



## **TERI Receives \$3 Million Challenge Grant from Tom and Mary Tomlinson Foundation to Support Completion of TERI Campus of Life**

SAN MARCOS, Calif. (November 20, 2025) — TERI, a leading nonprofit dedicated to serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, has received a \$3 million challenge grant from the Tom and Mary Tomlinson Foundation. This commitment accelerates the final phase of construction for the TERI Campus of Life — a first-of-its-kind community designed to empower individuals and families of all abilities through education, enrichment, and inclusion.

The grant will be distributed over three years at \$1 million per year and is unlocked through a 2:1 match. For every \$2 raised by TERI's supporters, \$1 will be contributed by the Tom and Mary Tomlinson Foundation.

“The Tom and Mary Tomlinson Foundation has stood with TERI for decades, fueling our vision to transform lives,” says Cheryl Kilmer, Founder and CEO of TERI Campus of Life. “Their challenge grant ensures TERI’s innovative model of care can be replicated, amplifying hope for generations to come and impacting countless families who need lifelong, individualized care.”

One in six children in the U.S. live with a developmental disability, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and the 20-acre TERI Campus of Life is a nationally recognized community redefining what is possible for individuals with autism and other disabilities.

TERI was founded on the belief that a person’s ability to function in the world does not only depend on how their brain and body work, but rather on the environment they live in – a supportive environment, tailored to their needs to help individuals live as independently as possible. Since 1980, TERI has been a lifeline for children, adults, and families, providing personalized, evidence-based programs and support that foster growth, independence, and joy.

The completion of the TERI Campus of Life will allow TERI to move their schools and gym from their Oceanside location to San Marcos. TERI purchased the land for the Campus of Life with one goal – to unite their programs and services alongside the community into a purpose-built environment designed for growth, connection, and opportunity.

Today, half the Campus is built and thriving, including operations for TERI's adult day programs and equine therapy. It also serves as a welcoming place for the community with casual dining at TERI Common Grounds Café & Coffee Bar and live entertainment at The Bornemann Theatre, all open to the public. These sustaining social enterprises – along with TERI Venue Rentals, Catering, and TERI Farms – generate revenue to help maintain TERI's high-quality programs, lower operating costs, and fund their growing services to support families caring for loved ones with special needs throughout their lifespan.

Every gift toward the Tom and Mary Tomlinson Foundation Challenge accelerates TERI's ability to finish the Campus and expand programs for those who urgently need them.

To learn more or contribute to this fundraising effort, visit [tericampusoflife.org/donate](http://tericampusoflife.org/donate).

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#### **About TERI**

Since 1980, TERI (Training, Education, & Resource Institute) has been pioneering quality of life and inclusive opportunities where none existed for the special needs community, empowering children, adults, and seniors to live their best life. The nonprofit provides state-recognized services in education, vocational training, residential support services, and enrichment programs that promote lifelong inclusion and independence. The 20-acre TERI Campus of Life in San Marcos, Calif., is a visionary hub for TERI's mission-driven businesses (café, theatre, venue rentals, farm), public events, and community gatherings, in addition to being the home of TERI's 20-plus programs that are the gold standard in behavioral care. Learn more at [www.tericampusoflife.org](http://www.tericampusoflife.org).