
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 Janet Steiner

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 The Woman's Improvement Club of Corona
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\$500 - \$999

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 Jeff Gausepohl
 Norman and Linda Goetsch
 Bob and Diane Grich
 Mandie Hamilton



At Peppermint Ridge, we're grateful
 for community groups, donors, and
 supporters like Downs Energy/Fuel
 The Cause whose generosity helps us
 provide lifelong care and empowering
 opportunities. for adults with I/DD.



HobbyTown
 Mark and Sheri Hoffman
 Knights of Columbus-Corona Council #3687
 KSL Corona Valencia Terrace
 Susan Kussin
 Dan and Judith Lambert
 Robert Lane
 Deidre Langley
 Rebecca Loomis
 Love All - Serve All, Inc.
 Manhattan Beach Community Church-WF
 Mitchell McDowell
 William Mellor
 Patricia Miller
 Montebello Plymouth Congregational Church
 Steven and Barbara Ogilvie
 Joseph and Laura Pendergast
 Randall and Suzanne Rawson
 Rochelle Reese
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 Ryan Stager

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 Isabel Tejada
 Albert Vega
 Brian and Kimberly Young
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\$100 - \$499

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 Azure Hills Seventh-Day Adventist Church
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Ursula Dube
Elk Lodge Charity
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First Congregational Church of Corona
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Inspire Life Skills Training, Inc.
Jose Lalas for School Board 2020
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Knights of Columbus -Riverside Council #12213
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Shirley Towler-Hayes
United Way-Los Angeles
James and Christine Vigneau
Gregory and Lisa Whitton
Karen Worden
Cynthia A. Wright
Michael and Nancee Zeller

Every Gift Sustains a Lifeline of Support

Your generosity reflected in these page is the engine that powers our mission.

Each donation directly fuels the care, dignity, and lifelong support that Peppermint Ridge provides to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Your support keeps our homes active, our empowering services strong, and our community thriving. Because of you, the ridgers are able to live with joy, dignity, and sense of security. Thank you for being an essential part of this work.





2024 Peppermint Partners

Doreen Bryant
 Mary Cox
 Elizabeth Discoe
 Robert and Margaret Dudley
 Steven and Lori Dwight
 Rance and Kathi Garrett
 Terence and Jane Gibson
 Dana Gonzalez
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2024 Guardian Circle

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 Jean Bellwood
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 Sharon Guzy

Barbara Joy
 Mark and Elaine Norland
 Janet Rozner
 Vincent and Beverly Scott
 David and Laura Seltzer
 Max and Connie Trenkle
 G.R. Woods





❖ Contact Us

We're here to answer your questions and guide you through the journey of joining the Peppermint Ridge community. Whether you're a prospective resident, a family member, or a partner, feel free to reach out to us.

Donate. Volunteer. Advocate.



Contact Information



Phone
(951) 273-7320



Email
info@peppermintridge.org



Website
www.peppermintridge.org



Instagram
@PeppermintRidge

Office Information

Main Campus

825 Magnolia Ave, Corona, CA 92879

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and
Public Holidays

SINCE 1959 EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Peppermint Ridge



CORONA, CALIFORNIA

