

AROUND THE HOUSE

Avondale House eNewsletter

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HOUSE
Specializing in Autism Services and Resources



Mark Your Calendar

October: Avondale House Spec's Charity of the Month

Oct 15: Run For a Reason Virtual Happy Hour

Oct 22-23: Kendra Scott Fundraiser

Jan 17: Chevron Houston Marathon & Aramco Half

Milo in Action

Milo the Robot has been a great addition to the Avondale House Team! Not only has the staff enjoyed getting to know him but he has had an awesome start working with the students.

Milo has slowly been making his grand introduction during classroom instruction with Ms. Claudia's class. She started with his "follow the leader lesson", emotions lesson, and practicing the calming tools and techniques, which have been a great hit. The students on campus really enjoyed their first meeting with Milo and even students engaging in virtual learning got to meet him. One of the virtual students verbalized the word "Robot" without any prompting as soon as they saw Milo! Students are finding a great friend in Milo and are even asking him questions and having conversations with him.

Milo has become an important part of the Avondale team and we are all looking forward to learning more from him and implementing the [Robokind](#) program as part of our everyday classroom instruction and speech therapy sessions.

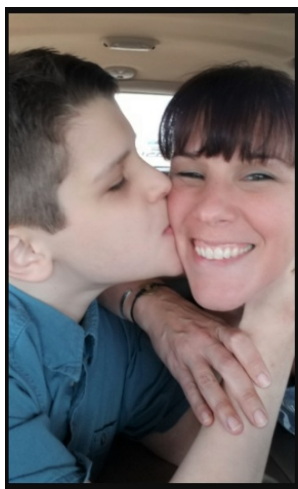


Runner Spotlight: Angela Mlcak

We caught up with Angela Mlcak who has been running for a reason with [Team Avondale House](#) since 2017. This is what she had to say about why she runs:

"In December 2016, my son Timmy started attending the Avondale House day school. From day one, he made

progress under the instruction and guidance of their wonderful staff. In June 2017, as I was browsing the monthly newsletter, I read the Run for a Reason section and felt a pull I never expected. I'm not a runner, I thought. I'd like to be, but 26.2 miles is insane and 13.1 is still too far. I'd never run more than a 5k before that. But as I pondered the idea it became overwhelmingly clear that this was something I had to do. I fought the pull for as long as I could, and finally registered on August 1, 2017. The light-bulb finally stopped flickering as the reason shone brightly!



I'm doing this for my son Timmy and all of the kiddos just like him. Every day I ask him to do something that is difficult because I know he can. It may take a while and the progress may be bumpy, but I *know* he can do it. So I run. And the progress is slow sometimes and I regress and start over many more times than I should, but I start over. And I progress. And every year since that first half-marathon in January 2018, I finish those 13.1 miles. Timmy and kids like him battle every day to progress. They get tired, they get frustrated, and I'm certain that some days they just want to throw in the towel but they get back to it. With steadfast encouragement and unfailing support from parents, siblings, family, and friends together with unwavering consistency and caring instruction from teachers and staff, they keep pushing to progress. Attending Avondale House was a turning point in Timmy's education and progress. I am forever grateful for the time he was able to attend. It is my honor and privilege to be part of the team."

[Click here to join Team Avondale House](#)

Spec's Charity of the Month

We are honored to be selected as Spec's Charity of the Month for October! Starting October 1st through the end of the month, each time you visit a Spec's store, you will be given the option to make a donation to support the individuals we serve at Avondale House. Your support helps to provide technology support for our day school students, nutritious family-style meals at our residential homes, and pre-vocational training to adults living with autism. Thank you to Spec's for partnering with us to make a difference in the Avondale House community.



Team Member of the Month: Toni Brown

Toni Brown is Avondale's Team Member of the Month! Toni has worked at Avondale House for a little over a year. She is quick to meet her students where they are, especially throughout the pandemic. She is exceptionally creative with virtual learning and has shown a caring commitment to help her students make the adjustments necessary to be successful. She is a team player and is eager to assist all departments at the agency – no matter what might be going on at the time. She has shown a true heart for Avondale House, and we are privileged to work alongside her to fulfill our mission!



Residents Get Long Awaited Visits from Family

On August 21st, Avondale House group homes were approved for Phase 1 visitations through Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHS). This approval allows us to host family members who wish to visit their loved one at the group homes. These visits are taking place outdoors following physical distancing and other guidelines provided by HHS. Many of the families were excited for this opportunity and have set up regular visits with their loved one. The visitors are getting creative in how to best engage with the residents during the visits. Some are reading stories, singing songs, sharing pictures and videos or bringing presents. JoAnn, mother of Clay, stated that, "it's hard not to be able to take him home, but it was so good to see him in person." Patti Kelly, COO, reports that some families are opting to continue with virtual visits instead of in-person visits; either way, the residents seem to enjoy spending time with their families and look forward to the interactions.



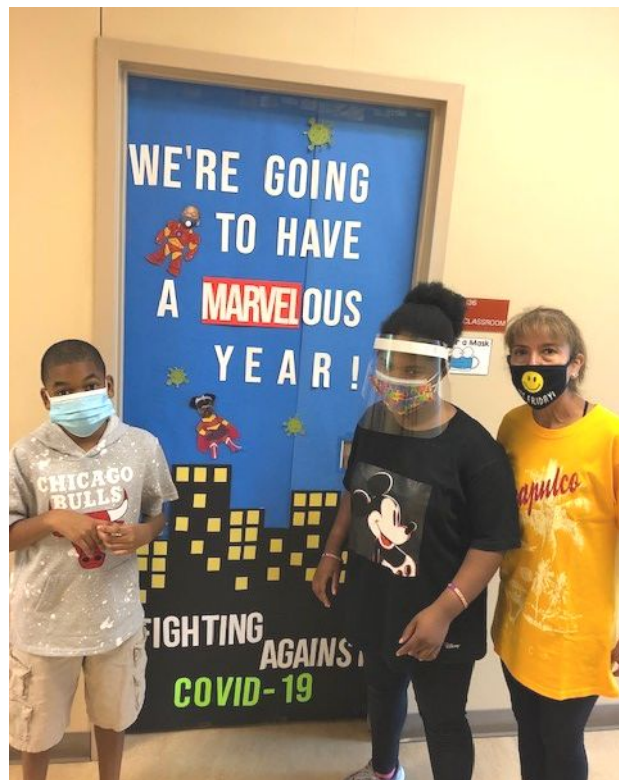
Door Decorating Contest Winner

The day school held a COVID safety themed door contest to promote education surrounding COVID-19. The contest was used as a way to help students understand COVID-19, encourage mask wearing, and other safety protocols.

While all the doors exhibited creativity and originality, the winner is room 136. The winning door was decorated by Alex Bealieu and Sandra Sanchez.

We would like to give an honorable mention to second and third place- room 151 and room 131.

[Click here to see all the doors!](#)



Recent Donors

Avondale House wishes to thank and acknowledge these recent donors:

Carole Keeney Harrington · Ramsay Elder · Antonio Mott · Janet Schacht
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