

# AROUND THE HOUSE

## Avondale House eNewsletter



### Mark Your Calendar

**Mar 15-19:** Spring Break, no school

**Apr 24:** From Our House to Yours Virtual Event

### Looking Forward with Our CEO

As we welcome in the new year, words that have become prominent in my vocabulary are *grateful and hopeful*. We are hopeful that the end of the world-wide health pandemic's end is in sight. At Avondale House, we are grateful that our residential staff and clients, as well as our school staff, have already had the opportunity to be vaccinated. We are grateful that our Avondale House community has only had 6 positive cases since the start of the pandemic and that everyone has recovered. I am also grateful for the teamwork that has been shown here as we navigated unprecedented challenges. And as we look ahead into 2021, we are hopeful that we are able to proceed with our essential programs and services in the way we are accustomed to and that best serves individuals living with autism.



We are grateful for the amazing response to our End of the Year campaign. As I write this, we are set to hit 110% of our goal which is also a 45% increase over last year's campaign! We are grateful to our leadership donors who provided a challenge match to assist in making this happen, as well as all of our loyal and new donors who gave generously. The individuals that we serve will benefit directly from this generosity, and it also sets us strongly on the path to answering the call of even more families who need our services.

We have so much more to be hopeful about in the coming months; we are about to launch a brand new website, full of family resources and rich information about all of our programs in a user-friendly format that allows us to keep the community better informed about Avondale House. Our development team is working diligently on a virtual event that will wrap up Autism Awareness month in April. And later this year, our team will begin working on our next round of strategic planning.

Please feel free to share the things that you are grateful for with us as well as what you are looking forward to in 2021.

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## Corporate Heroes at Work

Avondale House celebrates the work of [HEB Helping Here](#) as one of our very first Corporate Heroes! HEB became an Avondale House Corporate Hero last November, and we have since provided much-needed iPads for our students with their annual contribution. Our students and teaching staff are thrilled with these new tools to assist them in their curriculum – both in-person and virtual!



Avondale House teacher, Cathy Sussman, said, “My students love participating in interactive activities, so incorporating the iPad has given me the opportunity to provide multiple visual resources, helping my students succeed.”

Our Corporate Heroes ensure the continuation of our existing programs and help pursue our vision to answer the call of those families who need the resources and services that no one else in greater Houston provides. Please contact Development Director, [Michele Wiseley](#), for more information on how your company can impact our work!



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## Run for a Reason Virtual Marathon

We are so inspired by Team Avondale House! They all ran the race from different locations all the while fundraising for Avondale House students and clients.

The race may be over but there is still time to help them reach their fundraising goals. Follow the link below to support your favorite runner and help them cross the final finish line.

Support Team Avondale  
House

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## COVID-19 Vaccines

We are so grateful that our teachers, residential clients, and residential staff were included in this round of COVID-19 vaccinations. This is another critical step in keeping our students, clients, and staff safe, coordinated by Avondale House Nurse, Destiny Ford. Destiny assured that we were registered with the federal program for long-term care providers so that our residents and staff received the vaccine, while she coordinated with the city of Houston to ensure that our school staff could also receive vaccinations. Many thanks to Nurse

Destiny for her extra effort to keep everyone safe and healthy!



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## Amazon Lists

The School at Avondale House and the residential program now have AmazonSmile Charity Lists. This feature allows Avondale House supporters to easily send our programs needed items.

How to shop AmazonSmile Charity Lists:

- Visit [smile.amazon.com/charitylists](https://smile.amazon.com/charitylists)
- Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials (customers who are not already signed-up for AmazonSmile will receive a prompt to do so).
- Select and donate items from one of Avondale House's charity lists.
- Ship to default address.



Please see below for links to the lists and their descriptions.

[School Activities/Classroom](#) - items, activities, and materials requested by teachers and staff that may not fit into the budget, but that may help our students obtain their goals in different ways.

[School Supplies](#) - Supplies and items for the school and classrooms. These are items our school needs on a revolving basis.

[Residential Activities](#) - Learning and recreation activities, crafts, and games for our residents to enjoy when they are home.

[Residential Supplies](#) - Supplies and items found in most homes such as bedding, detergent, toiletry items

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## Team Member of the Month

Olabisi Fayemi is Avondale's Team Member of the Month! Ola has been a part of the Avondale



House team for 6.5 years. She is always eager to do a good job and she has worked many extra shifts to provide coverage when it is needed. Ola makes sure that she has everything needed to provide high-quality care and training to the clients that she works with. She is a wonderful asset to our team and well deserving of this award!

## Recent Donors

Avondale House wishes to thank and acknowledge these recent donors:

Erin Ajdiou • Le Foster and H.N. Ananthaswamy • Caroline and Jean-Pierre Baizan  
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