



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TRANSITIONS-MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
RAISING FUNDS FOR A MATCHING GRANT**

Santa Maria, CA – Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA) is raising funds to receive a matching grant for \$10,000 from an anonymous donor. TMHA has until December 31st to receive the matching funds. The grant will benefit the Growing Grounds Farm in Santa Maria.

Growing Grounds Farm is a small business that does double-duty as an employment program. This program provides horticultural therapy, vocational training, independent living skills and paid employment annually to over 40 people with a severe mental illness. The grant will pay for client wages and staff at Growing Grounds Farm, which relies solely on sales and community support.

A way for the community to help raise funds is by attending the third annual Harvest Festival on Saturday, October 16th from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Farm located at 820 West Foster Road in Santa Maria.

“This is a fun family event and a great way to support the farm and the people who depend on it for employment and horticultural therapy,” said Frank Ricceri, Associate Director at TMHA who oversees Northern Santa Barbara County programs. “You can enjoy delicious chicken barbeque beneath the shady trees. Our farm stand will have produce and plants for sale at the event.” All money raised at the Harvest Festival will go toward the matching grant.

There is no charge to attend and barbeque tickets are \$10 each for adults and \$5 for children 10 and under. For more information on the event, or to purchase barbeque tickets, please call 805-540-6594.

**ABOUT T-MHA**

Transitions-Mental Health Association is a non-profit organization that helps children and adults live, work and grow in our community. TMHA operates 27 programs at over 35 locations that reach over 2,000 people and 1,500 families in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties. The emphasis of TMHA's many services is to teach vital independent living skills, and build a framework for community re-entry through personal empowerment and hands on experience. For over 30 years, T-MHA has been dedicated to providing housing, employment, case management and life-skills support to teens and adults with mental illness; and support, resources and education for their loved ones. For more information, visit [www.T-MHA.org](http://www.T-MHA.org).

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