



AVONDALE HOUSE

ANNUAL REPORT
2021-2022



United Way of Greater Houston



FROM THE CEO

This year was an incredible year of impact for Avondale House. Since 1976, Avondale House has provided individuals with autism the resources, education, and training to develop to their fullest potential, and is the only organization in the greater Houston area providing comprehensive services for individuals with a primary diagnosis of autism from the age of three throughout their lifetime. I am happy to report that this year, Avondale House served over 100 individuals with autism through our four program areas: day school, adult day habilitation, residential services, and employment services. The need for Avondale's services continues to grow, and we are working endlessly to ensure that we are prepared to respond to the needs of the autism community.

2021 - 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

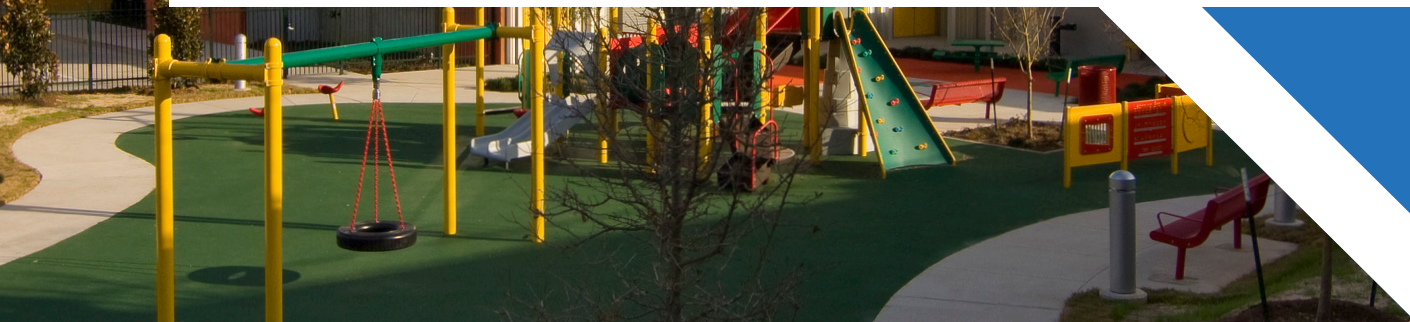
- Day School: We welcomed back volunteers to the classrooms and resumed our community-based outings
- Adult Day Habilitation Program: We leased a new space to expand our day habilitation program that will open in January 2023
- Residential Services Program: We purchased a fifth home for the future residential program expansion

I am also thrilled to report that we purchased additional land behind our main building for our future program expansion.

None of this would be possible without the support of our amazing board members, donors, volunteers, and community partners that make our mission possible every day.

I look forward to continuing to grow our programs and ensuring that individuals with autism have access to inclusive and equitable opportunities.

– **Steve Vetrano**





AUTISM STATISTICS THAT DRIVE OUR WORK

PREVALENCE

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) affects all ethnic and socio-economic groups. Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disability in the United States.

Prevalence of autism in children has **more than tripled** over the last 18 years (**.67% to 2.3%**)

According to a 2018 sample by the ADDM Network, approximately **1 in 44** third graders have been identified as having autism spectrum disorder

Males are **4x** more likely to be diagnosed with autism than females:
1 in 27 males (3.7%)
1 in 116 females (0.86%)

An estimated **2.21%** of adults in the U.S. are living with autism

CHALLENGES AND EDUCATION

About **40%** of those with autism are nonverbal

31% of children with ASD have a co-occurring intellectual disability with significant challenges in daily function

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

On average, special education costs families an estimated **\$60,000** a year per child

AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD

An estimated **707,000 to 1.1 million** teens are expected to age out of school-based autism services by 2030

50% of young adults with autism remain unemployed or unenrolled in higher education for the first two years out of high school

Research demonstrates that job activities encouraging independence **reduce symptoms** of ASD and increase daily living skills

THE SCHOOL AT AVONDALE HOUSE

The Avondale House Day School is accredited through TAAPS and is TEA-approved, serving students ages 3 to 21.

WE ESPECIALLY CELEBRATE:

- Staff adaptation and transition throughout the pandemic, allowing the school to operate safely and efficiently
- The increase of instructional learning through technology in the classroom
- Reintroducing outside of the classroom activities and art and music class

Number of students enrolled:

91

Number of students graduated:

22

New students enrolled:

9

Students transitioned to their home school district:

3



"Avondale has proved to be everything we desired in a school for Joshua. Joshua leaves and returns every day with a smile that says he is treated well. This is the place for him."

- Parents, Robert and LaToyia



"What I love most about teaching at Avondale are my students and their parents. Every day presents new and different challenges and successes."

- Day School Teacher



"Since being a student at Avondale House, Avery is learning, his behavior has improved, and he is around other students like himself. They are showing him how to express himself in areas I cannot, and the teachers have been so awesome and are willing to go the extra mile to help him. I am very grateful to the staff at Avondale!"

- Parent, Monica



AVONDALE HOUSE SERVES ADULTS

Avondale House provides a long-term solution for adults with moderate to severe autism through a day habilitation program, four residential group homes, and employment services.

WE ESPECIALLY CELEBRATE:

- Returning to in-person community-based activities and maintaining regular programming throughout the pandemic
- The ability of program participants to adapt and learn COVID-19 protocols despite sensory challenges
- Opening Avondale's 4th residential home
- An upcoming day habilitation expansion allowing Avondale to serve more adults
- Improvement in the development of peer-to-peer relationships

The adult day habilitation program is a safe environment for adults ages 22 and older who need support and training throughout their day. Program participants learn skills for daily living and vocations according to their Individualized Service Plan (ISP). They also participate in community and volunteer outings that serve as training tools for developing job skills and gaining independence.

33

day habilitation participants

51%

are also full-time residents in our group homes

Licensed by the Health and Human Services Commission, **the residential program** provides long-term, stable living environments for adults that are unable to reside independently or live with family. Avondale is home to many residents who enjoy family-style living with weekend and evening recreation, and receive 24/7 support from dedicated staff with their medical needs, hygiene and everyday household tasks. During the day, residents attend Avondale's adult day program and learn valuable life skills. Avondale House supports residents on their lifelong journey and works hard to provide them with the tools to learn independence and spend more time with family members.

19

residents

Staff to
resident ratio:

1:3

77%

of residents reduced
or maintained
maladaptive behaviors

Average length of
stay in the residential
program:

20.2 years

Longest stay is

36 years

58%

have resided in our
homes for over
20 years



"Our son Christopher has been a residential client at Avondale since 1993. In all these years he has always received excellent care from the Avondale residential staff. The staff members are very caring and conscientious and that means the world to us! We are so grateful for Avondale."

- Parents, Cathy and Al



"Our son's attendance at the adult day program has given him a place to go that he looks forward to every morning! He has meaningful activities to engage in every day, in a loving environment, where he is cared for and challenged."

- Parents, Lisa and Michael

"Our son, Zachary, has been a resident and student at Avondale House for 2 years. He very much appreciates the structure provided by Avondale at "Zachy's house" and at school - this structure has enabled him to develop a greater ability to learn and self-regulate throughout his day. The Avondale team are trusted partners in helping Zachy develop and maintain the skills and behaviors that contribute to a happy life. We are so thankful that we are part of the Avondale family."

- Parents, Germaine and Jeffrey

AVONDALE HOUSE PROVIDES EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, only 34% of working age people with disabilities are in the labor force. Avondale House serves individuals on the autism spectrum and with intellectual and developmental disabilities whom need assistance finding competitive employment. In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), our program provides job placement, supported employment, and job skills training across multiple industries in the greater Houston area.

The **Avondale House employment services program** operates through a contractual partnership with TWC to assist its clients in obtaining competitive, integrated employment by providing the following services:

- **Job Skills Training:** Teaches the soft skills associated with competitive, integrated employment including, but not limited to: job searching, job applications, resume writing, interviewing, work-place communication and socialization
- **Job Placement:** Aids an individual in securing employment based on their expressed preferences
- **Supported Employment Services:** Offers continued support beyond initial employment by interfacing with HR departments and direct supervisors to help clients transition into their new roles and seek advancement where applicable

13

program participants served through employment services

7

employment partners

4

participants secured jobs and have maintained employment through benchmarks



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, everyday, 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 we are known for. One step in achieving this goal is the purchase of the property immediately adjacent to the school, which will provide the room needed to expand our programs. 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

2021-2022 Board of Directors

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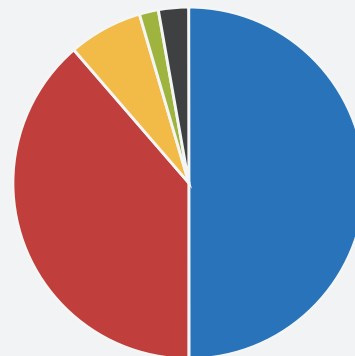
Ann Turnbach, *Director, Ann Turnbach & Associates*

Tim Williamson, *Director, Cadance Bank*

Steve Vetrano, *CEO, Avondale House*

**Board list from July 2021 to June 2022.*

Avondale House income and expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.



Total Support & Revenue	\$6,256,202
Program Expense	\$5,257,757
Management & General Expense	\$ 834,465
Fundraising Expense	\$ 307,872
End of Year Net Asset Balance	\$ 143,892

AVONDALE HOUSE DONORS

Donations made from July 1, 2021 - June 31, 2022

\$25,000 +

Capital One
Houston Methodist
Betty and Tom Mobley
PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc.
Sterling-Turner Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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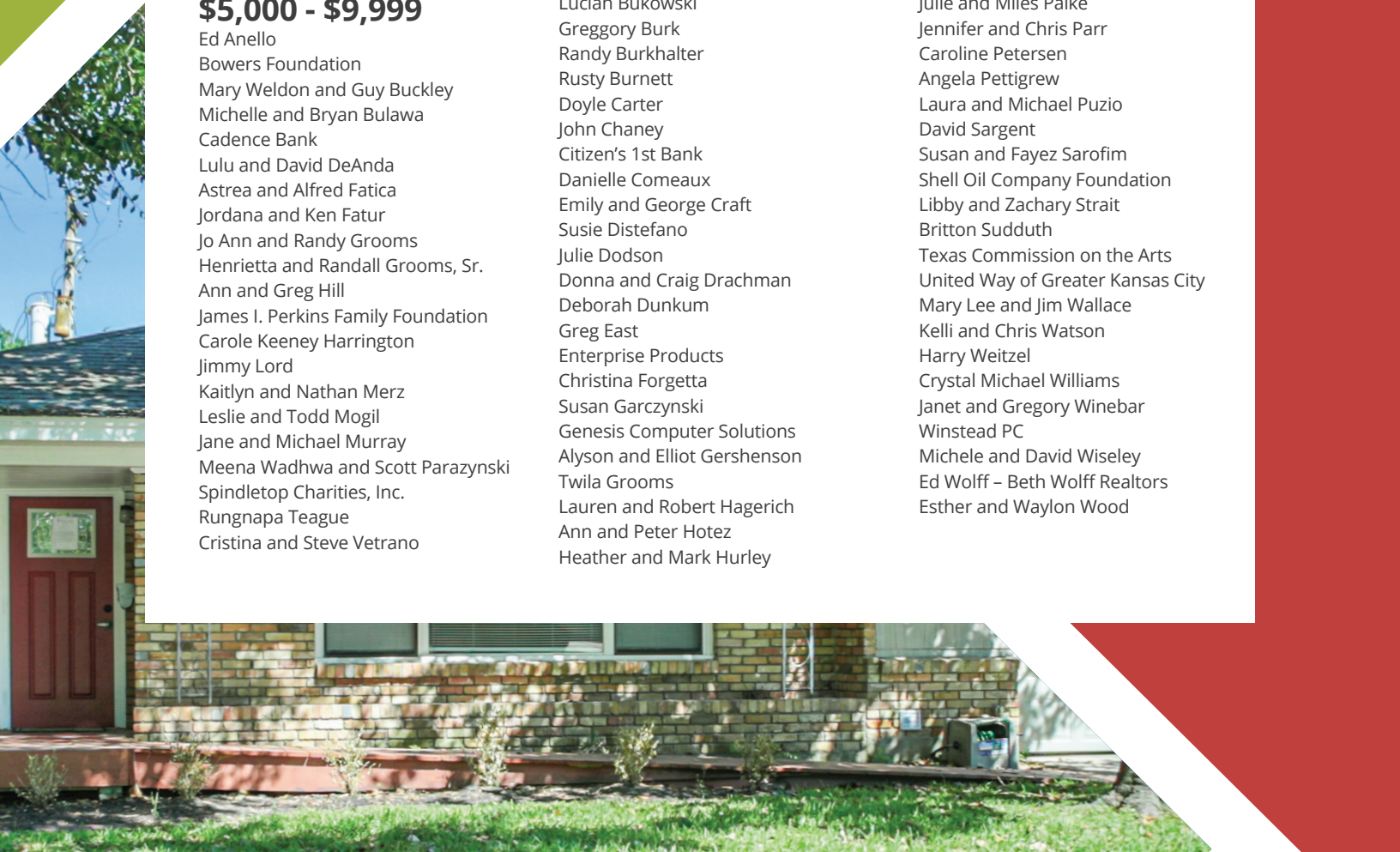
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AVONDALE HOUSE DONORS

Donations made from July 1, 2021 - June 31, 2022

\$500 - \$999

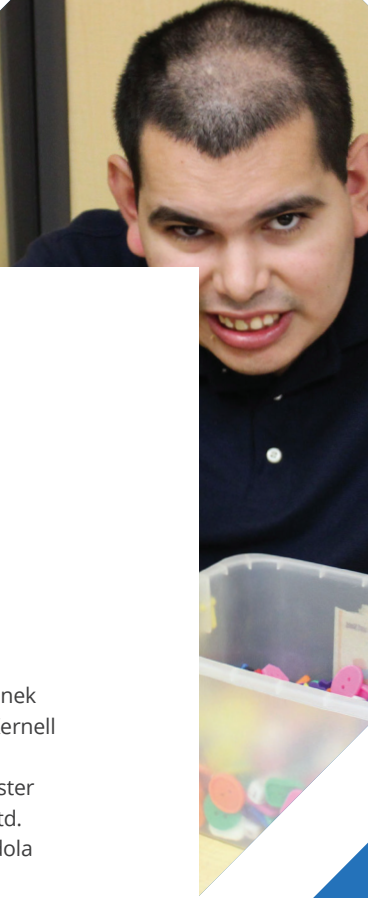
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