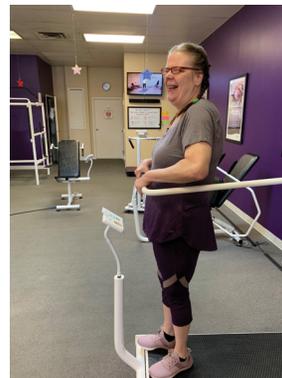


Active in the Community

Individuals supported by Merakey Allegheny Valley School (AVS) continue to become more involved in their communities. Not only do they frequent museums, athletic events, and parks, but they also volunteer with local organizations and several have secured employment during 2019.

Darlene (pictured right) has been attending her local Curves walking class twice a week since January. She knows her classmates and always looks forward to attending. The group helped her celebrate her birthday this summer and gave her a beautiful card. "You put light into my life," was just one of the many inspiring messages. Darlene has been building great friendships while staying fit!



Independence through Transportation

People supported by Merakey IDD services in Western PA, including many from Merakey AVS programs in Allegheny and Beaver counties, have been participating in the Accessible Transportation Technologies Research Initiative (ATTRI) funded by the WayFinder Project. WayFinder is a smartphone application, developed by AbleLink Technologies, that assists people with cognitive disabilities to use public transportation either independently or with limited assistance. Our participation in this project resulted from our Innovation Partnership with AbleLink.

There are currently three individuals using WayFinder to take independent trips, and others that have reduced their need for assistance. We will continue to grow our current list of 30 participants.

"It's wonderful to see the confidence that has resulted through individuals gaining travel skills," comments Merakey Technology and Innovation Manager Shaleea Shields. "Participants are enjoying independent time in the community doing the things they chose to do. We are thrilled to be a part of this important project."

 Please LIKE and SHARE our Facebook page [@MerakeyIDD](#) or Merakey Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, where you'll learn about amazing things happening throughout Merakey IDD.

Welcome to PHMC

The entrance hall at Merakey AVS's Patricia Hillman Miller Campus is brighter and more welcoming thanks to beautiful murals painted by artist Lynne Mack of Decorative Painting by Lynne.

"The paintings by Lynne are terrific," commented Administrator Michelle Miller. "I have heard so many positive comments. We are grateful to Lynne for sharing her incredible talent!"



Merakey Turns 50

Merakey has been celebrating its 50th Anniversary throughout 2019. Long-time staff members – many from Merakey AVS – were recognized for their service. On October 11, dozens of "Come Together" celebrations were held to honor Merakey's first Outpatient site that opened in 1969 in Philadelphia!



Be a part of history and join Merakey in celebrating 50 years of exceptional care and service by purchasing a commemorative brick! Bricks will be installed in spring 2020 at Merakey's first Behavioral Health Outpatient site located at 27 E. Mt. Airy in Philadelphia.

To order, visit www.brickrus.com/donorsite/merakey.

Friends Supporting Merakey AVS



Merakey AVS held its 28th Annual Golf Open in September, raising nearly \$140,000 for Merakey AVS programs throughout Pennsylvania. This year, the AVS CHAMPion award was presented to long-time employee Linda Fabian who retired in 2019 after 44 years of service.

The 2019 Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) brought together volunteers and car enthusiasts from around the world for 10-days in July. Since its start in 1983, the PVGP has raised more than \$5 million for Merakey AVS and the Autism Society of Pittsburgh. For more about the PVGP, visit www.pvgp.org.

In June, nearly 100 people came together to have fun and raise awareness and support for Merakey AVS. The third annual Day at the Races, led by event trustees from UBS Walnut Wealth Management, included spirit rides in exotic cars, a kart race, great food, auctions and more. Pictured above is Floyd preparing for a ride in an Ariel Atom 2.

2020 Save the Dates

- January 30: Benefits 101: How people with disabilities can build financial security without jeopardizing benefits, Pittsburgh, PA
- February 13: PVGP Dancing with the Cars, Pittsburgh, PA
- March 13: Merakey Foundation Bowling Tournament, various locations
- Spring: Merakey Bandstand Bash, Pittsburgh, PA (a festive event for the people we support throughout the region)
- Spring: Merakey AVS Night at the Pirates Game, PNC Park, Pittsburgh, PA
- June 1: Merakey Foundation Corporate Golf Classic, Lafayette Hill, PA
- June 20: Merakey AVS Day at the Races, Pittsburgh International Race Complex, Wampum, PA
- July 12-26: Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (Race Weekend, July 25-26), Pittsburgh, PA
- September 21: Friends of Merakey AVS Golf Open, Chartiers Country Club, Pittsburgh, PA
- October 24: Merakey Foundation Leading the Way Awards Gala, Philadelphia, PA

Merakey AVS Turns 60 in 2020! We will be celebrating all year long. Visit our website and social media throughout the year to learn more.

We are thankful for our donors! For a full list of Merakey AVS and Merakey Foundation donors from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 visit www.merakey.org/ar19.

Connect With Us!

 412-299-7777

 avs.merakey.org

 merakey.org

 @MerakeyIDD

