HIDDEN DISABILITYY SUNFLOWER

Growing a More Inclusive Community, One Sunflower Friend at a Time

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower is growing throughout Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio as more local organizations commit to creating welcoming, inclusive spaces for people with hidden disabilities.

HARTFORD, Ohio — April 11, 2026. What began as an effort to introduce the Hidden Disabilities Sunflower to our community is quickly becoming something much bigger.



The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower helps raise awareness that not every disability is visible. By choosing to wear the Sunflower, someone can discreetly indicate that they may need additional time, patience, understanding, or support.

Through this initiative, Willy's World is helping bring that awareness into everyday community spaces across Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio, creating more places where individuals and families with hidden disabilities feel welcomed, understood, and supported.

Sharon Speedway Becomes a Sunflower Friend

This spring, Sharon Speedway became a Sunflower Friend, taking another step toward creating a welcoming and inclusive experience for individuals and families with hidden disabilities. Speedway staff received training to better understand the Sunflower and how they can support guests who may need additional assistance, patience, or understanding.

The initiative builds on the inclusive opportunities already offered through the Willy's World Kids Club and family events at Sharon Speedway. Together, these efforts are helping make the Speedway a place where children and families of all abilities can participate, connect, and enjoy being part of the racing community.

A sunflower can say what someone may not be able to.

It can signal that a person may need additional time, patience, understanding, or support.

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Since introducing the initiative at Sharon Speedway, the network of Sunflower Friends supported by Willy's World has continued to grow.

Lucas & Adkins Law Firm participated in Hidden Disabilities Sunflower training and received a Willy's World Sunflower Friend Grant. Their team learned more about hidden disabilities, what the Sunflower represents, and how small accommodations can make a meaningful difference for the people they serve. The firm later donated the grant amount back to Willy's World, allowing that support to continue helping others in our community.

PHN Charitable Foundation has also joined the movement, helping expand Sunflower awareness into healthcare settings. This commitment creates another important opportunity for individuals with hidden disabilities to feel recognized and supported in places they visit for care and services.

Most recently, Diehl Automotive of Hermitage became a Sunflower Friend as part of its growing community partnership with Willy's World. Employees will receive training and learn practical ways to better support individuals and families with hidden disabilities during their experience at the dealership.

A race track, law firm, healthcare organization, and automotive dealership may serve the community in very different ways, but they share an important opportunity: to create spaces where people with hidden disabilities are met with greater awareness, patience, and understanding.

One Sunflower Friend at a Time

Every new Sunflower Friend creates another opportunity for someone with a hidden disability to feel understood and supported in their own community.