



AVONDALE HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



United Way of Greater Houston

FROM THE CEO

As I reflect back on the year, I am filled with pride and gratitude. I am extremely proud of the team here at Avondale House and how we were able to weather the literal storm. In addition to the continued physical and emotional effects of the ongoing Covid-19 situation, we also endured the freeze that shut down most the Houston area for several days. Fortunately, the Avondale House team was prepared and we made it through with minimal disruption. I am also proud of the fact that our school was able to continue to operate throughout the year and that we were once again able to welcome back our adult day-hab participants after a 15 month closure.

I am grateful that we were able to secure the PPP funding which helped us tremendously and for the support of our generous supporters who stepped up because they understood that even during a pandemic, the individuals under our care, still need the services we provide 24/7/365. I am also grateful for the wonderful support of our board of directors.

I am looking forward to all that the next year will bring including the continued expansion of our residential program, our day habilitation program, and the growth of our employment services program. I also look forward to more in-person gatherings that will allow us to have our students and adults venture out to participate in community events, and allow us to further connect with our supporters

– **Steve Vetrano**



AUTISM STATISTICS THAT DRIVE OUR WORK

PREVALENCE

*Autism affects all ethnic and socio-economic groups.
Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability (CDC, 2020)*

Prevalence of autism has **tripled** over the last 20 years in children (**.67% to 1.85%**)

Approximately **1 in 54** children in the U.S. diagnosed (CDC, 2020)

Boys are **4 times** more likely to be diagnosed with autism than girls:
1 in 34 boys (2.97%)
1 in 144 girls (0.69%)

2.21% of adults are living with autism

CHALLENGES AND EDUCATION

Estimated **40%** are nonverbal

31% of children with ASD have an intellectual disability with significant challenges in daily function

Nearly **28%** of 8-year-olds with autism have self-injurious behaviors

The average cost of educating a neuro-typical student is **\$13,187**; while the average cost to educate a student with ASD is nearly **\$21,000**.

On average, autism costs an estimated **\$60,000** a year through childhood, with the bulk of the costs in special services and lost wages related to increased demands on one or both parents.

AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD

An estimated **707,000** to **1,116,000** teens are expected to age out of school-based autism services by 2030.

50% of young adults with autism remain unemployed, a lower rate than that of young adults in other disability categories.

Nearly **40%** of adults with autism spend little or no time with friends, indicating little or no opportunities for community or social activities.

Of the nearly **18,000** people with autism who used state-funded vocational rehabilitation programs in 2014, only 60% left the program with a job. Of these, 80% worked part-time at a median weekly rate of \$160, putting them well below the poverty level.

VOLUNTEERS HAVE A HEART FOR AVONDALE

67

Volunteers

4

Corporate/Organizations

250

Volunteer Hours



"I noticed Avondale House as part of the community I live in; the exterior caught my eye but it's purpose of providing autistic individuals with the resources, education & training to grow to their fullest potential captured my heart! I find there is a true heart's interest here and I'm glad to be part of it!"

- Elizabeth Siros

"I have been volunteering with Avondale for two years now. Working with Avondale has been such a great experience. I have met so many amazing human beings over the course of my time volunteering with Avondale and volunteering here has taught so many lessons about life, business and selflessness."

- Trace Cummings,
Owner, Absolute Lawncare

INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEERS:

Rich Braverman
Jorge Calvo
Roxana Calvo
Trish Calvo
Stacie Crawford
Pramit De
Amanda Hansen
Isabelle JeanJean
Michelle Lim
James Palke
Jon Shebay
Elizabeth Siros
Emeryson Smith
Vukadin Family
Serina Yan

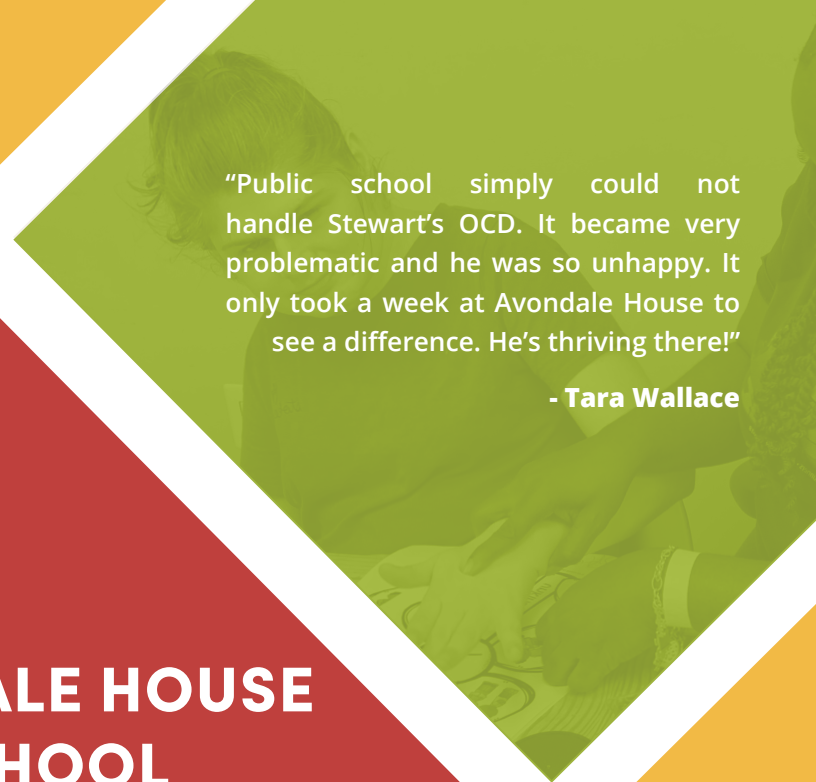
GROUPS:

Absolute Lawncare
American Girl
Generation Serve
National Charity League, Post Oak

Each year, individuals give their time and efforts to Avondale House through meaningful and impactful voluntarism for both volunteers and Avondale programs. This past year, individuals and organizations desired opportunities to give back more than ever, so while last year changed the way volunteers served, it by no means lessened the impact.

Whether it was from home, landscaping, building a planter box for our school gardens, or readying our newest residential house for resident move-in, our virtual and socially distanced opportunities all benefited the individuals we serve, our staff, and our programs.

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for their gift of time and service.



"Public school simply could not handle Stewart's OCD. It became very problematic and he was so unhappy. It only took a week at Avondale House to see a difference. He's thriving there!"

- Tara Wallace

THE AVONDALE HOUSE DAY SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED THROUGH TAAPS AND TEA-APPROVED.

The Avondale team understands our son's long-term needs and is our trusted partner in helping our son grow in independence and happiness. We especially appreciate how Avondale's resilience, patience, and love help to see us through challenging moments in our son's development. Thank you to the staff and administration of Avondale, (including everyone at the School and Bluegate II) who love and care for him."

-Jeffrey Walsh

WE ESPECIALLY CELEBRATE:

Implementing innovative technology by adding Milo the Robot, who delivers a transformative curriculum based on evidence-based practices to develop and improve social skills.

Opening our fourth residential group home, designated to house our residential students.

Adopting the Unique Learning System to support our unique learners and support better students outcomes.

The return to community -based instruction.

Number of students enrolled:

75

New students enrolled:

15

Number of students graduated:

10

Students transitioned to their home school district:

4



AVONDALE HOUSE SERVES ADULTS

Adult services at Avondale House includes a robust adult day hab program, four adult residential group homes and Employment Services. The Adult Day Hab Program is a safe environment for adults ages 22 and up who need support and training throughout their day. The program provides daily living skills, community and volunteer outings and vocational training.

Licensed by the Health and Human Services Commission, the residential services of Avondale House are provided in supportive family-style environments for adults unable to reside independently or with a family member. Residents enjoy daily living skills and independence training, structured recreation, medical management and pride in their home.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, nearly 34% of working age people with disabilities are in the labor force compared to 76% of people without disabilities. In response, Avondale House serves individuals on the autism spectrum and with intellectual and developmental disabilities who need assistance finding competitive employment. In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, our program provides job placement, supported employment and job skills training across multiple industries in the greater Houston area.

WE ESPECIALLY CELEBRATE:

- Providing Adult Day Hab services to all residents in their group home setting during the pandemic
- The re-opening of our Adult Day Hab program to community-based participants as of June 1, 2021
- Growth of the Employment Services program

35%

of adult day client goals were met

15%

of adult day client goals were mastered

50%

of adult day client goals were maintained without regression

65%

of employment service benchmarks were met



“Avondale residential services were the lighthouse in the hurricane for Jenna and our family. Now, Jenna is thriving in a safe, structured, and loving environment with such supportive staff. Jenna will always struggle. I am grateful to have Avondale to help Jenna be her best self.”

– Gail Vozzella

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Avondale House, thank you for a tremendous year! It has been a pleasure to serve as the Board President of Avondale House, and I hope that you enjoy the details of our year in this annual report.

In addition to my role as the Board President, I am also the father of a daughter who is a long-term client of Avondale House. This combined role has allowed me to witness, every day, the extraordinary work that is done by the teachers and staff who work directly with the clients; the leadership, who has done an outstanding job of keeping services available and steady as we continue to navigate the challenges of the pandemic; and the continued engagement of you, our volunteers and donors who continue to support us both financially and with your time. Due to the combined efforts of all involved, "The Heart of Avondale" remains strong!

As a recognized leader in the delivery of services to individuals with autism and their families, we recognize the need to maintain and more importantly expand our programs so that we are able to answer the call of all families in our community who need the services for which we are known. With your continued support, Avondale House will not only remain a leader in the greater Houston autism community, providing the resources, education and training to help each individual develop to their fullest potential, but also work to advocate for inclusiveness and belonging throughout the community.

– Steve Ullrich, Ph.D

Board of Directors

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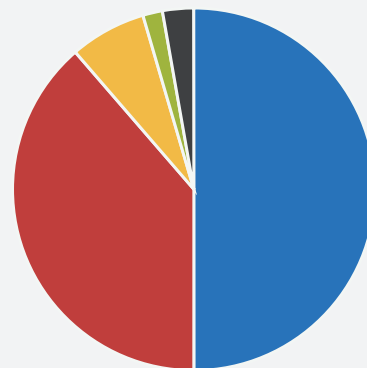
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Ann Turnbach, *Director, Ann Turnbach & Associates*

Tim Williamson, *Director, Cadance Bank*

Steve Vetrano, *CEO, Avondale House*

Avondale House income and expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021.



Total Support & Revenue	\$6,661,908
Program Expense	\$5,151,608
Management & General Expense	\$ 906,539
Fundraising Expense	\$ 234,033
End of Year Net Asset Balance	\$ 369,728



AVONDALE HOUSE DONORS

\$25,000 +

Betty and Tom Mobley
James I. Perkins Family Foundation
Kelli and Chris Watson

\$10,000 - \$24,999

Bayou City Road Runners
Astrea and Alfred Fatica
HEB Grocery Company
Ann Turnbach and Steve Ullrich

\$5000 - \$9999

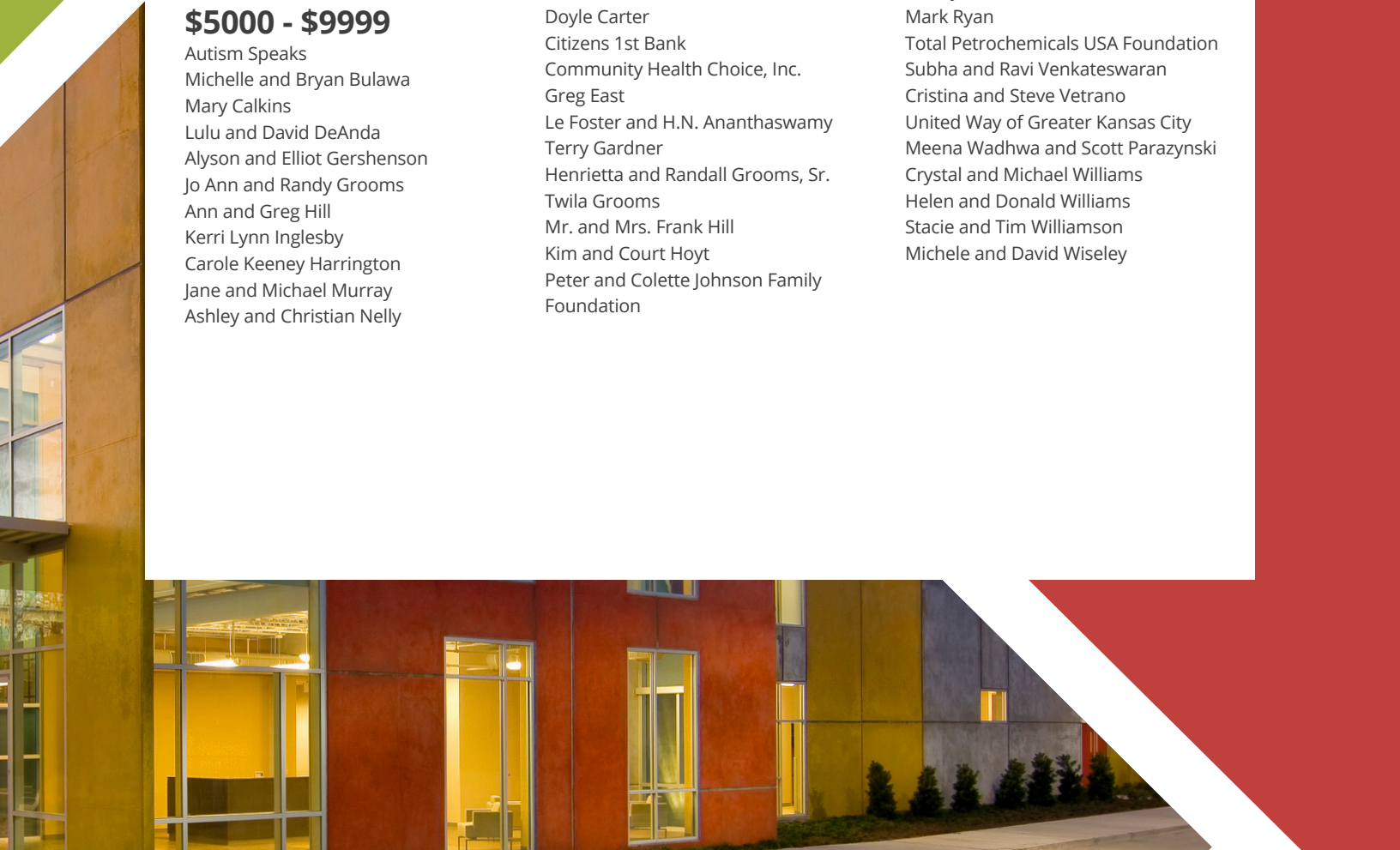
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Crystal and Michael Williams
Helen and Donald Williams
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AVONDALE HOUSE DONORS

\$500 - \$999

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