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## *Seguin Gardens & Gifts*

*Seguin Gardens & Gifts* was inspired by Seguin's Horticultural Therapy program. *Seguin Gardens & Gifts* provides a state-of-the-art environment for the Horticultural Therapy program, which was designed for people with developmental disabilities, including those with multiple sensory and physical impairments as well as medical conditions. *Seguin Gardens & Gifts*, a business initiative of SEGUINWORKS, offers opportunities for vocational training as well as creating jobs for hard-to-employ adults with developmental disabilities. *Seguin Gardens & Gifts* functions as a complementary venture to the Seguin Auto Center, another entrepreneurial business of SEGUINWORKS, bringing in much needed discretionary income for Seguin through its sales and service fees. Additional benefits to participants include improved physical mobility, enhanced social skills, increased levels of relaxation and reduction of stress—and ultimately increased self-esteem and sense of self-worth from their involvement in the *Gardens & Gifts* project.

*Seguin Gardens & Gifts* operates as a retail garden center, selling both indoor and outdoor plants, as well as other products (pots, mulch, small garden implements, potting soil) used in outdoor gardens and indoor plant maintenance. The store focuses on do-it-yourself home gardeners. The plants for sale range from annuals to perennials, seasonal vegetables to porch plants, and herbs to hanging plants. In addition *Seguin Gardens & Gifts* markets seasonally based product lines that capitalize on special holidays and seasonal events. This initiative offers a wide range of gift-giving merchandise, as well as providing hands-on garden-related classes to the community.



Seguin Services is a charitable not-for-profit agency serving metropolitan Chicago, always striving to integrate, enrich, and empower people with disabilities. Seguin lives its mission of “supporting adults and children with disabilities and other special needs, enabling them to be productive, valued members of society.” Seguin Services and its SEGUINWORKS initiatives have long been recognized as a pacesetter among its peers in the area of job creation and economic development, as well as an innovative leader in providing work opportunities for the adults with disabilities they serve. Seguin also provides residential opportunities that lead to greater independence for adults with disabilities, so that men and women with developmental disabilities can live, work, and socialize as their neighbors do. In addition, Seguin helps to find safe and loving homes for children who have disabilities and serious medical or emotional conditions.

