

Welcome Home, Popcorn!

During Floyd's Person-Centered Planning meeting in 2019, he shared his dream of owning a dog. And two years later, his dream was realized!

Through Canine Service Pals, Floyd and the staff at his home attended trainings with service dog Popcorn. And in April, Floyd officially welcomed Popcorn home.

Thanks are due to many who helped to bring Floyd and Popcorn together, including the Walter F. and Ellen H. Nicoden Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation.

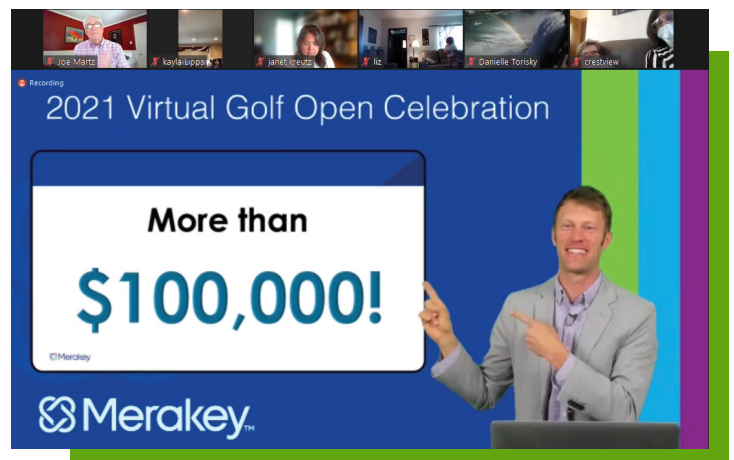


Virtual Golf Celebration

The 2021 **Friends of Merakey AVS Golf Open** pivoted from an in-person day on the links to a virtual lunchtime celebration. Event benefactors and other friends, including many of the individuals we support, gathered on Zoom to thank the many contributors to the 30th annual event, and to also celebrate the **2021 AVS CHAMPIONS: the 700+ individuals supported by Merakey AVS.**

During the past 20+ months of the pandemic, the individuals we support have demonstrated incredible resilience, and have adapted and thrived. We are thrilled to name them our AVS CHAMPIONS this year!

The virtual lunchtime celebration was filled with honoring our CHAMPIONS and our many supporters, as well as interactive golf trivia. The annual golf open is a very important part of Merakey AVS's engagement efforts, as well as a critical fundraiser. We are grateful to all for making the event a big success!



STAYING SAFE
WHILE KEEPING
BUSY AT HOME
AND IN THE
COMMUNITY.



Jeffrey from the Hookstown home got a new bike and has been excited to ride it nearly every day.



PLAY BALL! Miracle League baseball was held in the summer with games being played at Cranberry Township and Moon Miracle League fields.



The Pittsburgh Campus created their own island getaway with a Luau for 500 individuals and staff members. The Hawaiian-themed celebration was complete with beautiful weather, homemade decorations, Elvis, a smoking volcano, an imitation pig roast, delicious food and drinks, music, dancing, and games.



Many are making new friends with pet therapy dogs from Happy Trails Training LLC.



Virtual Dance Parties are being held throughout Merakey IDD with fun themes and contests, music, and dancing. To be included in the next dance party, email Merakey_AVS@merakey.org.



In honor of Father's Day, individuals at the Hummelstown Campus created sugar hearts with messages to their fathers.

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix is Back on Track

Thousands came out for 10 days of Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix events throughout Western PA, including car shows, a gala, racing, and more! Thanks are due to the hard-working volunteers who gave it their all, including many Merakey staff members, families, and friends.

Thousands of people helped to support the grand event! Many thanks to the PVGP sponsors and partners, drivers, car clubs, volunteers and attendees. A huge thank you goes to the PVGP Presenting Sponsor - the Greater Pittsburgh Automobile Dealers Foundation! Merakey AVS is proud and grateful to be a beneficiary of the PVGP since the event was founded in 1983.



Save the Date for the Grand Prix's 40th year events: July 15-24, 2022!

Virtual 5K, The Merakey Way

In 2021, the Merakey Foundation held a Virtual 5K during the month of April. Recreation Therapists at Pittsburgh Campus ran a "Move it" activity with 26 individuals, which got everyone excited to exercise. Participants did a variety of activities and sports, and each received a certificate for their hard work.

Personalized activities included drumming, running and walking (with and without pets or children), biking, jumping, air hockey, reaching, stretching and more! More than 1,000 participants helped to raise \$142,000 to support Merakey programs in 12 states.



Pictured is Shawnn with his certificate.

With Gratitude

Merakey AVS is grateful for the support received from more than 600 donors over the past year. Contributor support of the Merakey AVS Capital Development Fund makes it possible to improve our facilities, purchase equipment, develop new programs, and so much more! While the pandemic has limited our ability to take on most indoor projects, many outdoor and programmatic initiatives have moved forward with contributed support including:

- Building outdoor living areas for enjoyment by residents, staff, and visitors (pictured below is the new pavilion at the Wildwood home)
- Facility improvements and upgrades including driveways, sidewalks, HVAC, roofs, painting, decks, and more
- Renovation of a new home to better respond to the changing needs of residents, who are eager to move in soon
- Continued development of Telehealth and the IDD Nursing Care Center
- A new staff training and workforce stabilization effort, which will launch in 2022
- Development of an apartment-style living area at a campus



For a complete list of Merakey's fiscal year 2021 donors, visit merakey.org/impact/annual-reports.

Connect With Us!

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