



PVA, Inc.

THE ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
NEW AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE, INC.
(Formerly Parents' Volunteer Association, PVA Circle of Homes)

April 1, 2009

**NEW AVENUES TO
INDEPENDENCE**

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**New Avenues to
Independence, Inc.**
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Dear New Avenues Supporter:

Providing New Avenues' clients with the financial support to become more independent and productive members of society is at the very heart of our agency's mission. In 2009, our Annual Campaign seeks your financial support through contributions to our Avenues Fund and assistance in our advocacy efforts to encourage necessary, critical changes in Medicaid funding. Together, these actions help New Avenues to remain steadfast in its commitment to provide high quality support services to our deserving clients regardless of financial situations.

Recognizing that their children deserved to live in the community with dignity and respect, a group of dedicated, devoted parents founded New Avenues to Independence as the Parents' Volunteer Association in 1952. Their intent was to provide a variety of experiences for children whose only other option were institutions. Because of the strong determination of these parents, New Avenues today offers individuals with disabilities residential, vocational, respite, recreational, nursing, and housing services.



Medicaid purchases medical services and equipment, such as the safety helmet Shelley wears.



Juanita and Eric participates in Art Therapy during day services.

Currently, the economic downturn has affected the Medicaid reimbursement rates for the 88 individuals living in our Intermediate Care Facilities for the Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR) residential homes. All of our clients depend on Medicaid reimbursement for many of their services, such as basic housing, staff and nursing assistance, transportation, and therapies.

Two leading accounting firms have determined that efficiently operated programs will operate with a \$5.25 deficit a day per bed in 2009. For New Avenues, this equates to a \$168,000 shortfall in revenue. However, because of our effective financial management and program diversity, the impact on New Avenues translates into a deficit in funding of \$130,000 for our ICF/MR residential homes.

(over)



Living in our Bratenhal group home, New Avenues has provided Kelly's services for over 21 years!

New Avenues remains resolute in our commitment to the clients that we serve. We ask you to join us in the preservation of our mission with an immediate donation or by pledging your support monthly or quarterly to the Avenues Fund. The Avenues Fund helps sustain basic client needs, such as medical services and equipment, transportation, personal needs, and therapies.

This year, in addition to a donation to our Avenues Fund, we also ask you to join our Call to Action. It is the duty of our State Legislators to act on meaningful legislation to ensure that Medicaid funding continues at a level to meet the basic needs of individuals with disabilities. Please personalize and sign the enclosed postcard, or if you prefer to tell your own story in a letter to your state legislator, we encourage you to do so and return it with your donation. We will address and mail postcards and/or letters to our legislators drawing attention to immediate needs of the individuals that we serve.

We ask that you will take this opportunity to renew your support and help us preserve our mission of ***providing 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.*** Enclosed for your convenience are a donor contribution envelope, pledge form, and postcard. We deeply appreciate your commitment to ensuring the mission and legacy of New Avenues for generations to come.

Thank you in advance for your contribution and assistance.

With grateful appreciation,

Thomas M. Lewins
Executive Director

Donald Petrash
President, Board of Trustees

Enclosures

Putting People First in Northeast Ohio since 1952