

AROUND THE HOUSE

Avondale House eNewsletter



Mark Your Calendar

November 23-27: No School- Fall Break

November 26-27: Day School & administrative offices closed- Thanksgiving Holiday

December 21- January 1: Day School Closed

December 24-25: Administrative offices closed

December 31-January 1: Administrative offices closed

January 16: Team Avondale House Houston Marathon Group Run

Generosity and Gratitude

This holiday season, we reach out to you on behalf of the many grateful families whose lives have been changed because they have found Avondale House. Through your encouragement and generous financial support, we are able to nurture and educate individuals with autism, while providing hope to the families who love them.



"We are so grateful for the residential program because they are teaching Christopher life skills, doing activities such as unpacking groceries, loading the dishwasher, making the bed, setting the table, all the life-skills we hope we would continue to be doing. The community-based programs are amazing. He leads a full life and he loves to be on the go! Christopher has been enriched in more ways than he can express. Everyday we wake up with gratitude in our heart for Avondale!" -Cathy Nixon

We ask that you consider donating to Avondale House this holiday season. Your gift allows us to continue offering the highest quality education, resources, and training so that individuals living with autism continue to thrive just like Christopher.

This year, your gift will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$65,000, thanks to the generosity of several donors.



Donate Today!

Eagle Scout Makes a Difference at Avondale House

Eagle Scout candidate from Bellaire Troop 222, James Palke, completed his Eagle Scout project at Avondale House on Saturday, Nov. 9 with a team of 12 volunteers. James designed, obtained the materials, and recruited a team of 12 to complete a project to benefit Avondale House students and clients.



“Thanks to James’ efforts, our students will benefit greatly from the opportunity to learn gardening skills as a part of their curriculum and the vegetables that are grown will be used for meal preparation for our residents”, said Steve Vetrano, CEO of Avondale House.

James and his fellow scouts from various ranks built a 10 x 10 raised garden bed for Avondale House to use for gardening . The Eagle Scout team also readied the box for planting by filling it with soil and gravel. This project has produced a garden bed for school and adult program to plant, grow, and care for vegetables.

James said, "I chose AH because of the support and flexibility offered. Because my family is impacted by autism, it was important to me to serve an organization that provides autism services. This dramatically increased my fulfillment of this Eagle Project."

Please see volunteer opportunities below, or if you would like to volunteer at Avondale House, please reach out to [Katie Bruchmiller](#).

Team Member of the Month: Penny Wainaina

Penny Wainaina is Avondale's Team Member of the Month! Penny has been with Avondale House for over 15 years as a Teacher's Aide. She has an incredible work ethic and always has a wonderful attitude. She has built great rapport with her students and truly cares for them. Penny radiates with



positivity and encouragement each and every day. Congratulations to Penny!

Volunteer Opportunities

Holiday Break Classroom Clean-up

Avondale House needs help disinfecting and organizing our adult day habilitation classrooms over the holiday break! Avondale House adults and staff have not been in the classrooms since March, so we need volunteers who are willing to clean and sanitize the classroom furniture and objects to freshen them up! Additionally and with the guidance of the Day-Hab coordinator, we need help organizing and cleaning out over-used or outdated classroom contents and materials.



Depending on comfort levels, each classroom can have 2-3 people working per room with masks and social distancing implemented. If a family or close group wish to work together in a room, more individuals per room will be allowed.

Please contact [Katie Bruchmiller](#) with your availability and to schedule a shift between December 28 - December 31.

Lunchtime Front Desk Receptionist

Avondale House needs a volunteer to cover the receptionist desk from 12:00 - 1:00 any day or multiple days of the week. Main responsibilities include alerting the Board-Certified Behavior Analysts when requested; answering the main telephone line; greeting, letting in and signing in visitors, and making sure the appropriate staff member is notified of their arrival. Great customer service skills a must!

Opportunity will require training by our receptionist and a 4-month minimum commitment from the volunteer because of the training required. Opportunity can also be coupled with admin/clerical work at Avondale House.

This is a great opportunity to volunteer in a school and special needs environment!

If you would like to shadow a coverage session, please contact [Katie Bruchmiller](#).

Recent Donors

Avondale House wishes to thank and acknowledge these recent donors:

Jeffery Joseph • Jerrie Seets • Nancy Hemmen • Ashley Nelly • Mary Calkins
National Agents Alliance • Cathy Sussman • John Vozzella • Susan Freese
Applied Materials • Sarah Barlament • Antonio Mott • Michele Wiseley • Mary Traylor Taylor
Grimes • Amazon Smile • Gail Vozzella • H-E-B • Lindsey Malek • Ed Parazynski
Patti Kelly • Margaret Penoli • Terry Gardner • Albert Nixon • Peter and Colette Johnson
Family Foundation • Marie Baker • Suez WTS • Albertsons Safeway Organization

[Donate Now!](#)



[Contact Us](#)

