

Merakey AVS Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of The Terrible Towel®

Merakey Allegheny Valley School (M/AVS) marked the 50th anniversary of The Terrible Towel® with tailgate-themed parties across campuses, program centers, and homes. Hundreds of individuals and staff joined in the fun with music, games, and plenty of black and gold spirit! We welcomed special guests Steelers mascot Steely McBeam, alumni Arthur Moats, and four-time Super Bowl Champion Randy Grossman, who brought energy, smiles, and photo ops to the festivities.

Created in 1975 by broadcaster Myron Cope, The Terrible Towel® remains a powerful symbol of Steelers pride and support for M/AVS. For 29 years, proceeds from officially licensed towels have benefited individuals supported by M/AVS, contributing nearly \$10 million toward equipment, programs, and facility improvements. A huge thank-you to all staff who made these celebrations unforgettable, and to Myron Cope for a legacy that continues to empower lives every day.



Thank You to Our Generous Supporters!

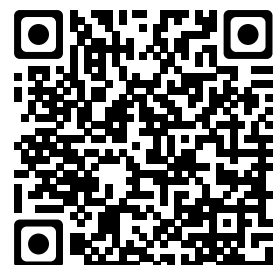
We are deeply grateful for the incredible generosity of our families, friends, staff, foundations, corporations, and community partners. Your support makes a lasting difference in the lives of the individuals we serve at Merakey AVS.

Thank you

Here's How to Support Our Mission

Donors are welcome to designate their contribution for use at a particular location or for a specific project. To restrict your gift, please indicate the area on the donation envelope, or use the comments box on the online donation form.

Scan the QR Code to make a donation to Merakey Allegheny Valley School.



Activities Across Merakey AVS



It was another unforgettable Miracle League season for Chris and all the players, filled with friendship and inclusion. Thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers who made every game truly special.



Special Equestrians brought their heartwarming program to the Philadelphia Campus, where Glow, a 31in. Miniature mare, brightened the day and shared a special moment with Elaine and others.



Ryan, Direct Support Professional Bob Perine and Billy from Countryview had a fantastic day exploring the beautiful, accessible Hippley's Gardens and enjoying a picnic together.



Program Special Andrew Mikucki and Louis from the Slippery Rock Program Center (SRPC) had a blast at their annual charter boat fishing trip in Erie, PA, with At the Lake Ministries.



All summer long, the Oregon Home hosted themed parties that brought everyone together for collaboration, and fun, including a lively Luau that Freddie enjoyed.



Jorge and Shift Supervisor Maria Davenport from Hummelstown Campus get ready for some spooky fun at a Trunk or Treat event for Halloween.



Milton from the Patricia Hillman Miller Campus (PHMC) enjoyed harvest fun at the Hay Day Fall Festival, where he met Pittsburgh Penguins mascot Iceburgh.



John and Behavior Specialist Becky Mitchell danced the day away at the Pittsburgh Campus's Harry Potter - themed event, filled with spellbinding activities and wizardly treats.



Petie and Motor Development Specialist Amber Wilson made the most of a beautiful summer day with a bike ride around Edward J. Zapp Center (Zapp) Center.



Jenna and Program Aide Ashley Sutton helped spruce up the Sensory Garden at SRPC by planting flowers and fresh vegetables.



Sam and Bri from the Pittsburgh Campus spent months growing and caring for basil and dill seedlings in the Greenhouse.



Lauren from Philadelphia Campus took a trip to the mall, where she created her own personalized 'Build-A-Bear' companion.



Barbie participated in a fun lesson about clouds and rainbows, conducting an experiment using shaving cream to represent clouds.



Jeffrey and staff Keanu Wynn use the therapeutic swing in the Occupational/Physical Therapy room at PHMC.



Genny spent a fun day at Kennywood Amusement Park with friends and staff, enjoying thrilling rides and delicious park snacks.



Christopher and LPN Kori Livingston from Hummelstown Campus attended the Starry Nights Formal at Christian Life Assembly in Camp Hill, PA. They enjoyed a glamorous red-carpet, delicious dinner, karaoke, games, and dancing.



Frank and Program Instructor Renee Masters showed their support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month by dressing in their best pink gear, while the Kennedy and Zapp Centers hosted events with pink treats, awareness activities, and giveaways.



Each classroom at Kennedy and Zapp Centers participated in a pumpkin decorating contest. Susan and DSP Johnna Bosco are proudly showing her first place ribbon and a poster from Classroom 2 at Kennedy.

Celebrating Inclusion at Work

Meet Joshua

We're proud to celebrate the value and talent people with disabilities bring to the workplace, including our outstanding receptionist at Merakey AVS's Philadelphia Campus, Joshua. Working twice a week, Joshua answers calls, welcomes visitors, accepts deliveries, and supports a variety of office tasks. His professionalism, positivity, and pride make him a shining example of inclusion in action.



Event Updates

Friends of Merakey AVS Golf Open Raises \$127,000

The Friends of Merakey AVS Golf Open was held on September 15 at Chartiers Country Club. The event opened with a sign language performance of America the Beautiful by individuals from the Edward J. Zapp Center, followed by a round of golf.

Co-chairs Rick Mongiovi and Dan Taylor were recognized as 2025 AVS CHAMPions in honor of their long-standing dedication. Our sincere thanks to all donors whose generous contributions to the AVS Capital Development Fund help expand programs and services that empower individuals to achieve greater independence.

Save the date for our 2026 Merakey AVS Golf Open at Chartiers Country Club – September 14, 2026.



Wendy, Gregg, Anna, Laura and Olive welcomed golfers with a sign language performance.



Congratulations to the 2025 AVS CHAMPions Dan Taylor and Rick Mongiovi.

Merakey AVS Shines at the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) marked its 43rd year with an exciting Race Weekend at Schenley Park, wrapping up 10 days of rallies, car shows, and motorsport fun across Western Pennsylvania.

A heartfelt thank-you to the Merakey staff, families, and friends who volunteered their time to support registration, merchandise sales, admissions, shuttle services, and lunch distribution. We're also grateful to the City of Pittsburgh, along with all the drivers, sponsors, and spectators, whose support makes this incredible event possible. Our proud partnership with the PVGP has supported our mission since 1983.



Charity Ambassador Carl gets ready to ride in the Opening Ceremonies parade in Mark Morrow's original 1964 Mustang.

Save the date for the 2026 PVGP Race Weekend in Schenley Park – July 18 - 19, 2026.
Race to pvgp.org for a full list of 2026 events.

Connect with us!

