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AVONDALE HOUSE



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023**



United Way of Greater Houston

FROM THE CEO

As we reflect on the accomplishments of the past year, we are excited to share the incredible milestones and successes that you, our valued supporters, have helped us achieve. Your steadfast commitment to our mission has been instrumental in making 2022-2023 a year of significant growth and positive impact.

The School: Empowering Futures

In our School, we celebrated a heartwarming moment of achievement as one of our students successfully graduated high school and seamlessly transitioned into our adult day program. This accomplishment stands as a testament to the dedicated efforts of our educators and the transformative support provided by our community.

We also welcomed a new Principal, Melissa James, who brings a wealth of expertise and dedication to our organization, boasting a robust background in the special education sector.

Adult Day Program: Meeting Demand with Excellence

To address the escalating demand for our services, we took a bold step by opening a new space for our Adult Day Program. This expansion allowed us to increase program participation by an impressive **33%**. More than just numbers, these statistics represent lives touched, opportunities created, and a community thriving.

Residential Services: Expanding Homes, Extending Hope

In our Residential Services, the purchase of a new home shows the promise of a warm and welcoming environment for six new individuals. This expansion not only extends our reach but also signifies our ongoing commitment to creating supportive, nurturing spaces that cater to the unique needs of each resident.

Employment Services: Building Bridges to Opportunities

Our Employment Services team has been hard at work, providing over **75 hours** of job skills training. We are delighted to share that four adults, with the skills and confidence instilled through our program, secured meaningful job placements. This success reinforces our belief in the potential of every individual and the transformative power of skill-building.

A Heartfelt Thank You

None of these achievements would have been possible without the amazing support of individuals like you. Your generosity, advocacy, and belief in our mission continue to drive our success and impact the lives of those we serve. As we look ahead, we remain committed to our mission of fostering independence, creating opportunities, and building a community where every individual can thrive.

Thank you for being an integral part of our journey. Together, we are paving the path for individuals with autism to develop to their fullest potential.

– Steve Vetrano





AUTISM STATISTICS THAT DRIVE OUR WORK

PREVALENCE

Autism spectrum disorder (ASD) affects all racial, ethnic and socio-economic groups and 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 2.8%**)

According to an estimate by the Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, approximately **1 in 36** children have been diagnosed with ASD

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 5.4 million or **2.21%** of adults in the U.S. are living with autism

CHALLENGES AND EDUCATION

About **25-30%** of those with autism are nonverbal or minimally verbal

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 **1 million** teens are expected to age out of school-based autism services over the next decade

Over **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

Accredited by the Texas Alliance of Accredited Private Schools, the School at Avondale House provides a year-round, private education program for students aged 5-21. Our highly skilled team comprises certified teachers, licensed specialists, and expertly trained paraprofessionals, all working within an environment featuring state-of-the-art classrooms and boasting a low teacher-to-student ratio. This uniquely empowers Avondale House to deliver a highly personalized educational experience, aligned with each individual's education and behavior plan. Classes include weekly art and music lessons, community-based instructional outings, and daily recreation.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



We celebrated the graduation of one of our amazing students, Brittany! Brittany, her family and her teachers have worked tirelessly to navigate the complexities of autism and reach this exciting milestone. She has been at Avondale House since early elementary school and has transitioned to our adult day program. She has made strides throughout her time at Avondale House, and we are so proud of her. Congratulations, Brittany!



Students enjoyed and participated in various community outings such as to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Bitty and Beau's, neighborhood parks and more.

"We are so thankful for the staff and leadership at Avondale House: here Ethan is accepted, and his complex needs are superbly managed. We look forward to Ethan's continued progress as he continues his education at Avondale House!"

– Ethan's Parents



We welcomed School Principal, Melissa!

As an experienced educator, Melissa has demonstrated proficiency in various domains, including Special Education, Classroom Management, ABA practices, Educational Technology, and Professional Development. Melissa's strength lies in her comprehensive understanding of both higher learning and K-12 central office operations, further underscored by her master's degree in clinical psychology and education administration leadership. With her skills and passion for fostering a positive learning environment, Melissa is poised to make a significant impact on the educational experiences of those we serve. We are thrilled to have her on board as a valuable asset to our team.

AVONDALE HOUSE SERVES ADULTS

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

ADULT DAY PROGRAM

Unfortunately, many individuals with autism face the challenge of losing critical support when they graduate from or age out of school-based autism services. Recognizing the pressing need to ensure that no adult with autism is left without essential support, Avondale House steps in to bridge this critical gap through its adult day program, providing an invaluable lifeline for individuals aged 22 and above. At our adult day program, we empower adults with autism by imparting vital life skills, enrichment opportunities, and pre-vocational training, all tailored to each participant's unique Individualized Service Plan (ISP).

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

We grew our program by
33%
and now have 43 participants
enrolled

42%
of our program participants are also
full-time residents in our group homes

100%
of participants engaged in community-
based instruction (CBI) having
maintained, progressed in, or mastered
the CBI goals stated in their ISP

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

Licensed by the Texas Health and Human Services, Avondale House group residential services provide a supportive, long-term solution for adults with autism that are unable to reside independently or live with family due to the severity of their condition. Avondale House is home to 18 residents who enjoy family-style living and activities in three group homes. Individuals participate in weekend and evening recreation and receive 24/7 support from dedicated staff with their medical needs and daily hygiene as well as receiving training in everyday household tasks such as laundry, cooking and housekeeping.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

18
Residents thrived in their family-style
living environments

58%
of residents have resided in
our homes for
20 years

We secured a new home that will allow
us to welcome
6
new individuals to our program



"Colin has been at Avondale House for 15 years and is a part of the adult day program. He loves attending music class and spending time outside with his peers. We couldn't survive without the adult day program. It is not only healthy for Colin to have a place to go and things to do, but it provides much needed respite for his father and myself."

- Colin's mom

"Because of Beth's Avondale family, I have been able to forge an amazing relationship with my sister. Avondale House provides a supporting environment that allows my sister to adapt to different situations and ultimately be comfortable in her own skin. Beth has accomplished so much at Avondale, and I feel blessed that Beth is in a safe and loving environment, and that she will continue to have that love and support for the rest of her life."

- Beth's sister

"BJ first came to Avondale House when he was 4 years old and joined the residential program at age 8. I've told everyone that I've known that I would recommend Avondale House. It has been a blessing to our family, and through hard times I knew BJ was well taken care of. He has always been healthy and happy and cared for and has learned so much throughout his time at Avondale House. He knows how to cook, clean, take out the trash, fix lunch for the other residents, etc. The staff call him "their helper". I've seen him grow into such a great young man since he's been in the program. Avondale House is his home."

- BJ's mom

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, **nearly 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 who need assistance finding competitive employment. In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), our programming 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 the TWC to assist its clients in obtaining 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

The employment services program additionally partners with corporate groups, such as Brunel, to provide program participants with valuable work experience and on-the-job training.



Brandon had a great work experience at Brunel, one of the program's partners, allowing him to practice the skills that he has learned in the Avondale House employment services program. We are thankful to Brunel for the opportunity and for the doors that the experience may open in the future!

"I would like to say a big thank you to Brandon for the very important projects that he assisted with at our office! All of the packages were taken to the Post Office in the afternoon and are on route to the recipients. We couldn't have got this across the line without his help! One of the staff members went to get a polo shirt for a contractor and came up to me with a big smile and said - "the shirts are all organized and it was so easy to find the size I needed, wow!"

I have received so much positive feedback from members of our US team who were advised that Brandon would be in our office and wonderful messages from the Houston based team who witnessed Brandon completing his work experience. It made my heart smile to see how many people were touched by this and are now even more aware of the amazing work that all of you at Avondale House do for our community."

-Lisa, Brunel Operating Manager



AVONDALE HOUSE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Avondale House broke all-time fundraising records through holding multiple outstanding fundraising events. These events generated crucial funds that directly impact our four program areas and the individuals whom we serve.

3RD ANNUAL BINGO BASH



Chaired by: Esther and Waylon Wood

Nearly 300 guests gathered for the 3rd Annual Avondale House Bingo Bash, which raised \$128,000 for the expansion of our programming and services. The unique event featured seven exciting rounds of BINGO, a first-ever live auction, silent auction, wine pull, prizes and more! Guests competed in a 'Best Dressed Table Competition' and were encouraged to dress according to their table host's chosen theme.

2ND ANNUAL EMBRACING AUTISM EVENING: HEAR OUR VOICES



Chaired by: Emily and Allen Capps and Ashley and Christian Nelly

The successful Embracing Autism Evening, benefitting Avondale House's adult programs, raised an astounding \$250,000!

Guests enjoyed an amazing performance by Nashville's #1 hit singer-songwriters, Phillip White, Monty Holmes and Kent Blazy, a touching mission moment speech by Kaitlyn Merz, a diamond raffle sponsored by IW Marks, live auction and more.

We are so grateful for our incredible supporters that make these events possible. Together, we are providing individuals with autism the resources, education and training to develop to their fullest potential.

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of Avondale House,

As we bid farewell to another remarkable year, I extend my deepest gratitude for the incredible support that has defined our journey. Serving as the Board President has allowed me to witness firsthand the incredible impact of Avondale House, both as a dedicated leader and as the proud parent of a daughter who has benefited from its transformative services. Your steadfast support, as volunteers and donors, has been the bedrock upon which our successes rest.

In our pursuit of excellence, we recognize the ever-growing need to expand our programs and answer the call of families seeking our specialized services. The expansion of our adult day program and purchase of a new group home marks a pivotal step forward, providing the space necessary to broaden our impact. With your ongoing support, Avondale House will not only maintain its position as a leader in the autism community but will also advocate for inclusivity and belonging, echoing throughout the Houston community.

In this annual report, you read a detailed account of the milestones achieved and the lives positively impacted. Together, we've forged a legacy of compassion and empowerment, ensuring that every individual, irrespective of their unique challenges, can develop to their fullest potential.

Thank you for your outstanding commitment to Avondale House. As we embark on the journey ahead, your support remains the driving force behind our shared vision of a more inclusive and compassionate community.

In gratitude,

– **Gail Vozzella**

2022-2023 Board of Directors

Gail Vozzella, Board President, Houston Methodist Hospital

Tim Williamson, Board Vice President, Cadence Bank

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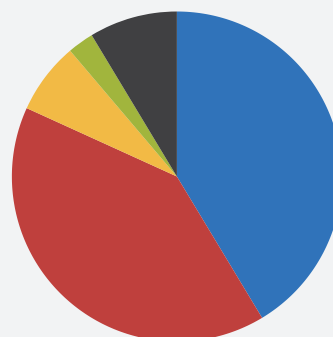
Ann Turnbach, Board of Director, Ann Turnbach & Associates

Steve Ullrich, Ph.D., Board of Director, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center (Retired)

Steve Vetrano, CEO, Avondale House

*Board list from July 2022 to June 2023.

Avondale House income and expenses for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023.



Total Support & Revenue	\$5,195,081
Program Expense	\$(5,077,837)
Management & General Expense	\$(879,237)
Fundraising Expense	\$(322,321)
End of Year Net Asset Balance	\$(1,084,314)

WELCOMING NEW BOARD MEMBERS

WE ARE THRILLED TO WELCOME ALLEN AND BINITA TO OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS!



Allen was appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer, Gas Transmission and Midstream at Enbridge in March 2022. He provides strategic leadership and management oversight for marketing, business development, gas control, planning, and economic valuation for the gas transmission and storage assets and related services in the Gas Transmission and Midstream business unit. Allen is also a member of Enbridge's Executive Leadership Team, serves on the Board of Directors of DCP Midstream, LP and is Vice Chair of the Energy Infrastructure Council.



Binita is the Vice President of Pharmacy Services at Memorial Hermann Health-system. She is responsible for pharmacy services across the continuum of care which spans 15 acute care hospitals, 10 + service lines, home infusion pharmacy, specialty pharmacy, and 2 retail pharmacies which equates to over 700 FTE. Binita also is the program director of the Health-system administration residency program. Prior to joining Memorial Hermann Health-system, Binita was a senior director at Pharmacy Healthcare Solutions where she focused on specialty pharmacy and PBM practice. She currently sits on the SPPL Committee on Multi-Hospital Pharmacy Executives at ASHP and was one of the co-authors for the latest AJHP Forecast.



AVONDALE HOUSE DONORS

Donations made from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

\$100,000 +

Houston Astros Foundation

\$50,000 +

Houston Methodist
Cadence Bank

\$25,000+

McCrea Foundation
Betty and Tom Mobley
PricewaterhouseCoopers Charitable Foundation

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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AVONDALE HOUSE DONORS

Donations made from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023

\$500 - \$999

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