

ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL NEWS

Regis Champ Retires



Regis G. Champ

At the end of 2010, after 38 years of service, President & CEO **Regis G. Champ** retired from Allegheny Valley School (AVS). In 1972, at the encouragement of his sister who was a nurse at AVS, Mr. Champ took his first post at the single-site organization. Regis took the job thinking it would be temporary (he was planning on attending law school). However, after spending time as the Social Service Director, AVS got into his system—and didn't leave.

Demonstrating his leadership skills early on, when the Senior School (now called the Pittsburgh Campus) opened in 1973, Regis was named its administrator. Only five years later (1978), Champ was named AVS' CEO; he became President & CEO in 2001.

During his tenure, AVS grew from one location with 90 consumers, to providing services to more than 900 children and adults through 125+ programs and facilities throughout Pennsylvania.

AVS' standards for quality that Regis demanded became ingrained throughout AVS. "Rege was the ultimate leader," comments Western Region Director **Gary Hoffman**. "Whether he was digging in deep to help me solve complex work issues or supporting me personally, he was committed to the responsibility of his leadership."

Mr. Champ gives credit to his leadership team for AVS' success. Along with Champ, the AVS leadership team has longevity in serving the organization and its mission – with tenures averaging 20 years. When he decided to retire, Regis was confident that he was leaving AVS in strong and stable hands.

In addition to leading AVS, Regis served for more than 25 years as a member of the Pennsylvania Association of Resources (PAR) Board of Directors, including time as Board President. PAR is a statewide association with the mission, "to build the capacity of the private sector to fully support Pennsylvanians with autism and intellectual disabilities according to their needs." In 2002, Regis was given PAR's Keystone Award.

After his retirement, his interest in and involvement with AVS continues through his service as a member of the Board of Directors of the AVS Foundation, an independent private foundation that includes in its philanthropy generous support for AVS Capital Development Fund projects. Regis is enjoying this new stage in his

See "Champ" continued on page 8.

Friends of AVS Golf Open

The **Friends of AVS Golf Open** Presented by AVS Foundation will be held on Monday, August 15 at Churchill Valley Country Club. This year's event will honor **Regis G. Champ** and his 38 years of service to Allegheny Valley School. Honorary Chairpersons are **Parie and John Duggan**.

During the evening's dinner, Regis Champ will receive the first **AVS CHAMPion Award**. In December 2010, Regis G. Champ, President & Chief Executive Officer of Allegheny Valley School (AVS), retired after 38 years of service. For his dedication to the vulnerable individuals served by AVS, and for living our mission, we are delighted to name Regis G. Champ our first AVS CHAMPion. Champ will be honored throughout the day of golf and at the awards dinner.

Proceeds from the golf open will benefit the Capital Development Fund to help cover expenses not directly reimbursed by Medicaid including property, equipment, program expansions and facility renovations. 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 Amy Rocini at (412) 299-2229 or visit our website at www.avs.net. We hope you will join us for a day of golf, or join us in the evening for the awards dinner.

Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix

The Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix (PVGP) presented by Shop 'n Save is gearing up for its 29th year. The PVGP will present 10 days of vintage sports car racing, car shows and motorsport activities to delight the quarter million fans during the July 15-24 events.

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 to provide a comprehensive array of autism-specific information, referral and advocacy services to families and professionals.

For more information on the 2011 events, please visit www.pvgp.org. We hope to see you at the activities in July!



Pittsburgh Campus Activities

Holiday Activities

In December, individuals from the Wood House went Christmas caroling throughout the campus. They dressed in nostalgic capes, overcoats and top hats and were joined by staff and volunteers. After a night of singing, everyone gathered at the Wood House for hot chocolate and cookies.

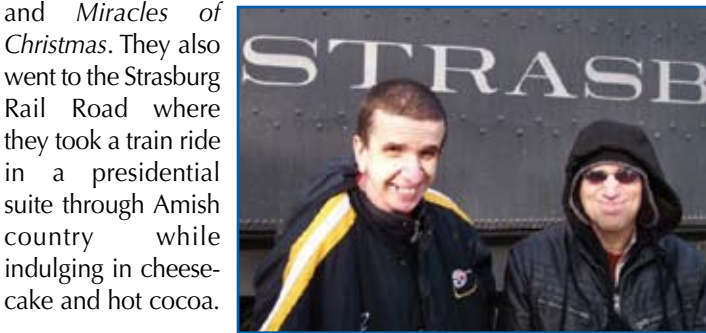
During the holidays, the AVS choir performed a Christmas show for the residents at Pittsburgh Campus. Everyone sang along to Christmas carols and watched staff members perform *The Christmas Story*. Many individuals performed solos and the Pittsburgh Campus Bell Choir entertained everyone with holiday favorites.



John sings along to the music.

Holiday Trip

Armond and **Scott** from the Cedar House spent a holiday vacation in Lancaster, PA. The gentlemen and accompanying staff rented a suite at the Hilton where they enjoyed the buffet and sipping hot cocoa by the fireplace. Their trip included a visit to the Sight & Sound Theatre's performances of *Voices of Christmas* and *Miracles of Christmas*. They also went to the Strasburg Rail Road where they took a train ride in a presidential suite through Amish country while indulging in cheese-cake and hot cocoa.



Scott and Armond at the Strasburg Rail Road.

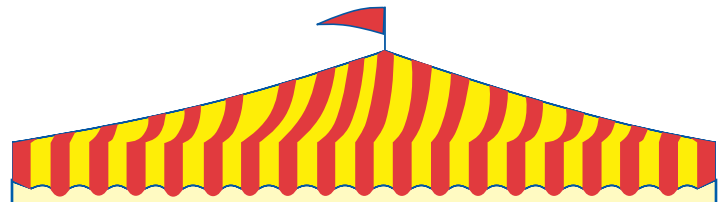
Pittsburgh Campus Red Hat Society

Members of the Red Hat Society participated in a tea and arts and crafts social. The ladies made a craft while sampling many teas. They had a great time admiring each other's red hats and purple outfits.

Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra Concert

The Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra (PSO) performed an outreach concert at Pittsburgh Campus in January. Their beautiful music touched the hearts of more than 100 residents and staff members as they clapped along to songs. A big thank you goes to all of the talented musicians who helped to bring many smiles to the faces of our consumers.

The PSO has been performing outreach concerts at AVS since 1994. We are grateful to the PSO for continuing to include AVS in their outreach program.



The Shrine Circus

On April 9, 155 residents and their accompanying staff attended The Shrine Circus at the CONSOL Energy Center. The residents enjoyed seeing the clowns (including America's Favorite Clown, Bello Nock), animals and especially Spiderman.

Arrangements were made for the residents who utilize wheelchairs to enjoy the show and the action up close!

Since 1993, The Syria Shriners have donated 100+ circus admissions to AVS each year. AVS would like to especially thank **Paul Leavy**, Circus Chairman, for providing another wonderful experience for the consumers. We are extremely grateful for The Shriners' continued support.

Polar Bear Plunge

On December 4, more than 500 people, including several employees from AVS, took the Polar Bear Plunge into the Allegheny River by Heinz Field. Plunge participants set

a fundraising goal and received pledges from family, friends and colleagues for their commitment to being "freezin'" for a reason." The Polar Bear Plunge benefits more than 20,000 Pennsylvania Special Olympics athletes – the state's largest year-round organization devoted to sports training and competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities.

A number of AVS consumers attended to cheer-on the plungers. Before the event started, they were invited to a reception on the Gateway Clipper Fleet where they met former Pittsburgh Steelers player **Jerome Bettis** and other supporters from the area.



AVS consumers and staff members with Jerome Bettis.

Thank You CentiMark Corporation Foundation



Residents Ellen Ruth, Yvonne, Damon, Karen, Dennis and John with Mike Craig from CentiMark Corporation.

On April 20, Senior Accountant **Mike Craig** from CentiMark Corporation visited AVS' Pittsburgh Campus with a special treat for the residents and staff. In celebration of Easter and spring, CentiMark Corporation Foundation donated a \$50 gift card to either Target, Kmart/Sears or Wal-Mart to each individual residing at the campus. They also donated Sarris Candies chocolate bunnies for the staff members.

"We are so pleased to share these special treats with the clients at Allegheny Valley School," said **Kathy Slencak**, Manager of Public Relations at Centimark Corporation.

Thank you to CentiMark Corporation Foundation and Mike Craig for making this spring extra special for everyone at AVS' Pittsburgh Campus.

Clearview at the Tea House

On April 6, the ladies at Clearview participated in a tea at The Johnston House in Mars, PA. The house is a restored farmhouse that serves traditional afternoon tea and has a beautiful shop filled with antiques, special treats and unique and handmade gifts. Five of the Clearview ladies belong to the Red Hat Society and one is in training. Everyone wore their red (or pink) hats decorated in striking purple. They dressed up in their best attire and enjoyed a day of beautiful surroundings and great friendship. The owners and staff of The Johnston House greeted the ladies with kindness and much attention; others having tea commented on the ladies' beautiful hats and outfits.

The consumers enjoyed flavored teas served in beautifully painted tea pots, delicate sandwiches and quiche, golden crumpets served with fresh crème and homemade preserves, and a variety of desserts and chocolate candy. After the tea, they toured the house and admired the gorgeous surroundings.



Anna, Mary and staff member Jessica enjoy tea at The Johnston House.

Patricia Hillman Miller Campus (PHMC) Activities

Mother's Day Tea

On May 6, the TA-C classroom hosted a Mother's Day Tea for the important women in their lives. They gathered together in the formal living room to enjoy tea, coffee and homemade desserts; the goodies were served on antique china plates. The ladies that attended received a flower pot and placemat made by each consumer. The desserts were delicious, but the most important part was spending quality time with the women in their lives.



Princesa and her mother at the Mother's Day Tea.

Christmas Party

In December, consumers and staff members held their annual Christmas Party at Ascension Church. A terrific lunch was provided for all, and residents were given presents from Santa Claus. The highlight of the party was the resident and staff fashion show. Narrated by DJ **Sylvester Price**, everyone came down the runway dressed-up in their finest holiday attire. A big thanks to all the staff and clients that helped to make this year's Christmas party a great time.

Trip to the Children's Museum

On April 22, PHMC's Communication Club visited the Children's Museum of Pittsburgh. The Children's Museum graciously gave the group discount tickets and free admission for their escorts. The museum staff was very helpful by assisting our staff and clients throughout the facility and reserving a lunch area. There were many highlights of the trip including interacting with a Smart Car in the Garage. Residents **Jim** and **Ari** rode an elevator to the second story launching pad and tossed parachutes to the rest of the group. In the Gravity Room, **Robbie** was captivated by the interactive puppet display. **Gerry** was amused by the train in Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, while staff member **Tom Ford** put on a puppet show for **Della Rae**. The day ended with a sing-a-long on the bus ride home.

Central PA Activities

Cedar Crest

The Cedar Crest ladies and staff members attended the *Fire & Ice* celebration in Lititz, PA. They watched amazing ice sculptures being carved while roasting marshmallows over a cozy fire. It was the perfect way to say good-bye to winter and to welcome spring.



Pamela and Jamie at the Fire & Ice celebration.

South Hills

The residents at South Hills participated in many outings during the winter months. They saw several movies at the theater, spent an evening at the Elizabethtown Fair, attended local high school games and had a picnic at Hoffer Park. They also went to the Giant Center to see *Toy Story 3* and *1-2-3-Elmo*, where everyone enjoyed the music and lights. Once a month, they attend a local church that sponsors a social. The South Hills consumers certainly stay busy!

ALLEGHENY VALLEY SCHOOL NEWS

Support from the Parents Association

The Allegheny Valley School Parents Association was formed in 1973. As the population of AVS has grown, so has the membership. Currently there are 200 members in the western PA chapter, having added about 80 as a result of an outreach effort in November 2010. Since 1980, the Parents Association has made contributions to AVS' Capital Development Fund totaling nearly \$150,000. The Parents Association meets twice a year, in April and October, to provide an update on what has occurred during the prior six months; there are often guest speakers.

The Combined Parents Association, Inc. of Southeastern Pennsylvania has been active since AVS began providing services in Philadelphia in 1989. Over the years the organization has contributed more than \$45,000 to support the consumers in that region.

If you are a family member, guardian or friend and would like to join either association, please contact Dorothy Hunter Gordon (dgordon@nhsonline.org or (412) 299-7777) who will forward your information to the Parents Association president.

Presidents of the Parents Associations:

Thomas McGrail, Sr., Allegheny Valley School Parents Association

Rosalind Thorpe-Taylor, Combined Parents Association, Inc. of Southeastern Pennsylvania

The Terrible Towel® benefits AVS

Since 1996, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of officially licensed The Terrible Towel® products have benefited the children and adults in AVS' care. Most of the products are created, manufactured, marketed and distributed through an arrangement with the Pittsburgh Steelers. In addition to the many products arranged by the Steelers, including a variety of towels, gloves, hats, bibs, ties, magnets and so much more (steelers.com/catalog/) the trademark has been licensed for use on several other products listed below:



Donna wears The Terrible Tee® as Milton shows his Steelers pride.

The Terrible Towel® cookies, Bethel Bakery, Inc. (bethelbakery.com)

The Terrible Tote®, Steel City Totes (terribletote.com)

The Terrible Towel® candy bar, Trello Cioccolato (trellochocolate.com)

The Terrible Tee® t-shirt, Give and Take Tees (giveandtaketees.com)

Products current as of this writing.

Please ensure that your purchase benefits AVS by purchasing only officially licensed products.

All officially licensed products contain a tag that identifies that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the item will benefit Allegheny Valley School. If you see a The Terrible Towel® product for sale and it does not include this tag, it may be unlicensed. If you spot a product without the tag, please contact Dorothy Hunter Gordon (dgordon@nhsonline.org or (412) 299-7777) with the details.

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. Thank you.

Visit www.avs.net.

Philadelphia Campus Activities

Dorothy Turns 77

Dorothy, a resident at the Philadelphia Campus, celebrated her 77th birthday in March. She enjoyed her special day with friends and staff members. Congratulations to Dorothy on this milestone birthday!

Dorothy holds a special birthday card.



Philadelphia Campus Celebrates with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia

In March, 22 individuals from Philadelphia Campus attended a reception for the Annual Archdiocesan Celebration honoring the gifts of Persons with Disabilities. The event was held at the Cathedral Basilica of SS. Peter and Paul in Philadelphia, and the liturgy was presided over by **Cardinal Justin Rigali**. All residents were dressed in their Sunday best and enjoyed the beautiful church, as well as the afternoon outing. They hope to return to visit for many years to come.

March Celebration

On March 31, Philadelphia Campus hosted a special event for the consumers and staff. The day started off with a movie followed by a potluck lunch where staff members brought covered dishes and snacks to share for the celebration. During the afternoon everyone participated in karaoke and games.

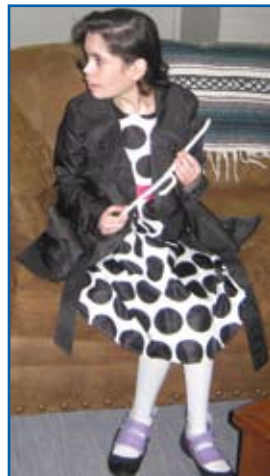
Pet Therapy

The Philadelphia Campus has found a new four-legged friend! **Troy** and his owner, **Jeff Dowling**, who works at the Philadelphia Administrative Office, volunteer their time once a week to visit with residents. Troy's presence brings huge smiles and lots of laughs during evening activities. Each individual values the time they spend with Troy. Thank you to Jeff for sharing Troy with the consumers.

Spring Fling Fashion Show

On April 8, two individuals from Philadelphia Campus dressed to impress and attended the George Washington High School Spring Fling Fashion Show. They are both students at the high school and were very excited to attend the fashion show and see their classmates. After the show, they attended a party at the high school.

Amanda wore a beautiful polka dot dress to the fashion show.



CAG Welcomes Willie

Byberry consumer **Willie** was nominated to serve on the Executive Board of the Consumer Advisory Group (CAG). The board is responsible for assessing and making decisions regarding the quality of care they receive from the I/DD service community at NHS. The objective is to help other individuals receiving services to identify new personal goals and outcomes. This is a very prestigious selection as Willie is one of only 12 individuals out of the entire organization who was selected.

CAG hosted a special dinner at its February meeting to welcome the new Executive Board. The gathering allowed the members to get to know each other a little better before beginning their agenda for the year. Many of the individuals in the group have become fond of Willie and look forward to seeing him at the monthly meetings.



CAG Executive Board Member Willie.

Eastern PA Activities

Byberry

The individuals at Byberry made it through the chilly winter by enjoying outings to Longhorn Steakhouse, Bob Evans, Outback Steakhouse, Pizza Hut and more. They also went bowling at Dave & Buster's, attended dances and movies at the Carousel House, went shopping at Franklin Mills Mall and visited the movie theater often. They decide where their outing will be by getting together for family meetings.

Joshua

Random Acts of Kindness

During an outing to Applebee's, consumers and staff from Joshua were delighted when a guest at the restaurant treated them to dinner. The gentleman and his wife were so impressed by the caring staff and their relationship with the residents that they wanted to do something nice for them. The gentlemen asked what organization they were from so he could call and praise the staff. Thank you to the anonymous couple who helped to make this a special evening.

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.

Donate online at www.avs.net.

Light It Up Blue

On April 1, all of NHS celebrated World Autism Day. Consumers and staff across the state were encouraged to wear blue and participate in *Light It Up Blue* activities. Each AVS campus, program center and administrative office held a staff raffle for a bag filled with AVS logo prizes and many The Terrible Towel® items. Some of the activities from the day included coloring blue puzzle pieces at Philadelphia Campus, skill games at Kennedy and Edward J. Zapp Program Centers and a celebratory cake at the Corporate Center. Employees throughout AVS raised \$550 to support NHS' Autism Program.

NHS Autism Programs support approximately 2,800 consumers with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and their families. In collaboration with families, professionals and other key stakeholders, NHS continues to develop unique autism services which can provide alternatives to traditional programming within a continuum of care. This coordinated and integrative approach is designed to meet the needs and behaviors associated with ASD from diagnosis to adulthood.

Thank you to all who participated in *Light it Up Blue*.



Corporate Center staff



Hummelstown Campus nurses

Sensory News

The winter meeting of the Sensory Discussion Group was held in December at AVS' Pittsburgh Campus. **Tom Marshall** from Sens-Aura by Southpaw Enterprises, a therapeutic equipment company, introduced new multisensory equipment and provided tips on how the new components can be put together to create a total multisensory environment. Tom demonstrated a new portable sensory unit called the Rover, musical and fiberoptics that can be incorporated into tactile walls, a vibrating floor and stereo to be placed under a ball pit or waterbed, a rocker with speakers and a laser kaleidoscope. Tom also explained how all light sources in Southpaw products are now LED, eliminating the heat from other types of lights.

Also during the meeting, Tom along with **Cyndie Marsh, COTA** (Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant) from Pioneer Education Center reported on the International Multisensory Environment Symposium they attended last fall. This marked the first time the conference was held in the US, bringing together researchers, practitioners, and experts who provided workshops and lectures about the use of multisensory environments. Cyndie reported that in other countries, multisensory environments are viewed as a medical need and often covered by health insurance.

The spring meeting of the Sensory Discussion Group was held in May at the Pioneer Education Center. Their spacious sensory garden was developed in 2010 by Cyndie Marsh and **Marsha Bookman, OT**. During the meeting, information was provided about how the garden was developed as well as issues that should be thought through when planning a garden. The sensory garden is designed to be accessible and interactive for all the students by incorporating features that provide stimulation for all of the senses and allows a greater variety of learning activities to take place outdoors.

Karen Poole, Multisensory Environment Sales Manager for TFH USA Ltd., demonstrated the new Vecta portable multisensory unit. She also showed a new interactive visual projection system that features a mat which can be placed on the floor or a wall and allows users to perform activities to help them enhance their skills and abilities.

The Sensory Discussion Group has been meeting quarterly since the fall of 2005. The meetings are for those interested in the importance of sensory system development and sensory processing disorders. The next meeting will be held this summer. If you are interested in attending a Sensory Discussion Group meeting, please contact Cindy Potter at cpotter@nhsonline.org.

Recycling cell phones and cartridges



Please send us your used printer, fax and copier cartridges as well as old cell phones. AVS earns money for the Capital Development Fund simply by recycling these old 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 \$4,277 from recycling these products. Please send used cartridges and cell phones to Kelly Gremba, Allegheny Valley School, Corporate Center, 1996 Ewings Mill Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108.

NHS/AVS – A Winning Combination

In May of 2008, NHS Human Services (NHS), one of the country's largest non-profit providers of human services acquired Allegheny Valley School, one of Pennsylvania's leading providers of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) services.

- This partnership secures the historic mission of AVS into the future.
- As the largest provider of services to the I/DD population, we are better able to advocate on behalf of consumers, staff, and promote ABILITIES, not disabilities.
- By combining and sharing resources, NHS/AVS has access to the best in clinical talent in our industry as well as access to state-of-the-art technology.

ABOUT NHS

NHS Human Services, which started out over 40 years ago as one of the first mental health centers in Philadelphia, now provides services to over 50,000 individuals a year in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Virginia, Maryland and Louisiana. Today, the NHS continuum of care provides services in the areas of addictive diseases, autism, education, intellectual and developmental disabilities, juvenile justice, mental health services, specialized services, and treatment foster care and permanency planning.

We're proud of our services!



Addictive Diseases – NHS provides comprehensive drug and alcohol treatment for adults and adolescents struggling with the disease of addiction.



Autism – NHS provides quality behavioral health services to children and families who are affected by Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD), specifically Autism.



Education – NHS offers a variety of educational opportunities to provide individualized learning experiences including Alternative Education, Autism Schools, Early Intervention, Special Education and Student Assistance Programs.



Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) - The philosophy of NHS is to support individuals with I/DD in the enhancement of their abilities and interests. NHS partners with the individuals to create meaningful lives and relationships with family, friends and the community. Program offerings include: Consumer Advisory Groups; Day Services; Residential Services; In-Home Supports; Job Coaching; Supports Coordinator; Supported Living; Life Sharing; Behavioral Support; Children's Residential Treatment Facility; Specialized Psychiatric Rehabilitation.



Juvenile Justice – NHS Juvenile Justice provides a continuum of services including specialized initiatives for adjudicated youth to receive therapeutic care and learn the skills necessary to become productive members of the community.



Mental Health Services – Through a continuum of care that integrates community and site-based settings, NHS provides quality services to adults and children with mental health challenges. Program offerings include community and site-based services, as well as residential and outpatient services.



Specialized Services – NHS has specialized services that include Elder Care, Traumatic Brain Injury and an Outpatient Gambling Addictions Program.



Treatment Foster Care & Permanency Planning – NHS has specialized treatment foster care programs providing a home-like environment for children with behavioral and emotional problems. NHS also supports permanency planning for children in the custody of local county children and youth agencies.

To learn more about NHS, please visit www.nhsonline.org or call 888-NHS-0020.

Disability Awareness Celebration at the Pirates Game

On May 7, employees from NHS/AVS attended a resource fair on Federal Street prior to the Pittsburgh Pirates game. As fans arrived, they were greeted by more than 20 organizations serving individuals with disabilities. Fans talked with organizations, received small give-aways and enjoyed live music before heading in to see the Pirates victory over the Houston Astros. Patrons visiting the NHS/AVS table learned about services provided and had the chance to win The Terrible Towel® package filled with goodies.

Staff and residents from the Rt. 108 Group Home attended the game that night and helped to cheer the Pirates on to victory.

Employees from NHS/AVS at the Disability Awareness Celebration.



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.

The Legacy Society
Securing the Mission and Future of
Allegheny Valley School

Have you included Allegheny Valley School in your estate plans? Please let us know so we can honor you as a member of *The Legacy Society*.

Allegheny Valley School wants to recognize those who have included us in their future plans. As a member of Allegheny Valley School's *The Legacy Society* you will be recognized as someone who has committed to **securing the mission and future of Allegheny Valley School**.

Many have already checked the box on our donation envelope labeled, "I have named Allegheny Valley School in my will." If you've already let us know, we will be contacting you in the coming months in hopes that you will grant us permission to list you as a member of Allegheny Valley School's *The Legacy Society*. We will include a list of *The Legacy Society* members in our next *Perspectives* newsletter.

Including Allegheny Valley School in your estate plans will make a difference in the lives of the children and adults in our care for generations to come. There are many options available to support Allegheny Valley School with a planned gift, with the simplest being a **bequest** in your will or a **beneficiary designation** on life insurance policies, pensions or IRAs.

We will be happy to discuss with you and your advisors how you can remember Allegheny Valley School in your estate plans. Having a conversation in advance will ensure that your wishes are carried out. Please call, email or write to us with any questions you may have: Dorothy Hunter Gordon, Chief Development Officer, Allegheny Valley School, 1996 Ewings Mill Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108, Phone: (412) 299-7777, email dgordon@nhsonline.org.

Allegheny Valley School's Tax ID: #25-1094911

Please note that the above information does not constitute legal advice and is not to be construed as legal advice in any manner. Please consult your attorney or tax advisor. Allegheny Valley School is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization – donations to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. The official registration and financial information of Allegheny Valley School may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Did You Know???

First introduced in 2006 under The Pension Protection, the IRA Charitable Rollover provision allows individuals aged 70 ½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) to public charities, without having to count the distributions as taxable income. In order to qualify for tax-free treatment, the distribution must be made directly to a qualified charity such as Allegheny Valley School. As of this writing, the IRA Charitable Rollover has been extended through December 31, 2011.

For more information, please call Dorothy Hunter Gordon at (412) 299-2228.

"Champ" continued from page 1.

life. He is golfing, traveling and spending more time with his friends and family. "Allegheny Valley School was a major part of life for me, Cindy and our children," states Regis. "I will always miss my friends on staff, my friends in the Parents Association and, of course, the wonderful people we serve at AVS."

We are delighted that the 20th Annual Friends of AVS Golf Open on August 15 (see page 1) will honor Regis for his dedication to the vulnerable individuals served by AVS, and for living the Allegheny Valley School mission. Regis will be honored throughout the day of golf and at the awards dinner, where he will be named our first **AVS CHAMPion**.

We hope you will join us and/or send memories and greetings that may be shared during the celebration. **Please send messages and stories* to Dorothy Hunter Gordon, Allegheny Valley School, 1996 Ewings Mill Road, Coraopolis, PA 15108 or dgordon@nhsonline.org.** *Please note, messages are not guaranteed to be published and may be edited, as needed.

AVS Parents Association Honors Regis Champ

During its April 10 semi-annual meeting, the Allegheny Valley School Parents Association thanked Regis for his dedication to the organization and their loved ones. Family members and friends came together at the Pittsburgh Campus gymnasium to share stories gathered over many years.



Tom McGrail and Regis Champ

Phyllis Brant told of Regis and her late husband digging ditches, planting trees and putting up fences at homes throughout the region. They'd come home muddy, exhausted and delighted at the progress they'd made after a long day.

Evy Klingenberg recalled how Regis would shave her son **Tom's** face. Even after many years when he would see Rege around the campus, Tom would imitate Rege shaving him. He never forgot Rege's kindness.

Several others had additional hearty words of gratitude to Regis for giving them comfort that their loved ones are in exceptional hands.

AVS Parents Association President **Tom McGrail** presented to Rege a Wendell August Forge engraved platter of the Patricia Hillman Miller Campus. The piece includes the following verbiage:

Our Children's Champ
Thanks For A Lifetime Of Caring
AVS Parents Association 2010

"We were pleased to present Rege with a plaque celebrating his lifetime of caring, and for being our children's CHAMP," commented Mr. McGrail. "He will be sorely missed, but as he so graciously said, his talent was in selecting people who can and will continue the outstanding mission of AVS. Many of those long term folks were present at the April meeting, which is very re-assuring to us as parents and family members. The caring tradition goes on."

Commemorative Bricks

In 2010 AVS celebrated *50 Years of Caring*. You can help to honor this celebration with a commemorative brick at PHMC. Bricks can display your special message, names(s) and/or business. Please complete the order form and return it to AVS' Corporate Center by July 31, 2011. Bricks will be placed at PHMC later this year.

Thank you to the following commemorative brick donors. *Orders as of June 7, 2011.*

Joan and Robert Andersen
 Diana and Bob Angelo & Family
 Elvera and Chuck Barcelona
 Chick and BettyLou Barry
 Angela and Thomas Bishop
 Michael J. Breslin
 Rosalie & Dan Brown
 René Burke
 Cindy and Regis Champ & Family
 Roland Champ Family
 Cara and Rick Cillo & Family
 Leslie Clifford
 Mary DeMarco
 Flora and John Dihtzeruk
 Deborah Douglass
 Patricia and John K. Duggan, Jr.
 Carol and Dave Erzen & Family
 Linda Fabian & Family
 Clyde E. Flickinger
 Norine Fusca
 Louise and Michael Gambino, Sr.

Dorothy and Michael Gordon & Family
 Kelly and Justin Gremba & Family
 Lynne and Glenn Gross
 Ruth Hammond
 Jan and Dennis Harvilla
 MaryAnn Harvilla
 Harry Hedberg
 HMAs and DCS of PHMC and Program Staff
 Crystal and Gary Hoffman
 Karen B. and William Hunter
 Susan Keane
 Evy and Robert Klingenberg, Sr.
 Tom & Sue Klingensmith
 Martha L. Long
 The Malay Family
 Donna and Terrence McNelis & Family
 Michelle Miller
 Veronica and Harry Morgan
 Elsie and Alex Murray
 Anthony Musmanno
 Mary and Walter Nagy

Linda Oprisko
 Mary Jean Passant
 Leah Peason
 Larry Pesce and Family
 PHMC Nurses
 Pat and John Police & Family
 Ruth A. Rau
 Jane Rivera
 Shari and Dick Rizzutto & Family
 Amy and Chris Rocini
 Sen. M. Joseph Rocks
 Peggy Rohde
 Stacey and Shawn Ryan & Family
 Jan and Alan Sachs
 Kathleen Scheppner
 Jane and Gerald Strittmatter
 Daniel A. Torisky
 Valerie Turner
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wasco Jr.
 Eric B. Watters

AVS Commemorative Bricks _____ 4" x 8" (\$50.00) 4 lines maximum (3 lines recommended)

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.

_____ 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.**

Special Olympics

Bowling Tournament

Athletes from Pittsburgh Campus participated in the Special Olympics Singles Bowling Tournament in January. The event was held at AMF Lanes in Mt. Lebanon and 18 athletes from AVS competed. Athletes, coaches and staff along with families and volunteers had a wonderful day, and many athletes brought home medals.

Basketball Tournament

In March, Pittsburgh Campus sent seven athletes to the Allegheny County Special Olympics Basketball Tournament at the University of Pittsburgh. Athletes participated in individual skills competitions. The athletes did well in the competition and the trip was a fun day for all.

Floor Hockey Annual Games

Bob and **Paul** from Willow Acres participated in the Annual Special Olympics Floor Hockey Tournament. Paul earned first place in the individual skills competition and Bob was a member of the Silver Medal Butler County team.

Aquatics Competition

On April 2, the swim team at PHMC headed to Tress Hall at the University of Pittsburgh where Allegheny County Special Olympics holds its annual aquatics competition. PHMC athletes joined swimmers from all over the county to compete in various events such as the 10-yard assisted and 15-yard floatation. Assisted by AVS staff and the Pitt Swimming and Diving Team,



Sarah and **Courtney** received bronze medals, **James** and **Gregory** won silver medals, and **Keith** brought home the gold! Congratulations to the athletes and a special thanks to the volunteers that made this event possible.

Gregory, with help from AVS staff BJ, competes in the swimming competition.

Mock Summer Games

On April 13, **Pastor Dennis Lawrence** brought students and others from the Robinson Township Christian School to PHMC to help get ready for the Allegheny County Special Olympics Summer Games. Each year the Recreation Department puts on a Mock Special Olympic Summer Games as a way to prepare our athletes for the May competition. Consumers rotated between five stations where they participated in bean bag skills, kicking activities, basketball and t-ball. The volunteers cheered-on the athletes and encouraged everyone to do their best. PHMC resident **Ann** helped open the games by reciting the Special Olympic oath. Consumers and staff were also separated into three teams and competed for the best Special Olympics banner. Congratulations to Team 2, who won an ice cream social for their group.



Arindam practices for the Special Olympics Summer Games.

Allegheny County Summer Games



Colleen receives a medal at the Summer Games.

The annual Allegheny County Summer Games were held at Baldwin High School on May 14. Sixty-six (66) AVS athletes from western PA participated in track and field and other summer games throughout the day. Some of the events included tennis ball throw, softball throw, bean bag toss, frisbee, bocce, standing long jump, kick for distance and golf putting. Track events included the 10, 25 and 50 meter walk/ races on wheels. Many ribbons and medals were brought home by the athletes, as well as great memories from the day. Congratulations to all athletes who participated!

Grant News

We are most grateful for each and every contribution that 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, 2010, 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:

AVS Foundation
Edith L. Trees Charitable Trust
Martha Mack Lewis Foundation

Polk Foundation
Rosebud Mining Company

Grants and contributions of \$5,000 or more received November 1, 2010 - April 30, 2011.

Thank you Larrimor's

Pittsburgh-based Larrimor's, an up-scale men's and women's clothing store, has become a wonderful friend to AVS. Last fall, Larrimor's supported the *Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration* not only as a sponsor but also by allowing AVS to promote the event in a prominent display window at its downtown store. Now, in the fall issue of *Larrimor's Magazine*, the retailer has given space for AVS to tell its story. Please watch our website for the piece, due out in September.

Jan Harvilla retires as House Manager of 26 years

Jan Harvilla joined AVS in 1984 as the House Manager/Case Worker of the Wood House. She and her husband **Dennis**, and their children **Amy** and **Jason**, lived with several ladies with I/DD in the Wood House on AVS' Pittsburgh Campus. In July 1985, AVS opened 23 group homes in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Mercer counties. At this time, Jan and her family moved to the Maratta community group home located in Hopewell Township and Jan became the House Manager. Many of the ladies from the Wood House also made the move to Maratta. Jan and her family learned from one another as well as from the six women. Vacations and community outings were planned and enjoyed by all. It quickly became a family environment!

In June 1990, Jan was promoted to an Assistant Administrator, and she remained House Manager at Maratta. She held the Assistant Administrator position until 1997 when she was promoted to become the Program Director of the Edward J. Zapp Program Center. In 2001, the Kennedy Program Center was opened and Jan became its director as well. Jan lives AVS ... serving day and night for many years.

As of July 1, 2011, Jan will be retiring as House Manager after 26 years of serving in this role. She will remain the Program Director of the Edward J. Zapp and Kennedy Program Centers. She and Dennis will very much miss living with the Maratta ladies and the fast paced environment!

"I came to teach, yet I was the one to learn," says Jan. "Through the genuine love and commitment, we all became family. We shared life and experiences, and created many warm memories."

"Jan Harvilla is the most upstanding, righteous person that I have ever met," comments Western Region Director **Gary Hoffman**. "She is the moral compass of Allegheny Valley School, and her value to our organization goes beyond compare. Through her many years of dedicated service, she has set a standard of excellence that has served as the blue print for the Allegheny Valley School brand of management that many follow, but few achieve. Today we celebrate Jan's achievements, knowing full well that the time we have spent in her company has truly made all of us better people. She is the genuine article."



Jan Harvilla with the ladies from Maratta.



Jan and Dennis Harvilla at AVS' Black & Golden Anniversary Celebration.

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.

Giant Eagle Apples for the Students Program



Thank you to the 474 registrants that participated in the 2010-2011 Apples for the Students program. We are delighted that seven new participants registered this year! Through the program, which concluded on March 19, AVS received a digital camera, a karaoke machine, educational software, playground balls 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 2011-2012 program. If you are interested in becoming part of the program, please call Amy Rocini at (412) 299-2229. Details for the 2011-2012 program will be published in the Fall/Winter 2011 issue of *Perspectives*.

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's Capital Development Fund. Unless donors specifically indicate AVS, no funds will come to us. To designate AVS, write in Allegheny Valley School's name and agency code on the pledge form. We ask that you authorize the release of your name to us so we can acknowledge your generosity.

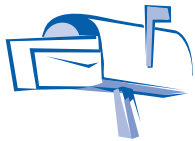
Allegheny Valley School's Agency Codes

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



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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 for your name to be removed, 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. Please send comments and suggestions to:

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 Philadelphia, PA 19115-1397
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 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-6451
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 1992 Ewings Mill Road
 Coraopolis, PA 15108-3399
 (412) 262-3500

Slippery Rock Program Center
 125 Rebecca Lane
 Slippery Rock, PA 16057-8519
 (724) 794-1362

Edward J. Zapp Program Center
 140 Coketown Road
 Coraopolis, PA 15108-3316
 (412) 262-1553

Kennedy Program Center
 1806 Pine Hollow Road
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136-1538
 (412) 778-2540

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

Central Pennsylvania Community Group Homes, Family Living/ Life Sharing Programs
 c/o 1291 Middletown Road
 Hummelstown, PA 17036-8929
 (717) 566-3267

Eastern Pennsylvania Community Group Homes, Family Living/ Life Sharing Programs
 c/o 380 Red Lion Road, Suite 201
 Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006-6451
 (215) 947-4189

Western Pennsylvania Community Group Homes, Supported Living, Apartments, Family Living/ Life Sharing Programs
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