

In-Person Activities Resume

Programming has reopened at Merakey Allegheny Valley School's (M/AVS) campuses and centers throughout Pennsylvania. We are all thrilled to see our friends, participate in community activities, and to get back to classroom learning.



Nathan and Daria celebrating at the Edward J. Zapp Center's (Zapp) summer camp party. Activities included crafts, games, dancing, and more.



Connie feeding the petting zoo animals during activities at the Pittsburgh Campus.

Eric, dressed as a boxer, and Mika got into the Halloween spirit at the Philadelphia Program Center's fall party.

The new Philadelphia Program Center will be opening in early 2023. Check the Merakey IDD Facebook page for more updates.



What's Happening at Merakey AVS?



More than 100 athletes participated in the spring and fall seasons of Miracle League baseball. We are incredibly grateful to have these accessible-friendly fields nearby. Pictured is Rachel and Michael.



Robinette celebrated at the Philadelphia Program Center's fall party.



Genevieve, Kevin, and Susan attended Autumnfest at Seven Springs Mountain Resort.



Olivia made a new four-legged friend during a visit with Happy Trails Pet Therapy.



Lisa, Darlene, Teresa, and Jenny from Ewings Mill II took a week-long vacation to Myrtle Beach, SC.



Ricky from Hummelstown Campus enjoyed a day at Hershey Gardens.



Jennifer and Jessica had a fantastic time visiting many tourist spots in Niagara Falls.



Jennifer and Christopher along with others from Hummelstown Campus celebrated National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day with a cookie bake-off.



Linda baked some delicious chocolate chip cookies at the Zapp Center.

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix Celebrates 40 Years

The 2022 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) included a packed 10-days of race events. Thank you to all who volunteered and supported this year's event. Since its founding in 1983, the PVGP has raised more than \$6 million for its charities, including M/AVS. Recent support from the PVGP has made an impact by helping to create outdoor living and recreational spaces, and to make improvements that provide greater accessibility in homes and on campuses.



Liz and Administrator Stacey Speer volunteered during Race Weekend.

Golf Open Celebrates our CHAMPIONS

Merakey AVS's 31st Annual Golf Open was held on September 19 at Chartiers Country Club. Thank you to co-chairs Rick Mongiovi and Dan Taylor for helping to make the day a success. Congratulations to Merakey AVS's 2022 CHAMPIONS – the Merakey AVS Medical Team! More than 300 medical employees throughout the Central, Eastern, and Western regions received these accolades.



Members of the M/AVS Medical Team attended the Golf Open dinner to accept their award. Left to right: Cara Cillo, Emily Wise, Allison Miller, Karen Hunter, Dana Kost, Colleen Dolgos, Christine Stapf, and Erin Williams.

Bouncing Back Through Engagement and Collaboration

In October, many Merakey AVS and Merakey IDD employees attended the first of three sessions focused on Bouncing Back/Bringing Passion Back to Our Work. The workshop brought frontline staff together to share the reasons why they got into the Human Services field, to learn new strategies, and ways to stay engaged.



Thank you to our staff!

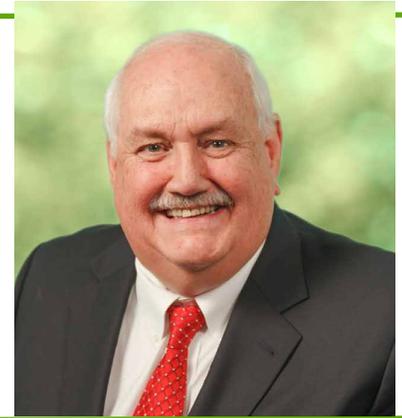
Merakey AVS frontline workers have stuck with us through a difficult 2.5 years and we say THANK YOU! Merakey launched appreciation efforts and thanked staff in a variety of ways including meals, plush blankets, apparel, celebrations and more. Local organizations also supported our staff with meals and treats.



Melissa Condo, Sereena Thomas, Sheeba Binu, Maureen Greene, Maureen Smith, Suja George, Annama Thomas-Kayyalathu, and Valsamma Thattarkunnel from M/AVS's Philadelphia Campus enjoyed an appreciation event with outdoor entertainment and lunch.

Happy Retirement, Terry McNelis!

With much appreciation, we thank Terry McNelis for his 27 years leading Merakey's IDD division. Through his leadership Merakey has grown, leaders have developed, and individuals have reached their fullest potential. Terry has exemplified the mission and core values of Merakey every day of his career. He is nationally recognized for his commitment and dedication to people with disabilities for over 50 years and is a recipient of many awards, including the Frank J. Menolascino award and the Fran Egan Courage award. We congratulate him on his retirement and thank him for everything he has done for Merakey.



Welcome, Elise Tretola!

We are excited to welcome Elise Tretola as Merakey's new Senior Vice President for IDD Services. Elise has a diverse background advocating and supporting people with special needs. After finding her calling to support people with developmental disabilities, she created a non-profit organization serving people with disabilities with programs throughout New Jersey. Similar to Merakey, Elise's non-profit quickly expanded in both scope of services and geography. Elise's goal of providing a vast array of quality services that offer people with disabilities an opportunity to lead fulfilling lives in the community is shared throughout the Merakey family.



For a complete list of Merakey's fiscal year 2022 donors, visit merakey.org/impact/annual-reports.

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