

# Embracing Accessibility for Everyone

**Phil and Sarah Hallstedt**

Co-Founders: HH Cherries  
Northport, MI  
[Sarah@hhcherries.net](mailto:Sarah@hhcherries.net)

## The Opportunity

We were caught off guard when a visitor arrived to “see” the orchard who was blind. We felt ill-equipped at first, and he educated us in embracing inclusivity for all.

We now seek to embrace our value of “Access” to everyone visiting the orchard, including those that are deaf, blind, autistic or with other needs..

## The Goal

Embrace our value of “Access” to everyone visiting the orchard, especially those that are deaf, blind or autistic.

## HH Values

- Land: The wonder of Leelanau
- Access: Each person feels valued and safe, thus able to relax and enjoy their time here.
- Joy: ...be joyful and share joy with all

## Phases

**1**

**Become Aware:** Be aware to ask “What do our guests need to fully experience our farm?”

**2**

**Engage:** Recognize each person’s unique needs. Seek your local Centers for Independent Living (CIL) for guidance and resources.

**3**

**Implement:** Develop programing that benefits ALL senses.

- Edible flowers
- Tactile displays
- Hiking paths with inclusive signage

**4**

**Improve:** Engage steering team of audience and experts to generate new experiences and educate others.

Ask us about Paul, Gloria, Brandon and John

## Key Learnings

- 1) A uniform approach does not exist; each person will have unique and special needs.
- 2) You do not know someone else’s needs or how to fulfill them. Be confident to ask.
- 3) Identify your motivator and embrace it. For HH, it is our values of Access and Joy
- 4) Seek experts to assist

## Next Steps

- Form a non-profit to secure assistance for special requests.
- Communicate resources to those in need of assistance.
- Engage steering team

