

twin cities

CHURCH



11726 Rough & Ready Hwy.
Grass Valley, CA 95945
TwinCitiesChurch.com
530.273.6425

Dear NID Board of Directors,

June 21, 2013

My name is John Fairchild, and I am one of the pastors at Twin Cities Church. Twin Cities Church is one of the largest churches in the county, and also one of the most active in the community. I have personally lived here in Western Nevada County for ten years now, and our church building on the Rough and Ready Highway has been occupied for just over 8 years. During that time we have had great opportunity to get to know George Loftus, and benefit from both him and his farm, Sunsmile Farms.

We have seen George and his farm play a vital role in our community, and we respond with great sadness and disappointment when hearing that George and his farm may put out of business. George has been an active member in supporting the community in so many ways that go beyond the farming itself. He has allowed Twin Cities Church to stage our annual "Run for the Community" (one of the larger local Grand Prix racing series races) for the past seven years through his farm, giving people a wonderful and beautiful "cross country" course in the middle of the run. Not only has George been willing to open up his farm for our use free of charge, but he has personally put in dozens of hours each year helping us prepare the part of the course that runs through his farm. Each year he has actively sought my advice on how he could improve conditions for the run, including grading of the course, extensive mowing, and moving many pieces of farming equipment to open up the course. George has often taken pictures for us (again, no charge), and even had his employees on the course to cheer on runners and participate in an uplifting way. Thinking about holding the Run for the Community and NOT going through Sunsmile Farms is almost unthinkable.

George and Sunsmile Farms also support the community in many other ways. Each year (when he has been in full production) he has donated fresh farm food to many causes and organizations, holding up the value of healthy nutrition and eating for children, families and all people. He is a generous donor of his resources and time, and places like our local schools, food banks, and homeless shelters have been recipients of his generosity and good will.

Over the years George has also grown and donated many fresh grown flowers that he has planted and cultivated to community organizations like Hospice of the Foothills. He has been eager to share the fruit of his labor with the sick, the elderly and the dying, and his fruit and flowers have been enjoyed by so many. Often George seeks no recognition for ANY of the donations and services he provides, and we have practically had to twist his arm to get him to allow us to mention his name, or put his logo on some of our communication/recognition pieces.

And last but not least George has provided a huge service through the actual farm itself, providing a very valuable service through offering a high quality CSA, and ongoing locally grown whole food produce. Offering "U-Pick" opportunities in the past (cherries, berries, peaches, et al) has allowed our younger generation the chance to experience real life farming, which is a far cry from their general technology heavy lifestyle. It has been a delight for hundreds of families (thousands?), and has enriched our lives.

George and Sunsmile Farms are a big part of our community, and I can't say enough about how much he gives to help make us who we are as a community. He is a valued asset in so many ways, and he would be sorely missed if he is put out of business.

Sincerely,

John Fairchild

Pastor, Twin Cities Church

