



# Together We Bloom 2024 Newsletter

Year Two at TWB has been nothing short of extraordinary! We've been deeply inspired by the incredible community members we have met in our programming, bringing fresh energy and passion to our mission. This year, our outreach and impact have grown significantly, and we remain profoundly grateful for the unwavering support and enthusiasm that fuels our work.

The past year has reinforced just how vital our efforts are and revealed countless opportunities to make our towns and communities more accessible and inclusive. Together, we are creating meaningful change, and we're excited to continue this journey with you.

## Highlights of 2024

So far this year we've:

- **Completed 10 assemblies** for elementary students on neurodiversity and perspective taking
- Provided **over \$3,000 of sliding scale scholarships for language therapy for kids with disabilities**, making our neurodiversity-affirming SLP services more equitable and accessible.
- Designed and implemented **accessibility & inclusivity initiatives for the Maplewoodstock music festival attended by 10,000+ people.**
- Hosted the first **Neuroqueer Pride** area at the North Jersey Pride festival with over **300 people utilizing the sensory-inclusive spaces.**
- Supported accessibility and inclusion for 5 local events.
- **Grew our volunteer team to over 50 community members.**
- Hosted **“Disability Is Not a Bad Word” Panel** for the public featuring disability self-advocates and parent-advocates.
- Grew our leadership team and representation of individuals with lived experiences of disability by launching an **advisory board** with an open call for members.

To learn more and support this vital work  
please visit our website:

[www.TogetherWeBloom.org](http://www.TogetherWeBloom.org)

## What's Ahead for 2025?

In the next year, with the support of our community, TWB will...

- Expand access to speech-language therapy with ongoing **sliding scale scholarships**
- Launch our **“NeuroBelonging” initiatives** including community and support for Neuroqueer youth and their families
- Partner with **local libraries** to create accessible spaces and disability book lists
- Continue to partner with SOMA Peer Support + Action Network for IEP Families on **initiatives to broaden the local equity conversation** to include neurodiversity and disability, as well as the intersection of disability with race, gender identity, and other marginalized groups
- Expanding our **partnerships with local schools and businesses and places of worship** to be more accessible and inclusive to individuals with disabilities
- Provide more **school-based assemblies** to talk about neurodiversity and disability with kids.

Together We Bloom is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.



Sensory inclusive supports at Pride and Maplewoodstock

# 2024 TWB in Action!

"I can't begin to explain how thankful we are to have TWB in our lives! ... TWB's work goes beyond language and has helped us create a relationship with our daughter where she gets to be proud of her differences and being herself."

**~Parent of TWB client**



ASL Interpreter & Deaf Access Area at Pride

"Grateful that you were there. So nice to have a quieter place to take a break. I often feel on the outside at these events since I experience them so differently than others I know. It was so nice to have a place to stop by,,,where I didn't just have to try to adapt to challenging surroundings."

**~Community member on the impact our sensory-friendly space at the Pride festival**



Neuroqueer Pride area and volunteers

Maplewoodstock Social Story (one of the accessibility resource created by TWB)

## I'm Going to Maplewoodstock



A Social Story of  
Music, Community, and Belonging

By  
**Together We Bloom**  
CONNECTION • COMMUNICATION • COMMUNITY