



AVENUES NEWS

Connecting the families, friends, volunteers and supporters of New Avenues to Independence



NEW AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE, INC.
The Path to Dignity and Achievement

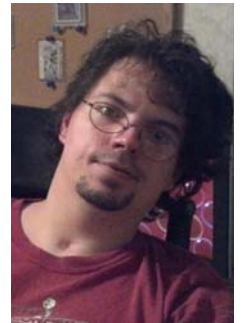
Welcome to the first issue of our new newsletter, **AVENUES NEWS!** We hope that you want to share our new look with your friends. Please forward a copy to anyone you think may be interested in receiving our news. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please let us know by emailing info@newavenues.net.

About James Rogers, Jr.

James is a participant in our HOME Choice program. The program assists people with disabilities who wish to move from a long-term care facility to a

home and community setting. At the age of eight, James was hit by a car, leaving him a paraplegic. Despite the decades of surgeries and therapies he faced, James is still a man of many accomplishments. After spending 51 months in a long-term care facility, James met all of his rehabilitation goals and eagerly awaited his return home. His home, however, needed modifications so that James could successfully live there. He applied for the HOME Choice Program to assist him with the move and selected New Avenues as his Transition Coordinator. Because New Avenues was awarded a grant through **The**

Foundation for the Challenged, James received the financial assistance that he needed to widen his bedroom and bathroom doors and install a walk-in shower. James and his mother found a local Eagle Scout group to build a wheelchair ramp at his home for their service project. Thanks to his own determination, combined with the assistance of New Avenues, James has been able to return to his home.



Inside this issue:

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- Recreation Department begins year with two dances
- New Avenues and Buckeye Industries win prestigious awards

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Spring 2013, Issue 1

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of New Avenues to Independence is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities and special needs to become more independent and productive members of society by offering the highest quality support services and developing innovative and inclusive programs.

Joan (Potiker) Schecter named the second recipient of New Avenues Thomas M. Lewins IV Lifetime Achievement Award



New Avenues to Independence announces **Joan (Potiker) Schecter** as the second recipient of the Thomas M. Lewins Lifetime Achievement Award. The award was

created in 2012 to honor Tom Lewins for 26 years of service as Executive Director.

“Joan was the natural choice as the next recipient”, stated Mr. Lewins.

“Joan is the longest serving board member in the history of New Avenues and has graciously served New Avenues for 51 years. We couldn’t be more pleased to acknowledge her in this way.” Joan was honored at New Avenues 2013 Annual Meeting that took place at the TS Macklin Event Centre on February 28th.

In 51 years she has done it all – volunteer, board member, secretary, board president, paid employee, head of the Women’s Auxiliary, and the chair of countless committees. She has also spearheaded many fundraisers bringing in thousands of much needed dollars while also personally supporting New Avenues financially.

Her passion and drive were inspired by her son, Bobby, who now lives in the New Avenues Richmond Home. He was diagnosed with brain damage when he was just nine months old and has been receiving services from New Avenues most of his life. With her strong leadership, Joan became a pioneer for change by giving her son and other children with disabilities in Northeast Ohio a safe and nurturing living alternative to the undesirable institutions that were the only option in those days. Joan states that her greatest accomplishment has been seeing New Avenues grow from a children’s day care of 16 to the over 600 individuals we now serve. New Avenues celebrated its 60th anniversary last year.

New Avenues swears in 2013 Board of Directors



On Thursday, February 26th, New Avenues held our Annual Meeting at the Macklin Party Centre, Solon. Mayor Ted Andrzejewski of Eastlake swore in the 2013 Board of Directors. **Jonathan Good, Esq.** is now serving as the Chair, and **Joyce Bresler** is serving as the Vice Chair.

OFFICERS

Jonathan Good, Esq., Chair
 Joyce Bresler, Vice Chair
 Donald Petrash, Secretary
 Robert Angart, Treasurer
 Michael Primrose, Esq., Non-officer Representative

DIRECTORS

Edward Boehmer
 Ronald Henderson, Esq.
 Tom Hlavin
 Daniel Koster
 Brian Mackert
 Bruce Sherman, Ph.D.
 Joan Schecter, Director Emeritus

Welcome Tom Hlavin to New Avenues Board of Directors



On February 28th, **Tom Hlavin** became the newest member of our Board of Directors. Tom currently works for

Real Street Marketing, and because of his background, he will serve on our Marketing Committee. Tom has been involved with New Avenues since the 1980s when he volunteered as a friendly visitor at one of our group homes where eight men reside. For the past three years, Tom volunteered to be our Special Olympics Basketball Coach and has also volunteered at our special events, such as dances and the annual carnival, serving refreshments, dancing and helping with clean-up. Welcome Tom!

New Avenues celebrates Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in March



March 2013 was a memorable celebration of

Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month! We are grateful to all of you who participated in this special month by hanging posters, calling your legislators and saving change in our special canisters. Here are some additional highlights:

- You, our loyal supporters, staff and volunteers raised over \$7,000 for the critical needs of the individuals we serve! **19% over our goal!**
- Because of you, over 100 people will be fed.
- Because of you, over 20 people will receive help with their medical needs.
- Because of you, over 25 people will maintain their utilities and other housing costs.
- We had an opportunity to share our mission with viewers of WKYC Channel 3’s "Golden Opportunities." To view the interview, go to <http://www.youtube.com/user/GoldenOppTVshow?feature=mhum>
- Over 3,000 people attended the Tolerance Fair and visited the 131 exhibitors, including New Avenues!



Thank you all for your generous support and participation! You made a difference!

A special thank you to our Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month sponsors:

- A Bedder Mattress Store
- Ian & Gloria Abrams
- Belvoir Center Apartments LTD
- Chard Snyder & Associates, Inc.
- Complete Landscaping Services
- Gardiner Trane
- Kellin Enterprises LLC
- Koehler Family Enterprises, LLC
- Robert S. Leiken Co., LPA
- Omni Curtis Centre LLC
- Siegel & Agins, LPA
- St. Angelo-Gage Furniture
- Sterling Professional Group

New Faces at New Avenues



Sean Kiniklis, MSW is the new Director of Day and Vocational Services. Sean comes with a vast array of education and experience, including five years as the

Manager of Specialty Business Areas for the County of Summit Developmental Disabilities where he was responsible for creating employment opportunities for persons with disabilities both in a workshop setting and in retail / community enclave settings.



New Avenues welcomes **Patronia Ellis** as the Cuyahoga County Supported Living Coordinator. Patronia has been a Licensed Practical Nurse for the past

eleven years. Her employment background includes experience in geriatric, pediatric, behavioral health and home health care settings. Patronia has had prior experience in providing supervision to Home Health Care Aides and State Tested Nursing Assistants and is familiar with the administrative aspects of the healthcare field.



Sarah Zarccone joins New Avenues as the Communications and Development Associate/Swim, Gym & More Director. Sarah earned her

Master's degree in Nonprofit Administration and Leadership from Cleveland State University. She has experience at a number of nonprofit organizations including the Cleveland Foundation, the American Red Cross, Hospice of the Western Reserve, and the Western Reserve Historical Society. Last summer, she interned with the Community Relations department of New Avenues. Her work included writing a blog for the 60th Anniversary, creating marketing materials and managing volunteers at summer camp.



Erin Litton has accepted the position of New Avenues Recreation Coordinator/ Summer Camp Director. Erin

graduated from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina with her degree in Recreation Management. Erin comes to New Avenues with experience in many recreational settings and activities such as camps, teaching skiing and snowboarding, whitewater raft guiding and lifeguarding.

52 children participate in weekend recreation program



New Avenues Swim, Gym & More program is a weekend recreation program for children of Lake County. The 26-week program runs from October

through May, and this year, the program provided services to 52 children. Children enjoy fun activities each Saturday including swimming, gym, playground, arts & crafts, and social play with other children. This year's program also included special events for the children including trick or treating for Halloween and a visit from Santa Claus in December. The program is made possible because of the dedicated staff and supportive parents.



Bowling Banquet celebrates end of season

Each year, a bowling banquet is held to celebrate the end of the season for all of our bowlers. The bowling league started 43 years ago, and many of the individuals who New Avenues serves enjoy participating. The night started off with a dance party. As the DJ played music,

some liked dancing while others preferred to watch. The dance party was followed by a catered dinner. The best part of dinner was, of course, the cake for dessert! After dinner, an awards ceremony was held with the part that everyone had been anxiously waiting for- the trophies. Everyone received a trophy and those who had perfect attendance received a medal, too. It was an inspiring evening filled with great music, food, friends, and fun!



Dribble, Shoot, Score

2013 was a wonderful and successful year for New Avenues Special Olympics Basketball Team. The athletes practiced every Tuesday and Thursday evening in January, February and March to prepare for this year's tournaments. The basketball players worked on passing, shooting and dribbling skills throughout the season. New Avenues had ten athletes participate in the North Section Individual Skill Basketball Tournament at Lorain County Community College on Saturday, March 3rd. All ten athletes qualified and competed in the State Individual Skills Basketball Competition on Saturday, March 23rd in Columbus. The athletes enjoyed a fun and exciting weekend in Columbus and had a successful competition. New Avenues is grateful to all the Special Olympics

coaches that helped throughout the season: Mark Carden, Gretchen Halliday, Tom Hlavin, Andy Lukcso, Cristin Lukcso and Kristi Svejkskovsky.



Recreation Department kicks off new year with two dances

New Avenues celebrated Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day with two awesome dances. The *Happy Hearts Hop* was celebrated on Friday, February 8th at Main Campus. Dance participants wore red, pink and white outfits. Party-goers enjoyed making Valentines for each other and giving red roses to their Valentines. The January and February birthdays were also celebrated. The *Shamrockin' St. Patrick's Day* party was held on Friday, March 15th. Party-goers wore green and white outfits. The March and April birthdays were celebrated at the dance.



Both parties were made possible because of DJ Scott Gloger and the numerous volunteers who assisted the Recreation Department with decorations, refreshments, activities, and dancing. Both evenings were a wonderful way to celebrate the winter holidays at New Avenues.



Richmond Home hosts Annual Seder

Richmond Group Home's Annual Passover Seder was held on Saturday, April 6th at the Kiwanis Lodge in Richmond Heights. The 25 attendees enjoyed stories, songs and food celebrating Passover. As in years past, Karen Wine led the group through the story of

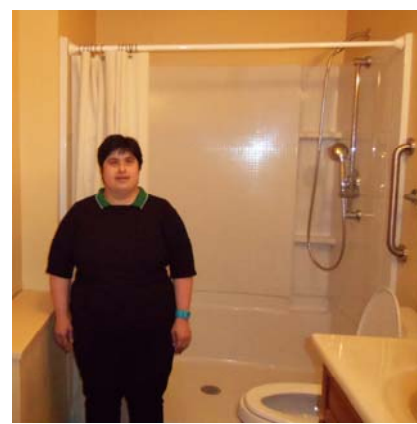


Passover, explaining the rituals of food and drink that have been followed for thousands of years. The staff at Richmond prepared a delicious meal following the program. It was an afternoon rich in history, friendship and fellowship!

"We love having them as our neighbors."

Last year, a group of generous, community-minded individuals from Bratenahl came together to plan a fundraiser for the Bratenahl Home to raise money to renovate one of the bathrooms. On October 27th their plans came to fruition in a fabulous Halloween party at Dom Celliti's house! The party included an incredible buffet dinner complete with delicious desserts, a full bar, an amazing silent auction, music, a gypsy fortune teller and a whole lot of fun. By the end of the evening, over \$8,000 had been raised in cash donations and another \$4,500 in in-kind gifts had been donated!

Earlier this year the bathroom renovation was completed. The eight ladies who reside in the home are thrilled with their new bathroom, especially their new walk-in shower! When thanked for all the hard work she put into the fundraiser, Mary Beckenbach replied, "New Avenues to Independence is a remarkable organization and the Bratenahl residents have given their hearts to the Village. We care for them and love having them as our neighbors. Each person gives others so much joy and the small events that this community has in their honor are our gift back to them."



Celebrating Service

On Tuesday, April 9th, staff along with Mary Beth Walters and Sandy Mantle from the Overlook home attended a dessert reception honoring Hathaway Brown School's 2013 Service Learning Fellows. Seventeen seniors earned a capstone designation based on their multi-year commitment to service and their completion of a creative project. Mary Alice Koon chose New Avenues Overlook home and volunteered on Saturday afternoons with the women who reside in the home. She brought games and puzzles, and, sometimes, they would bake.



Local Organizers Head to the Attic!

In celebration of GO (Get Organized!) Month, the North Coast Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Professional Organizers collaborated to assist New Avenues with our attics! On March 19th, a team of 13 professional organizers arrived at two of our group homes to assist with filing, sorting and organizing a collection of paperwork and files. Co-Chair of the event, Sandra Wright of Organized Wright, LLC indicated, "We were all so happy to help out such a worthwhile charity with this project.

Papers accumulate over time for organizations and businesses, as well as individuals, and we enjoyed helping New Avenues put their files in order."



High School students get lesson in inclusion

For the second year in a row, Perry High School planned a service experience for seven students focused on issues related to inclusion and employment of people with special needs. On Thursday, March 21st, the group visited the Perry Home for a tour, dinner and games, and on Friday, March 22nd, they visited Buckeye Industries, Eastlake. The experience helped to familiarize the students with services available to people with disabilities in Lake County and understand how far we've come in terms of including people in work and community life.



New Avenues wins big at the Ohio Public Images Network

New Avenues won two Awards of Merit at the Ohio Public Images Network Media and Awareness 2012 competition. The purpose of the competition is to honor individuals and organizations throughout Ohio who, through their exceptional efforts, have succeeded in creating a greater understanding and acceptance of people with disabilities. New Avenues won in two categories – Special Event and Special Publication. The Special Event award was given to *“Still Rockin’ & Rollin’ after 60 years”*, an event that commemorated New Avenues 60th anniversary at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum on September 6th, 2012. The second award was in the Special Publications category.



New Avenues 60th anniversary was highlighted by the development of a new capabilities brochure/folder including information about the many different services New Avenues offers. The marketing piece's main message, *“16 to 600 in 60 Years”*, cleverly focused on New Avenues humble beginnings when they served 16 children. Now, after 60 years, the organization serves over 600 men, women and children. The publication was designed by AKHIA Marketing Communications in Akron. Creative production was provided by Marketing 501, Medina.

New Avenues named Western Lake County Chamber's "Organization of the Year"

The Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce announced that New Avenues was the 2012 Organization of the Year for its business enterprise, Buckeye Industries. This is the second award that Buckeye Industries has received as it was the winner of the 2011 Social Entrepreneur Award from the Ohio Department of Development. Buckeye Industries was chosen because it continues to create jobs for individuals with disabilities in Western Lake County as well as Northeast Ohio. Buckeye Industries currently employs fourteen individuals at the Eastlake facility recycling Styrofoam and cardboard. This provides them increased independence and gives them the ability to afford their basic needs. The Western Lake County Chamber of Commerce recognizes that the development of services and products, specifically meant to be marketed and sold to the business community, is not a typical practice within the world of private non-profit organizations. Buckeye Industries is building a concept that offers distinct service streams to area employers, while at the same time providing employment to individuals with disabilities.



“We are proud to be named Organization of the Year,” stated Tom Lewins, Executive Director of New Avenues. “We are very grateful for the overwhelming response to the Styrofoam recycling business from the area businesses.”

Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District supports community collection efforts

The Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District has once again awarded New Avenues a grant to purchase recycling bins. The four blue recycling bins will be placed at Buckeye Industries newest facility, Cleveland West, and will be used to collect cardboard, Styrofoam and plastic from local businesses and citizens from the neighborhood. These materials will then be processed by Buckeye Industries for recycling by end-users who will manufacture them into new products.

The Recycling Container Grant was created by the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District to help local not-for-profit organizations and schools reduce waste and expand recycling programs. They encourage individuals, businesses and communities to “Reduce, Reuse & Recycle.” Through their stellar educational programs, Cuyahoga County has become a leader in Ohio when it comes to waste reduction and recycling!

We are grateful for all the advice and support they have given to New Avenues over the past several years with recycling in our offices and homes and community recycling through Buckeye Industries. And we are very thankful for the new bins!





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Any Day Grounds Ticket: \$20
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**or when \$100,000 total cap is reached*

Code: DRAW13

75% of the net proceeds of your ticket purchase will benefit New Avenues to Independence, Inc.

25% of the net proceeds will benefit local chapters of The First Tee

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GOLF TICKETS FOR CHARITY: 75% of net proceeds will benefit the participating charitable organization. The 25% of net proceeds will benefit The First Tee of Akron, Canton and Cleveland, each a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. The total purchase is neither deductible as a charitable contribution by the purchaser. Sponsored by PING TOUR, INC., Florida Valley District, FL Registration #8110784

Allan Fee from Q104 to emcee Chinese Auction to Benefit Perry Home

Mark your calendar... New Avenues is having a Chinese Auction to benefit our Perry Group Home where six men and two women reside. The event will take place at the Perry Community Center, 2800 Perry Park Rd., Perry, OH 44081 on May 25th. The doors open at 1:00PM and the auction will start at 3:00PM. Refreshments and goodies will be served. Cost is \$10 a ticket and includes 10 auction tickets. Allan Fee from Q104 will emcee the event to make it a most memorable afternoon.

For tickets or more information, contact Jessica Toivonen at 440-954-0346, itoivonen@newavenues.net.