



Allegheny Valley School PERSPECTIVES

Vol. 24 No. 1
Spring/Summer 2010

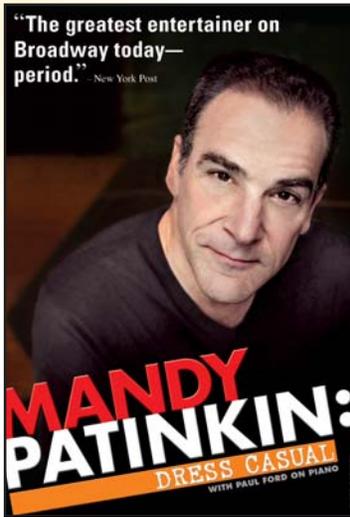
Providing community residential environments and therapeutic programs throughout Pennsylvania for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL NEWS

Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration to feature **Mandy Patinkin: Dress Casual With Paul Ford on Piano**

This fall, Allegheny Valley School (AVS) will celebrate 50 Years of Caring. Since 1960, AVS has been providing services to children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). To commemorate this occasion, AVS is hosting the *Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration* featuring Mandy Patinkin in *Mandy Patinkin: Dress Casual With Paul Ford on Piano*. This fund-raising event will be held on Wednesday, October 6 at the Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh. Honorary Chairpersons are Greta and Art Rooney, II.

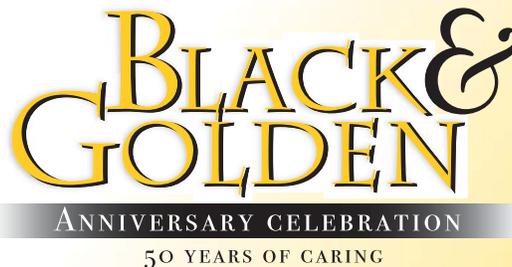
To some fans, he's the Tony Award-winning revolutionary from *Evita* who grew into a bonafide Broadway star in *Sunday in the Park with George*. To others, he's FBI profiler Jason Gideon from CBS' *Criminal Minds* or Emmy Award-winning Best Actor, Dr. Jeffrey Geiger from *Chicago Hope*. To some, he's Madonna's piano man in *Dick Tracy* or the scholar who made Streisand swoon in *Yentl*. And to others still, he will always be the man whose name is Inigo Montoya, the



swashbuckling swordsman in *The Princess Bride*.

But whichever role you know him for, Mandy Patinkin's favorite is reaching out to live audiences with the power and the passion of popular song. He belongs to the special breed of singer who doesn't merely dramatize songs, but incorporates them into his very being. *Mandy Patinkin: Dress Casual* presents the acclaimed actor/singer/storyteller in his most electrifying role: concert performer. "Mandy Patinkin is in the business of showstopping," raves The New Yorker, and that's exactly what he does in this powerful, passionate evening of popular song. From Irving Berlin to Stephen Sondheim, from Cole Porter to Harry Chapin, Mandy Patinkin takes you on a dazzling musical journey you'll never forget.

We hope you will join us on Wednesday, October 6 for an enjoyable evening of celebration and song. Courtesy of the Pittsburgh Steelers and AVS, a premium raffle



See "Mandy Patinkin" continued on page 7.

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) presented by Shop 'n Save celebrated its 28th year. The PVGP presented 10 days of vintage sports car racing, car shows and motorsport activities to delight the quarter million fans during the July 16-25 Race Week.

At Allegheny Valley School, proceeds from the Grand Prix help to purchase much needed equipment, improve facilities, expand programming and so much more. For the Autism Society of Pittsburgh the proceeds help provide a comprehensive array of autism-specific information, referral and advocacy services to families and professionals.

Look for more information regarding the 2010 event in the Fall/Winter issue of *Perspectives* or visit www.pvgp.org.



Friends of AVS Golf Open

The Friends of AVS Golf Open Presented by AVS Foundation will be held on Monday, August 16 at Churchill Valley Country Club. Proceeds from the event will be contributed to the AVS Capital Development Fund to help maintain and improve the services we provide to more than 900 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. There are many ways to participate including sponsorships, underwriting opportunities, golfing, donating or dining with us. For more information or to register for the event please call (412) 299-7777 or visit our website at www.avs.net. We hope to see you on the links!

*Those who sponsor both the *Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration* and the *Friends of AVS Golf Open* will receive a *Medal of Honor* designation.



Pittsburgh Campus Activities

Growing in the Greenhouse

Pittsburgh Campus residents participate in a variety of therapeutic activities at the greenhouse including painting, wood working, mixing soil, planting seeds and taking care of plants. They also work with the Greenhouse Coordinator assisting in basic tasks such as sweeping the floor, washing flower pots, loading and unloading flower orders from the delivery truck, watering and pruning plants, and helping grow herbs and flowers for the *Fun in the Sun* groups. Karen, a resident at Pittsburgh Campus, makes items to be sold at the greenhouse including garden stepping stones, flower arrangements for the holidays, bird feeders and bird houses.



John helps to grow herbs in the greenhouse.

Pittsburgh Symphony

In November, 100 residents from the Pittsburgh Campus and community homes attended a performance by the Pittsburgh Symphony at the Campus' gym. Under the direction of Thomas

Hong, the symphony provided a beautiful musical experience that brought smiles to the faces of everyone in attendance. We extend our greatest appreciation to the Pittsburgh Symphony for making this opportunity available to the residents at Allegheny Valley School.

Holiday Activities

In December, the Pittsburgh Campus held its annual Light-Up Night to kick off the holiday season. The evening began with residents and staff hanging homemade ornaments on the Christmas tree in the amphitheater. Everyone then enjoyed the lights and decorations in the LHAS Sensory Garden. The celebration concluded in the gym with hot chocolate, Christmas carols and a cookie exchange.

The annual Christmas Pageant was held on December 21. Residents reenacted the Christmas story and the bell choir played Christmas music while staff and residents sang along.



Patricia sings along with staff member Cherrie.

Special Olympics

In January, 25 athletes from the Pittsburgh Campus participated in the Special Olympics Allegheny County Bowling Tournament at Mt. Lebanon Lanes. Residents of varying skill levels competed and won medals for their efforts. In March, 8 athletes traveled to Oakland and participated in the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament at The University of Pittsburgh's Fitzgerald Field House. Events included speed dribble, 10-meter dribble, spot shot and target passing. Everyone enjoyed interacting with other athletes from Allegheny County and making new friends.

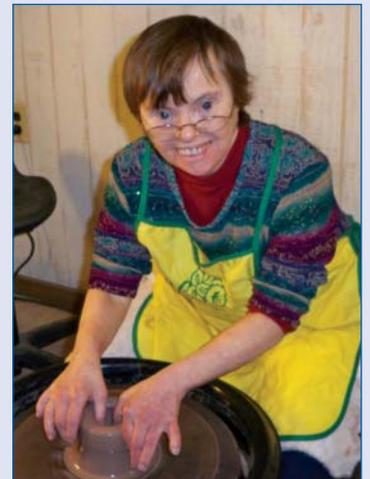
Pottery Classes for Nolte

Every Tuesday evening, three ladies from Nolte attend pottery classes at Muddy Rose Pottery in Hopewell. These therapeutic workshops have been a wonderful outlet for **Karen, Cindy** and **Wendy** to express creativity while strengthening their communication and socialization skills. Muddy Rose Pottery owners **Janelle and Dale Farrand** provide a unique program that caters to children and adults with special needs. Janelle has formed a special relationship with the ladies and encourages them to try new skills during each session.

Initially the ladies were somewhat hesitant to touch clay and sit behind a pottery wheel; now the classes have become their favorite social and hands-on activity. "Everyone gets along, while having a great time creating art," says Nolte House Manager **Michele Cellone**. "The pieces they have created from clay are truly amazing, and their confidence and pride has really soared."

The ladies are also improving their fine motor skills as they paint their pottery. Some of the items have been used for gifts and others are proudly displayed in their home. Favorite pieces include wind chimes and personalized coffee mugs. Cindy is especially proud of her turquoise mug and uses it every day. They have also made wall plaques, candy dishes and vases, and have many more projects planned. Pieces are created either by free-form with their hands or using a slab roller or pottery wheel.

Evenings always include an enjoyable social time over tea and snacks. Wendy especially enjoys her visits with Brandy, a 7-year-old Cairn Terrier. All three ladies have benefited from these classes and plan to continue this favorite activity.



Cindy uses the pottery wheel during her weekly class.

AVS Supports Pittsburgh Sports Teams



Pittsburgh Steelers

The guys from Pine Hollow II get ready for the Pittsburgh Steelers vs. Baltimore Ravens game on December 27. Tickets were donated to AVS for the residents and a staff member to attend the game.

Pittsburgh Penguins

Six AVS residents attended the Pittsburgh Penguins vs. New York Islanders game on January 19. They sat in the Crosby Suite and were treated to refreshments, a goodie bag of Penguins merchandise and a picture with mascot Iceberg.



Pittsburgh Pirates

The ladies from Ewings Mill II cheered on the Pittsburgh Pirates vs. the Cincinnati Reds on April 18. The tickets were received through the Tickets for Kids Foundation (TFK). This year (through April 30) TFK has donated more than 100 tickets for the residents and their accompanying staff to attend Pittsburgh Pirates games.

Beth Shalom's Annual Sports Luncheon

In February, 55 residents and staff attended Beth Shalom's Annual Sports Luncheon. They enjoyed a delicious lunch then visited with Pittsburgh athletes, mascots and local TV personalities. They also had the opportunity to take pictures and get autographs. Grove City resident David is pictured at right with WTAE sportscaster John Meyer.



Kennedy Celebrates the Olympics

Each classroom at Kennedy Program Center selected a country to represent during the 2010 Winter Olympic Games. The countries selected were the United States, Italy, Sweden, Australia and Mexico. Opening ceremonies were held on February 19, with a representative from each classroom carrying the torch through the building while the Olympic theme music played. The opening ceremonies concluded with the National Anthem.

On Fridays, everyone was encouraged to wear their country's colors as they participated in Olympic Games. The games included air hockey, bowling, bean bag toss, ring toss, basketball and relay races. Individuals enjoyed going to different classrooms to compete and all showed great sportsmanship as they cheered for each other. The staff also took part in silly games including a marshmallow eating contest, hula hooping, wrapping a gift blindfolded and more.

During the closing ceremonies on March 31, each individual was presented with a medal and certificate. A special thank you to all the staff and the Social Services, Medical and Staff Development departments for assisting with the games.

AVS Website

Please visit AVS' website at www.avs.net. Features include employment opportunities, descriptions of programs and services, a photo gallery and much more. You can also apply for a job online, make a donation through a secured page or submit an online question or comment. If you have any suggestions for our website, please call the Development Department at (412) 299-7777 or submit a comment in the *Contact Us* section.

To learn more about AVS
www.avs.net.

See more "Western Pennsylvania News" on page 8.

Concert Outing

In February, seven individuals from Hummelstown enjoyed a music-filled night at the Sovereign Center in Reading. **Parke, Wayne, Steven, Lester, David, Patty** and **Joe** attended an energetic concert by the *Lost Trailers, Lady Antebellum* and headlined by *Tim McGraw*. Everyone had a great time singing and dancing along to the music. Even though it was a late night, the individuals were ready for their day program activities the next day, and were excited to tell everyone about the concert.

Cedar Crest

Pamela from Cedar Crest and **Keith** from Wilshire spent Easter weekend on a trip to Maryland and Washington, DC. Their adventures included dinner and a show at Medieval Times, sightseeing and a visit to the Maryland Zoo. They also enjoyed the many restaurants in the area. They returned home in time to find their Easter baskets full of their favorite treats!

Church

In January, the residents at Church spent a wonderful day at Traditions of Hershey, an area retirement community. They attended the community's casino fund raiser to celebrate its one year anniversary. The gentlemen ate, tried their luck at the casino games and were entertained by an Elvis impersonator. They even received pictures and autographs from the "King." Staff and clients had a great time and were made to feel very welcome by the residents at Traditions of Hershey.

Poplar

Last fall the ladies at Poplar enjoyed a trip to Baltimore's Inner Harbor. They saw a dolphin show, watched a local candy store make fudge, and had a delicious seafood buffet at Phillips. After shopping and taking in the sites, they completed their memorable trip by treating themselves to room service at their hotel.

South 61st

The gentlemen from South 61st took a trip to Atlantic City and stayed overnight at Trump Plaza. They enjoyed live music at dinner and tried their luck at the slot machines. **James, Shaun** and **Jeremy** are looking forward to the summer and spending time at local parks and Harrisburg Senators baseball games.

South Hills

The residents at South Hills had a busy winter and spring. **Wayne, Steven, Susan** and **Cindy** participated in outings to area movie theaters, the Elizabethtown Fair and attended monthly socials at a local church. Wayne and Cindy also had the opportunity to visit Longwood Gardens at Christmas time to see the lights.

Woodbine

Dontae from Woodbine celebrated his 22nd birthday with a great surprise. Along with a staff member, he attended the *Black Eyed Peas* concert in Philadelphia on March 3. The staff from Woodbine waited until the night before the concert to tell him, and he was overjoyed. They went out to dinner before the show, then Dontae spent the concert singing along to the music.

Dontae's New Wheelchair

Look Out! **Dontae**, a resident at Woodbine, can be seen cruising down the halls of the Hummelstown Campus in his new electric wheelchair. Dontae was without a power wheelchair for more than a year; he is now happily enjoying the ride. "I'm a little bit rusty at driving," says Dontae, who feels he'll be a pro soon.



Dontae in his new electric wheelchair.

Sign Language Fun

On staff training days during the past year, the ATF program staff at the Hummelstown Campus have been learning sign language from Communication Specialist **Connie Clevely**. What began as a special interest by a few staff has turned into an opportunity to explore sign language and have fun. A small group performed signs to the song *Monster Mash* at the Halloween party and dressed as *Alvin and Chipmunks* for some special Christmas carols at the campus.



Hummelstown staff members perform sign language to Christmas carols.

See more "Central Pennsylvania News" on page 9.

View employment opportunities and apply online at www.avs.net.

That 70's Show

On May 21, the Philadelphia Program Center held a retro celebration for the residents called *That 70's Show*. Everyone dressed in 70's outfits and enjoyed a day of music, food and fun. The funky fashions included tie-dye t-shirts, hats and dresses, 70's costumes, wigs, bell bottoms, platform shoes and polyester jump suits. A few of the individuals even participated in a 70's fashion show so everyone could see their attire.

The program center was transformed into a 70's theme with decorations made by residents and staff. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch and a snow cone treat to help celebrate the beautiful day. A DJ helped to create a disco in the parking lot as residents sang and danced along to the music. They also enjoyed watching three staff members as they gave a special performance to a medley of songs by the O'Jay's. Thanks to everyone who helped to make this event a success!



Charvane participates in the 70s Fashion Show.



AVS staff show off their 70s outfits.

Tie-Dying at Philadelphia Campus

The residents at Philadelphia Campus got ready for the Philadelphia Program Center's *That 70's Show* party by tie-dying their own outfits. They spent an evening before the event tie-dying shirts and socks to create outrageous colors and patterns. The activity was a hit and their outfits were out-of-this-world! They couldn't wait for the party to enjoy the music, entertainment, great food and a beautiful sunny day.



Cassandra tie-dyes at the Philadelphia Campus.

Earth Day Celebrations

The residents at Verree Road spent a week in April celebrating the environment and Earth Day. One project completed was turning square laundry detergent buckets into colorful planters using finger paints. The plants were placed on the back patio so everyone can continue to watch them grow. The recreation therapists also participated in planting activities and worked with residents to pot smaller plants that will be assigned to individuals to help water and weed.

Random Acts of Kindness

Residents and staff from Girard were out to dinner at Gallos Seafood Restaurant in April when they experienced a special treat from a stranger. At the end of the meal they asked the waitress for the check and she said it had been taken care of by another guest in the restaurant. He was so impressed with the care that the gentleman received for everyone at the table. Although he left before residents and staff could thank him, he is a regular customer and the waitress said she would pass along the gratitude from Allegheny Valley School.

Shawnique's 30th Birthday



Shawnique celebrates her birthday.

Shawnique, a resident at Gribbel, celebrated her 30th birthday in May. Her mother, sister, grandparents and cousins, along with staff and residents from Gribbel gathered in Awbury Park for the celebration. The party was a Hawian Luau theme and Shawnique dressed in a beautiful blue and white flowered dress.



ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL

Celebrating 50 Years of Caring 1960 - 2010

AVS Celebrates 50 Years

In 2010, Allegheny Valley School is ***Celebrating 50 Years of Caring***. Founded in 1960 to care for ten children for whom a closing orphanage had been unable to find adoptive families, Allegheny Valley School now provides care to more than 900 children and adults through 125+ programs and facilities throughout Pennsylvania. Several activities are planned to celebrate this milestone.

Anniversary Quilt

The clients and staff of AVS are creating an anniversary quilt. Quilt squares are being designed and created by the residential, programming and administrative departments at AVS. Staff and residents are using their creativity to show what AVS means to them.

The quilt will be on display at the ***Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration*** on October 6 (see page 1 for more information). Pictures of the quilt will be featured in the Fall/Winter issue of *Perspectives*.

Commemorative Bricks

Celebrate 50 Years of Caring with a commemorative brick at PHMC. Bricks will be engraved with your special message or name(s)/business. Complete the order form to the right and mail it to AVS' Corporate Center.

Anniversary Banners

Anniversary banners have been placed at ten locations throughout the state: Corporate Center, Patricia Hillman Miller Campus, Pittsburgh Campus, Kennedy Program Center, Edward J. Zapp Program Center, Slippery Rock Program Center, Hummelstown Campus, Philadelphia Campus, Philadelphia Program Center and Philadelphia Administrative Offices. The banners are reminders to the clients, staff and community of AVS' longevity.

Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration featuring Mandy Patinkin: Dress Casual With Paul Ford on Piano

Join us on October 6 at Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh to celebrate 50 Years of Caring. The evening will include a cocktail reception, celebrity performance and dessert. See page 1 for more information.

State-wide Celebration

On Thursday, September 16, AVS clients and staff will celebrate the anniversary state-wide with a reception and activities at each campus and program center. The state-wide receptions will virtually unite everyone in celebration of this milestone anniversary. All residents and staff will be given a celebratory t-shirt to wear on this day.

Golden Anniversary Stars

Allegheny Valley School employees who donate \$50 or more to the Capital Development Fund in honor of the 50th Anniversary will be recognized as *Golden Anniversary Stars*. Look for a listing of *Golden Anniversary Stars* in the Fall/Winter issue of *Perspectives*.

"Mandy Patinkin" from page 1

will be held with one prize only – tickets to Super Bowl XLV and \$1,000 for travel expenses. Adding to the Black & Golden theme, the Pittsburgh Steelers Super Bowl XLIII Trophy will be on display at the event. It is sure to be a festive evening!

For additional information or to receive an invitation to this fund-raising event, please contact the Development Department at 412-299-7777 or visit www.avs.net.

Golden Presenting Sponsor:



Celebration Committee:

Patricia Miller Duggan,
Chairperson

Diane Barna
Jim Douglass
Laura Penrod Kronk
Linda Miller
Dorothy Pollon
Rita Randall
Bonnie Walker

Ambassador Reception

On June 16, Audrey and Tim Fisher hosted a reception for the ambassadors of the *Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration*. The evening gave supporters a chance to learn more about AVS and its *50 Years of Caring*. Audrey and Tim greeted guests at their Strip District loft where everyone enjoyed good company and a beautiful view of the city. AVS President and CEO Regis Champ and Event Chairperson Patricia Miller Duggan spoke of their involvement with AVS and how the coming celebration will help AVS. Honorary Chairperson Art Rooney, II shared his thoughts about, and the Steelers support of, AVS. Ambassadors left with excitement for the *Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration*.



Ambassador Reception Hosts Audrey and Tim Fisher.



Event Honorary Chairpersons Greta and Art Rooney, II.

AVS Commemorative Bricks

Help AVS celebrate *50 Years of Caring* with an honorary brick that will be placed at our original location, the Patricia Hillman Miller Campus (PHMC). Choose your size, and create a message or list your name(s)/business.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Message requirements: The maximum number of characters per line is 21 (18 characters is recommended). Please note that a space is considered a character.

____ 4" x 8" (\$50.00) 4 lines maximum (3 lines recommended)

____ 8" x 8" (\$100.00) 8 lines maximum (7 lines recommended)

Please print all the above information clearly. Make checks payable to *Allegheny Valley School Capital Development Fund* and send to: Allegheny Valley School, Attn: Development Department, 1996 Ewings Mill Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108. To pay by credit card, call (412) 299-7777.

Messages are subject to approval by Allegheny Valley School.

Tony's New Dynavox

For the past ten years, **Tony** from Mayhue has communicated with others primarily utilizing a communication board that was placed on his wheelchair lap tray. In 2008, he received a new *Dynavox V Max* device, and with the assistance and encouragement of Dynavox representative **Beth Sinteff**, Tony became familiar with the use and dynamics of the equipment. The Dynavox has become an integral part of his life. Tony and Beth have had the opportunity to go out in the community and make presentations and speeches about how the Dynavox has helped Tony, providing him with a new way to communicate.

With the addition of the internet and email to the Dynavox, Tony has been able to communicate frequently with family members and close friends who live across the country. Tony is always very excited to receive pictures and updates through email. Another addition to the equipment includes a hook-up to Mayhue's phone system so Tony can answer the phone through his Dynavox. Tony would like to thank **Corrine Bollinger** (pictured at right) for her generous donation that was used to purchase these new accessories for his Dynavox.

Tony says he feels like a young man. His QMRP Nash Zavarella reports that Tony is maximizing his potential and is happy to see him continue to improve. "I honestly believe this is just the beginning for him," says Nash.

Dynavox representative Beth Sinteff, Tony and Corrine Bollinger with the new Dynavox.



PHMC Activities



In December, the residents from Patricia Hillman Miller Campus (PHMC) attended their annual Christmas Party at the Ascension Church Hall. Everybody enjoyed a visit with Santa and the special presents he brought for them. Favorite PHMC disc jockey and staff member **Sylvester Price** kept everybody dancing throughout the day, and even led a spirited round of musical chairs. A terrific lunch was provided by J&P Service Management Company, Inc. and the Residential Services Department.

Several feet of snow this winter did not keep the residents at PHMC from enjoying several outings. Groups were able to attend the Hartwood Acres Festival of Lights and the Kennedy Program Center Christmas Party. They also visited the Pittsburgh Aviary, Carnegie Science Center, Hazlett Theater (to see *A Christmas Carol*) and the Beth Shalom Sports Luncheon. *Christopher receives a gift from Santa Claus.*

Remembering David Davie

On June 7, long-time AVS employee David Davie died following a tragic accident at his home. David joined AVS in 1986 as a House Manager Aide at the Cedar House at the Pittsburgh Campus, and he continued to care for the residents until his death. "David was a dedicated employee, very reliable and consistent," comments Pittsburgh Campus Administrator Roni Erath. "He was someone who everyone liked and respected."

David worked at AVS part-time on Friday and Saturday nights for 24 years. "Over the years, some of the guys would wait up Friday and Saturday night just so they could spend time with Dave," says Cedar House Manager Georgann Amrhein. "Dave was an amazing and caring man and like the grandpa of the Cedar House. There will only ever be one Dave and he will be sorrowfully missed by all."

Giant Eagle Apples for the Students



Thank you to the 456 registrants that participated in the 2009-2010 *Apples for the Students* program. We are delighted that 13 new participants registered this year! Through the program, which concluded on March 17, AVS received a digital camera, a printer, educational software, playground balls, a butterfly pavilion and more. Thank you to all who participated.

If you are currently signed up with the *Apples for the Students* program for AVS, you are already registered for the 2010-2011 program. If you are interested in becoming part of the program, please call Amy Harvilla at (412) 299-7777. Details for the 2010-2011 program will be published in the Fall/Winter 2010 issue of *Perspectives*.

Since purchases are tracked electronically, names of participants are not provided to us. Please let us know that you're participating by calling the Development Department at (412) 299-7777. Thank you!

Sensory News

Discussion Group

The Quarterly Discussion Group met in January at the New Florence Adult Training Facility (ATF) of Community Living Care in Ligonier. This ATF is an extension of the Greensburg Community Living Care, Inc. Family of Services and serves individuals with I/DD over the age of 18. Program Director **Jason McIntosh** and Administrator **Eric Noel** described the challenges of transforming the 1860's historic home into an ATF over the past 2 years, while meeting uniform construction codes and ADA regulations. The result of their hard work is a creatively-designed, beautiful and functional space for the individuals who spend their days there. Long-range plans include gradually increasing the number of individuals served and building on additional space which would house a dedicated sensory room. The current sensory area at the ATF includes an optokinetic projector, fiberoptic waterfall with soft seating, strategically placed black lights and painted scenes along the walls.

The most recent quarterly meeting of the Sensory Discussion Group was held on July 12 at the Slippery Rock Program Center and focused on the development of the new sensory garden. A summary of the meeting will be in the Fall/Winter issue of Perspectives.

Sensory Garden at SRPC

In honor of Earth Day, residents and staff started planting spring flowers throughout the sensory garden and will continue to plant and prune throughout the summer. New features for the SRPC sensory garden that will be added for the summer include a sensory wheel, wheelchair swing and a fruits and vegetables garden that will be planted, maintained and utilized by the food prep area at the program center. Other additions include a new patio umbrella and grill in the pavilion area, and an educational display box.

Grant News

We are most grateful for each and every contribution AVS receives. Every gift is put to good use to help improve the quality of life of the individuals in our care. Since November 1, 2009, we have received numerous grants and contributions to our Capital Development Fund that are supporting efforts to enhance our programs and facilities to better meet the needs of our clients. Thank you to the following trusts, foundations, companies and organizations for their support of Allegheny Valley School's Capital Development Fund:

- Anonymous
- AVS Foundation
- Babcock Charitable Trust
- Charity Randall Foundation
- Henry L. Hillman Foundation
- Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Association
- Polk Foundation
- Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust

Grants and contributions of \$5,000 or more received November 1, 2009 - April 30, 2010.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA NEWS

Pet Therapy

Individuals attending day programming at the Hummelstown Campus were treated to a visit from **Holly**, a golden retriever brought in by **Nancy** from Keystone Pet Enhanced Therapy Services (KPETS).



Nancy and Holly toured the building, visiting each program room and gave residents the chance to pet, offer treats to and see Holly roll over. Holly will be visiting the individuals on a monthly basis to encourage active movement.

Tracy enjoys a visit with golden retriever Holly.

Ripple Effect Christmas Party

Individuals at Hummelstown Campus received a special Christmas treat this past year. An organization called *Ripple Effect* held a Christmas party for the clients which included a special visit from Santa Claus who brought presents for everyone. The group of 20 volunteers helped with craft projects, sang carols and read Christmas stories. Each year local Ripple Effect chapters choose a different group to host a Christmas party for, and AVS was fortunate enough to be picked in 2009. This was the first time many of the volunteers worked with individuals with I/DD and all said how much they benefited from the experience. Thank you Ripple Effect!

Snow Angels



During the big snow storm of February 2010, the nurses at Hummelstown Campus braved the wintery conditions to make it to work. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated nurses.



I Do Foundation

Getting married? Now you can support Allegheny Valley School by registering with the I Do Foundation. From honeymoons to invitations to wedding gifts to charitable wedding favors, the I Do Foundation allows couples and their guests to make wedding-related purchases that generate donations for charity. The I Do Foundation's Charity Registry service also makes it easy for guests to make donations in lieu of gifts. All of the services are available free of cost at www.IDoFoundation.org. To date, AVS has received \$275 through the I Do Foundation.

Make AVS Your Favorite Charity

By remembering AVS in your will you can help assure our continued financial strength and our ability to provide superior care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To ensure proper application of your planned gift, please designate it for AVS' Capital Development Fund. For more information on how to designate AVS in your will, please call the Development Department at (412) 299-7777. Also, please let us know that you've named AVS in your will so we can thank you.

AVS Seeks Ticket Donations



Allegheny Valley School is seeking ticket donations to sporting and arts & cultural events, animal shows, family entertainment and more! Your ticket donation will be used by AVS' clients and their accompanying staff. Please

send your ticket donations to Amy Harvilla at Allegheny Valley School's Corporate Center.

Campbell's *Labels for Education* Program



Help AVS acquire classroom equipment and accessories by saving and sending in your Campbell's labels. The equipment received through the program helps to enhance the programming we provide to the individuals at AVS. Simply save your

Campbell's proofs of purchase with the *Labels for Education* logo and send them to Kelly Gremba at the Corporate Center.

Memorial and Honorary Giving

The Memorial and Honorary Giving Program offers you a meaningful way to extend condolences or congratulations to friends and family members and also help Allegheny Valley School.

If you would like to receive one of AVS' Memorial and Honorary Giving Program packets, please contact the Development Department at (412) 299-7777.

Matching Gifts Program

You may be able to double or even triple your donation to Allegheny Valley School through a Matching Gifts Program. Many corporations offer such programs to their employees and retirees. Check with your employer to find out if it offers a Matching Gifts Program that will enable you to greatly increase your support of AVS.

More Ways to Donate

Your gift to the United Way, the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) or through the State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA) can be directed to Allegheny Valley School. Unless donors specifically indicate AVS, no funds will come to us.

To designate AVS, simply locate the section on the pledge form that allows you to name a specific agency to receive your contribution. Write in Allegheny Valley School's name and agency code in the space provided.

Allegheny Valley School's Agency Codes

United Way of Allegheny County (Southwestern PA) 373	Central Pennsylvania Combined Federal Campaign 15451
United Way of Southeastern PA 9076	3 Rivers/Pennsylvania West CFC, Pittsburgh 15451
United Way of the Capital Region 3026	Combined Federal Campaign, Philadelphia 15451
	State Employee Combined Appeal (SECA). 4601-0045

We ask that you authorize the release of your name to us so we can acknowledge your generosity. Please spread the word about this opportunity to your co-workers, family and friends.

Your contribution will be applied to our Capital Development Fund to help cover important expenditures including much needed equipment, program expansions, and renovations and improvements to our more than 125 facilities.

The mission of Allegheny Valley School is to provide quality programs and facilities to help the individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities entrusted to our care to live with purpose and dignity, and to provide opportunities and choices for our clients to grow and function at their full potential as independently as possible.

Other Ways to Help Allegheny Valley School

GoodSearch/GoodShop

Support AVS while searching and shopping on the Internet with GoodSearch.com. The money raised will be contributed to the Capital Development Fund. Use www.GoodSearch.com like any other search engine – the site is powered by Yahoo! Designate Allegheny Valley School as your charity of choice and click “Verify.” From then on, each time you use GoodSearch, \$.01 will be contributed to AVS.

GoodSearch.com also includes GoodShop, an online shopping mall. Each purchase made via the GoodShop mall results in a donation to the user’s designated charity – averaging 3% of the sale, but going up to 20% or more. Be sure to designate Allegheny Valley School as your charity!

From November 2006, AVS has received \$390 from GoodSearch/GoodShop. Please help this number grow by using Goodsearch and Goodshop.

Gordon Food Service

 Support AVS while shopping at Gordon Food Service (GFS) stores. AVS has signed up for GFS’ *Partnership and Savings Program*. There is no membership fee or card to join. Simply shop and indicate to the cashier that you are shopping to support Allegheny Valley School. GFS will track your purchases and each purchase made will result in a contribution to AVS. The money raised will be contributed to the Capital Development Fund. Since joining this program in May 2008, AVS has earned \$131.

Recycling cell phones and ink cartridges

 Please send your used printer, fax and copier cartridges as well as old cell phones to Kelly Gremba at the Corporate Center. AVS earns money for the Capital Development Fund simply by recycling these used cartridges and cell phones that were destined for the trash. (Please note that we cannot accept Epson cartridges or cartridges that have already been recycled.) Since 2003, AVS has received \$3,714.78 from recycling these products!

Please forward used ink cartridges and cell phones to Kelly Gremba, Allegheny Valley School, Corporate Center, 1996 Ewings Mill Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108.

Shopping at Target

 Use your REDcard (Target® VISA® Credit Card, Target Credit Card and Target Check Card) to shop at Target, Target.com and elsewhere and Target will donate a portion of the purchases to Allegheny Valley School. To apply for a REDCard, please visit your nearest Target store or apply online at www.target.com/redcard. Designate AVS’ school ID # 126464 by calling 1-800-316-6142, using the store kiosk or visiting www.target.com/tcoe. This program helps to raise money for AVS’ Capital Development Fund. A total of 7 people have signed up for this program which has raised \$288 for AVS to date.

Support Allegheny Valley School at Special Events

AVS will benefit from these coming events:

Friends of AVS Golf Open Presented by AVS Foundation



Monday, August 16
Churchill Valley Country Club
Pittsburgh, PA



Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration Presented by AVS Foundation

Wednesday, October 6
Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh
Oakland, PA

For information about participating in any of these events please contact the Development Department at 412-299-7777.

New AVS Website

AVS will be launching a new website in 2010. The address will remain www.avs.net. On the new site, which will have a “look and feel” similar to the NHS Human Services site, you will be able to make a donation, apply for a job and download a copy of AVS’ *Perspectives* newsletter. The new website will feature updated pictures of residents and staff, and video segments. Please continue to visit www.avs.net for the most current AVS information. If you’d like to receive an email when the new website has been launched, please send your request to kgremba@avs.net.

Contract with AVS

By engaging the clients of Allegheny Valley School to complete your projects you can avoid hiring temporary help or adding to your existing workloads. We have a work force that is ready and eager to meet your business needs. All of our contracts are completed under the careful supervision of our staff in the workshop and according to your specifications. Our clients can complete many types of jobs including but not limited to, clerical work, mailing services, packaging, product assembly and shredding services. By hiring AVS clients, you also help individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to experience a sense of accomplishment, gain self-worth and earn a valuable paycheck. If you are interested in discussing how AVS can help your company or organization continue to succeed, please call:

Western PA (412) 262-1553
Central PA (717) 566-3267
Eastern PA (215) 364-1750



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Mail Call...

If you receive duplicate copies of this newsletter, would like someone to be added to the mailing list or would like your name removed from it, please call the Development Department at (412) 299-7777.



Life-long opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities



ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL
PERSPECTIVES is published by Allegheny Valley School, a private, non-profit organization providing residential and therapeutic programs for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, most who also have multiple physical disabilities, extensive medical complications and some who have behavioral management needs. Allegheny Valley School is *An NHS Human Services Company*. Please send comments and suggestions to:

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 3190 Tremont Avenue
 Treose, PA 19053-6644
 (215) 364-1750

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 (717) 566-3267

Eastern Pennsylvania Community Group Homes, Family Living/ Life Sharing Programs
 c/o 380 Red Lion Road, Suite 201
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Web Site: www.avs.net

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