In the Sundial Community Garden, there is a feeling of peace, welcoming and community. Maybe it has something to do with the eye-catching red-gold sunflowers smiling down on you as you stroll past, or with the nasturtiums and borage nodding their colorful heads. But there is even more to the beauty of Sundial than meets the eye. Here at Growing Places, we know that the garden is truly a reflection of the welcoming spirit of the ladies who garden there.

The bright colors and positive vibes are only two of the many reasons why we chose to put the spotlight on Sundial. We appreciate their creativity and passion for gardening. Besides being dappled by the many flowers growing throughout, the garden holds a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, like asparagus, celery and cherry tomatoes — proof that its gardeners are committed and innovative growers.

This issue, we would like to offer special recognition to Mary Ellen, who has been a joy to have in the Sundial garden and in the Fitchburg community. Mary Ellen is so like the beautiful butterflies she adores—a natural facilitator, spreading her passion for community and environmental work everywhere she goes, including, we’re sure, her soon-to-be home in NY. Thank you, M.E., for all you’ve done; you inspire our whole community to bloom!