



Winter 2011

# AVENUES UPDATE

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

## Reflections

As we look forward to a new year, this issue of the *Avenues Update* shares some of our success stories from 2010. Our individuals continued to make strides because of the dedication of our staff, Board of Directors, families, contributors, and volunteers. We celebrate our individuals and the collaborative effort which brought the mission of New Avenues to life.



### Services Designed to Meet Individual Needs

The Spring 2009 Issue of the *Avenues Update* highlighted the in-home services offered to Jesse Dewald. Jesse and his parents had selected New Avenues

as Jesse's in-home provider. In May of 2010, Jesse's parents became ill and were unable to care for Jesse in the home that they had made for their adopted son for twenty-three years. Jesse once again chose New Avenues as his provider when he enrolled in Transitional Respite, a program designed to meet the temporary residential needs of individuals in an emergency situation. In the Respite Unit, Jesse received the care and attention that he had become accustomed to receiving from his parents. Jesse was able to continue with his daily routines which included attending Rocky River Adult Activity Center, Sunday church services and visits with his parents. The continuity of care and daily routines made the separation less stressful for Jesse and his family. When it became apparent that Jesse's family would not be able to return to their home, Jesse once again selected New Avenues to be his provider by becoming a participant in our Supported Living program. He moved into his new, permanent home that he shares with three other adult peers while continuing to receive services from New Avenues.



### Living on his Own

In 2010, Kyle Cutteridge became a participant of our Supported Living program in Cuyahoga County, after utilizing the

services provided in our Transitional Respite program. Prior to his move, Kyle lived at home with his mother. Kyle felt, though, that it was time to become more independent and that the move would be a big step in the right direction. Kyle has enjoyed getting to know his two roommates, talking and spending time with them. His father remains actively involved in his life and expresses that he has never seen Kyle happier. Recently, Mr. Cutteridge visited the house and asked Kyle what he wanted for Christmas. Kyle told him that he wanted *Waka Flocka Flame & Drake* and explained that it was rap music. Although Mr. Cutteridge was surprised that Kyle's style of music had changed, he recognizes that Kyle's choices for his new life are limitless. Kyle is excited about his new independence and remains optimistic in his outlook on life.

Reflections, cont. p. 3

#### Inside this issue:

A Message from the Executive Director	2
A Message from the President of the Board	2
Reflections, cont.	3-4
New Avenues partners with Lakeland SIFE	4
Thank You Enterline Foundation	5
Apollo, A New Buckeye Industries Partner	5
Divine Celebration, 2010 Holiday Ball	6-7
Annual Recognition Ceremony	8
Welcome New Staff	8
In Memory... Sad Good-byes	9
Donor Spotlight	10
Contributions	10-11

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.*

# A Message From the Executive Director



Thomas M. Lewins,  
Executive Director

In this end of year edition of the *Avenues Update*, you will read about some of the accomplishments made by the individuals we serve. The stories highlight the many ways that the continuum of services available through New Avenues are designed to meet the unique needs of each individual that seeks assistance from our agency.

With a new year upon us, we at New Avenues want to congratulate and thank you for the role that you played in helping individuals with disabilities become more independent. With your help, we continue our mission of providing opportunities through our services to over 550 individuals throughout Northeast Ohio.

There is still more to be done. As the State of Ohio addresses the severe budget crisis, New Avenues' commitment to making sure everyone has access to food, clothing, housing, nursing and support services is more urgent than ever before.

The entire New Avenues' staff and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year! **Please remember New Avenues in the coming year. A gift to us, or a gift on behalf of a friend, is a gift that will keep on giving all year long.**

## Board Talk

The spirit of this issue of the *Avenues Update* revolves around "success." As we put the finishing touches on 2010, I would like to take this opportunity to share some observations about New Avenues' accomplishments and events over the past 12 months.

First, I would like to acknowledge some of the successful **accomplishments** of the agency and its staff. New Avenues employs over 300 men and women, and it is their commitment and dedication to both the agency and their work that has positioned New Avenues as a Northeast Ohio leader in providing quality services to individuals with disabilities. Among the successful accomplishments are:

- Continued growth of New Avenues' Supported Living program in Cuyahoga County, currently serving over 55 individuals;
- Exciting growth in Vocational Services, now operating under the banner of Buckeye Industries, with a new facility in Eastlake—the EPS #6 (Styrofoam) recycling program—and increased paper shredding services in Madison;
- Selection to participate in the Home Choice program—we are now providing "choice" services in Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Erie and Summit counties
- Increased opportunities for our housing inspection program with the Cuyahoga County Board of Developmental Disabilities;

- Increased public relations, marketing and public information initiatives. With all of these great things happening, New Avenues is working hard to spread the word;
- Ongoing renovation and decoration of our group homes and main campus building, as well as grounds improvements at main campus.

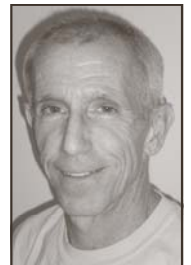
If, after reading about these accomplishments, you want to see the facilities, please call Karen Knavel at New Avenues (216-481-1909 X224) to arrange for a tour.

As for **events**... on any given day, New Avenues' clients participate in a myriad of events, both routine and extracurricular. I would like to share with you two successful events that "caught my eye" because of their unique **inclusive** nature.

The first one was New Avenues' participation in the *Nature's Bin & Friends Neighborhood Run* in October. As a runner and Board President, I just couldn't pass up the opportunity to participate. It's what caught my eye during the run that made the event so successful and special: As I was racing down Lake Road toward the finish line, I passed a few familiar figures—New Avenues' clients participating in the 1 mile walk. At that moment, it hit me... how often do we get to participate in events side-by-side with

the clients we serve? Not often. But, in this case, WE were sharing the same road—that hit me as a powerful and proud moment! I crossed the finish line with a big smile on my face and had the opportunity to welcome our New Avenues' walkers to the finish line. Success—for all!

Finally, a few weeks ago, we celebrated another successful year at the Holiday Ball. A cold and snowy December night couldn't chill the spirits of the attendees. A great summary of the ball can be found in this issue of the *Avenues Update*. What always catches my eye is the dance floor. Thanks to Terry Macklin's crew the "joint was hopping," and once again, we all had the opportunity to participate as one. Success—for all!



Bruce Sherman, Ph.D.  
President, Board  
of Directors

I am very excited as we begin 2011. What successful accomplishments and events are in store for New Avenues, only time will tell. Stay tuned and stay involved!

## Reflections, cont.



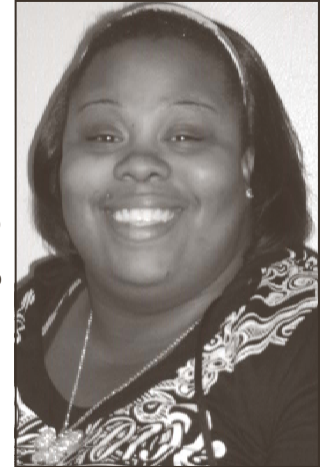
### Summer Fun in the Sun!

New Avenues had another wonderful summer full of fun at the Broadmoor Therapeutic Summer Camp. The five week summer program continues to grow, not only in enrollment, but

also in fun and excitement. Several of the campers have grown up with the program and have participated for many years. One of the long time campers is Patrick Willis. Patrick is full of energy and has a brilliant smile. He enjoys swimming, gym class and participating in the special events at camp. Patrick was excited for the start of the program each day, and staff was always excited to see him. Patrick has been a positive addition to New Avenues' Summer Camp for years, and the staff is looking forward to working with him for many years to come.

### Providing a Helping Hand

Paris Dixon and her daughter, London, have participated in our Mainstream Housing Program for 2 years. Paris is diagnosed with a chronic mental illness. In her journey to wellness and stability, Paris needed additional assistance so she applied to become a participant of our program. In addition to helping her with a rental subsidy and housing advocacy, New Avenues has helped Paris and London with clothes, furniture and food through our **Gifts-In-Kind** program and the generosity of our donors. Knowing that she and her daughter have a place to live has helped Paris in her road to wellness. She is now going to Tri-C studying to be an accountant.



### Learning Self-Assurance

For the past 2 years, Steven Sweeney has been receiving In-home Supported Living services. He has a Level I Waiver which means that he receives up to 5 hours of services weekly to develop skills and gain independence. Steven has set goals of learning self-assurance while in the community. Steven has used his time wisely

planning with his Direct Support Professionals many exciting community activities including professional sporting events, the Big Top Barnum & Bailey Circus, the World Wide Wrestling event, and local plays and fairs. Steven is grateful to the **Baruth Fund** for sponsorship to many of these events. Steven is employed at Reese Pharmaceuticals and is an outstanding employee and loyal co-worker as exemplified by his choice to use service time to visit a co-worker recently hospitalized. Steven is doing an outstanding job at reaching and exceeding his goals.



### Transitioning into the Community

Lynne Reynolds grew up in a military family living in many parts of the U.S. and Europe. As an adult, she settled in Cleveland among family and friends. She pursued a career in health care and later in the hotel industry. In 2010, Lynne was admitted to a local nursing facility for intensive

rehabilitation after major surgery. When the time came for discharge, Lynne chose New Avenues to assist her in the transition through the HOME Choice program. With the assistance of our Transition Coordinator, Sharon Schultz, Lynne located suitable housing, applied for benefits, and identified health care providers to ensure continuity with her ongoing health care needs. Lynne was thrilled to be able to spend the holidays in her new home and with her family. Lynne is now actively involved in the community. She volunteers at her church and returns to the nursing home to continue the book club that she started.



### Out on His Own

Prior to moving into the Perry Home in November 2009, Shannon Van Huss lived at home with his mother and step-father, Arlene and Dave Curry. When Shannon moved in, Shannon had some reservations about his decision to move out on his own. After many discussions about his decision, he will now tell new residents and staff that "sometimes Momma birdie has to kick the baby birdie out of the nest to teach it how to fly." Shannon has been working on many different skills such as cooking, weight lifting, laundry, and budgeting. Shannon is a professional speaker and often educates audiences with his "World on Wheels, Challenge Yourself" presentation. Shannon has been a pleasant addition to the Perry Home, and we look forward to seeing more of his successes in the future.



# New Avenues Partners with College Students

**LAKELAND**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Opportunity  
starts **HERE**

Just in time for the season of giving, Lakeland Community College students coordinated a food drive to help individuals served by New Avenues. The students partnered with Waste Management, Inc. located in Chardon, for the "Food Drive Without the Drive" campaign which took place in the Concord area on Saturday, November 20th.

The food drive was sponsored by Lakeland student members of Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE), a group dedicated to improving the lives of others while developing their leadership skills. The over 3,000 pounds of food, collected during the Food Drive and at the College during the month of November, was distributed to over 120 individuals with disabilities served by New Avenues, making the holidays extra special.



A SIFE student drops off donated cans of food.

In addition, SIFE has chosen New Avenues' Vocational Services program, Buckeye Industries, as their 2010/2011 sustainability project. On January 8th, the students hosted a Styrofoam recycling drive on the Lakeland Community College campus, collecting Styrofoam from the community to be recycled at the Buckeye Industries Eastlake facility. The SIFE students coordinated their efforts with the City of Mentor and Concord Township due to their City Manager and Administrator's interest in a holiday Styrofoam collection.

SIFE students are also working with New Avenues to establish an aluminum can recycling project at Buckeye Industries. Participants of Buckeye Industries will be detaching the pull-tabs to donate to Ronald McDonald House of Cleveland and preparing the cans for recycling. This recycling project will create jobs for individuals working at Buckeye Industries and be beneficial in encouraging recycling.



Volunteers, Peggy Davis and Dee Kruger, prepare boxes of food for distribution.

## Reflections, cont.



### Job Brings Smiles

Greg Burton has worked at our new Buckeye Industries, Eastlake facility for the Styrofoam project since it started on September 7th. He has many challenges in his life and yet, he has not missed any work, even on those days when it snowed so badly. Our staff have reported that when he first came to work, he enjoyed teasing others and seemed more interested in what was going to be happening at break times. Now, Greg is very social with the other participants, staff and visitors alike. He is working hard at his job and is keeping up much more easily with the production pace. He truly seems to like his job and his co-workers and, judging by his smiles, seems to enjoy being part of a team.

# Thank you Enterline Foundation

## The Enterline Foundation

Promoting Independence and Quality of Life for the Intellectually and Developmentally Disabled

We are grateful to The Enterline Foundation for their recent grant award of \$115,555 (\$23,111 per year for 5 years) to fund the acquisition of an industrial shredder for our Vocational Services program at the Buckeye Industries Madison facility. The shredder will provide employment opportunities for 20 individuals with disabilities.

Established to provide financial resources to improve the lives of individuals with special needs - who

are intellectually and developmentally disabled, The Enterline Foundation is committed to delivering resources to help this underserved and often overlooked part of our community.

The industrial shredding machine also includes a cardboard baler giving Buckeye Industries the ability to recycle cardboard. We look forward to offering this additional service to area businesses in 2011!



## APOLLO Brand



On November 29th, Buckeye Industries initiated a major outsourced production project with Apollo Brand, a company located in Atlanta, Georgia.

Apollo Brand deals in "seconds"

of products that are damaged. They need these products re-packaged for sale to stores such as Big Lots and Marc's. We have put their project in our new rented space at the Eastlake facility. They have visited the building several times and have trained us to perform the job of re-labeling rolls of duct tape.

We are currently transporting 5 individuals from our Day Services Program on Main Campus to Eastlake to provide paid work for the re-labeling project. We are also using existing staff from Day Services to transport and supervise these individuals. As the Project grows, we hope to add additional individuals to the workforce.

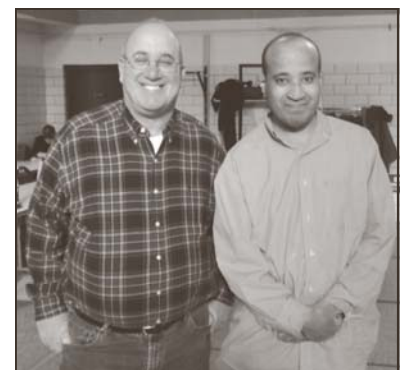
Apollo will be our only direct customer in this venture and will ship us supplies from a company in Kentucky. End users will be directed by Apollo to pick up finished product from us in Eastlake. In fact, we had our first 2,952 finished pieces picked up by the Target stores on December 8th! We look forward to a long and mutually-beneficial partnership with Apollo Brand.



Robert Snodgrass

## Welcome

Dave Kulka, our recently hired Environmental Technician & Trainer for Buckeye Industries, comes to New Avenues with 25 years of professional experience in the commercial and industrial cleaning industry as an owner and manager of four service companies. Although this is his first foray working directly with individuals with disabilities, he has often hired and developed employees with special needs in the past. Dave is an avid Cleveland Indians fan who umpires youth and adult baseball and softball games throughout the summer season. He is a proud father of three daughters and grandfather of six.



# A Divine Celebration...



The annual Holiday Ball was a memorable gathering of the New Avenues' family for the Holiday Season. This year, the event, themed *A Divine Celebration*, was held at LaMalfa Party Center in Mentor on Monday, December 6th. Over 400 individuals, staff, family, friends and volunteers enjoyed an evening of dancing, delicious food, and friendship. New Avenues welcomed Mayor Ted Andrzejewski of Eastlake and his wife, Pat, as special guests. One of the highlights of the evening was a visit from Santa Claus. The individuals enjoyed telling Santa what they wanted for the holidays this year and received their first presents of the season.



A special **thank you** to all of the corporate and individual sponsors and donors for making this evening possible.



**BORDEAUX SPONSOR (\$5,000)**

**Royal Chemical Company**

**NAPA SPONSORS (\$1,000)**

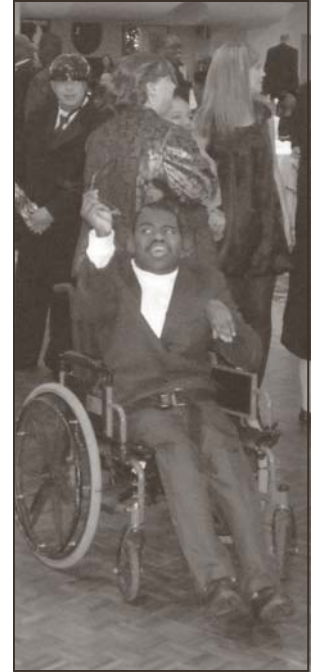
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**SONOMA SPONSORS (\$500)**

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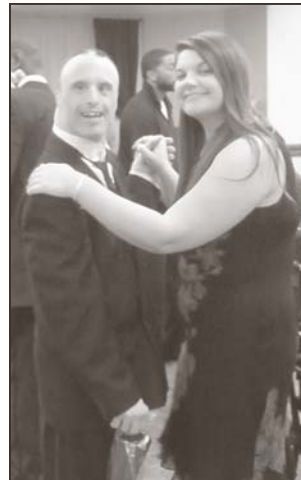
**CHIANTI SPONSORS (\$200)**

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Ilene Shaw  
Skip & Cheryl Vogelsberger**



# New Avenues' Holiday Ball 2010

The evening was extra special because of the generous donations of time and talent by our photographer **Scott Gloger**, entertainment **Terry Macklin's Sounds of Entertainment**, and Santa **Ryan Popka**! Thank you also to **Debbie Colvenbach**, our Music Therapy Director and our Music Therapy interns, **Jessica Janaitis**, our featured pianist, and **Emily Newcomer**, our featured vocalist, for their holiday music during the cocktail hour.



Thank you to our In-Kind Donors for providing wonderful prizes for the evening!

- Alpine Valley
- Ambiance
- The Beck Center
- Cleveland Metroparks Golf
- Cleveland Metroparks
- The Cleveland Orchestra
- Emerald Woods Golf Course
- Illusions Magic & Costumes Inc.
- Improv at the Powerhouse
- Lake County Captains
- Lake Erie Monsters
- Live Nation
- Mary Ann Halliday, Independent
- Longaberger Consultant
- Nautica Queen
- Pickwick & Frolic Restaurant and Club
- Pine Hills Golf Club
- Pro Football Hall of Fame
- Neace Lukens, Skip Vogelsberger
- Trolley Tours of Cleveland

Congratulations to the winners of our door prizes!

- Kathy Kirsch, Daryl Weiland,
- Lisa Edwards, Teri Schwab,
- Shirley MacFarland,
- Andy Lukeson, Ian Abrams,
- Lou Baga, Dan Jansen,
- James & Nancy Rich,
- Sandy McCroskey,
- Laura VanDemotter,
- Mayor Ted Andrzejewski,
- Chris Loehrke, Robert Holmes

# Annual Recognition Ceremony: Recognizing Those Who Made a Difference!

Each year, New Avenues recognizes the hard work and dedication of the individuals that we serve for their achievements and employees, nurses, support staff, advocates, and volunteers who have made a difference in the lives of individuals with disabilities. This year, the Annual Recognition Celebration was held at the Holiday Ball.



Gretchen Halliday, Fred Kovach & Cheryl General (above), Bruce Sherman & Angela Colon (below)



## Congratulations to the 2009 winners!

**Michael Gnatovich**, ICF Resident of the Year

**Cindy Dill**, Supported Living Consumer of the Year-Ashtabula County

**Mary Leftridge**, Supported Living Consumer of the Year-Cuyahoga County

**William Folley**, Supported Living Consumer of the Year-Lake County

**Gabriel Zerkowski**, In-Home Consumer of the Year

**Angela Colon**, ICF Employee of the Year

**Cindy Iams**, Supported Living Employee of the Year

**Peggy Davis**, Support Staff of the Year

**Sharon Schultz**, Nurse of the Year

**Luvenia Jones**, Spirit Award

**Fred Kovach**, Volunteer of the Year

**Forest City Enterprises**, Volunteer Group of the Year

**Maryann Lenzer**, Advocate of the Year



Mary Leftridge (above), Bruce Sherman & Sharon Schultz (below)



## New Faces Around New Avenues



New Avenues welcomes Tamika Henderson as the new Assistant Manager for Presser Cottage. Tamika received her degree in Paralegal Studies from Lakeland Community College and looks forward to receiving her bachelor's degree in June from Chancellor University. Over the past 15 years, she has worked in both corporate and non-profit organizations in both administrative and direct service roles, including nine years serving people with disabilities.

Tamika has been married for 9 years to her high school sweetheart, Jason and has 3 children, Akia 18, Jessica 15 and Jalen 9, and a Boston Terrier named Apollo. In her spare time, she loves to play Wii with her family and read urban, mystery and self-help books. Tamika is excited for the opportunity to work for New Avenues and looks forward to many years of learning and growing with the agency.

New Avenues welcomes Lynn Ramos as our Licensed Social Worker. Lynn is a single mom of a 25 year old daughter, Tiffany, who lives in Columbus. She has two cats, Loopy and Oliver, adopted last year from the Cleveland Animal Protective League. When Lynn's daughter left for college, Lynn was not happy with the change in her life or the job she had. It was at this time that Lynn decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She attended Lorain County Community College for 2 years and then completed her degree at Youngstown State University. Lynn graduated in December 2008 magna cum laude and became a Licensed Social Worker in February 2009. Lynn completed an internship at Jewish Family Services and was a Direct Support Professional for several years at Our Lady of the Wayside.



## Sad Good-byes



### Joseph Direnfeld

September 14, 1909 – November 4, 2010

Joe was a resident of the Perry home long before New Avenues became the owner and operator of the ICF in 1997. Joe moved into Perry Home when it was Ridge Nursing Home in September of 1964. The staff at Perry Home often joked that Joe “came with the house.” Joe enjoyed watching sports and looking at books. His favorite sports team was the Cleveland Indians. He was a man of very few words, and when he was home, he liked to watch TV. Joe attended Vocational Guidance Center with the Lake County Board of DD until Buckeye Industries opened in 2005, and then he participated in New Avenues’ Day Services program in Madison. At Buckeye Industries, Joe liked to keep busy by stuffing envelopes. Joe is missed by the staff and residents of the Perry Home, and he will always be remembered.

- Jessica Toivonen, Home Manager, Perry Home

### Nancy McGinty

December 9, 1933 – November 13, 2010

Nancy received residential, therapeutic, nursing and recreational services from New Avenues for over 27 years. She lived in the Main Building when it was a home for 46 residents and then moved to Presser Cottage in 1993. She also attended New Avenues’ Day Services Program on Main Campus. Nancy’s favorite past time was watching movies. She got so involved that she would laugh out very loud and say “that crazy girl”. She wasn’t much of a talker and liked to sit and observe the things going on around her. If someone would leave the Cottage that she felt should not have, she would yell out very loudly “gone out the door, gone out the door”. It was a pleasure to have known and worked with Nancy over the years, and she will truly be missed by her peers and staff. Nancy, if you can hear us today, we want you to know:

We go about our day  
in the usual manner,  
and the people we meet  
talk and act just like always.  
But even so,  
things aren’t the same  
without you.



- Sharon Thornton, Home Manager, Zeve & Presser Cottages

### Patricia Elwood

June 26, 1939 – December 10, 2010



Patricia, who everyone liked to call Patty, received residential, therapeutic, nursing and recreational services from New Avenues for 20 years until her discharge in February, 2010. She attended Euclid Adult Activity Center after her admission to Presser Cottage, and in 2005, she chose to attend New Avenues’ Day Services program upon its opening. Patty would speak in a soft tone, and although her weak enunciation made it difficult to understand her at times, everyone clearly understood when she walked into a room and yelled out “hey everybody”. The shuffling of her feet is missed by all, especially the love of her life Homer Davis. Homer, some of his peers and staff were scheduled to visit with Patty on Monday, December 13th, but due to the weather, the trip was canceled. Sadly enough, the trip would have been to tell us that Patty passed away on Friday, December 10th. We missed her when she left in the early part of the year, and we will miss her even more now that we can no longer make visits.

- Sharon Thornton, Home Manager, Zeve & Presser Cottages

## Donor Spotlight



Laura Petrash

Our daughter, Laura, moved into New Avenues' Presser Cottage in November 2001. In addition to Laura's living arrangements, there are several factors which benefit her and the other residents. There is a full time nurse, a real comfort to parents when their loved ones have medical problems. To promote the feeling of belonging, the residents are taken on outings such as Indians games, July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks, dances at neighboring establishments, and dining at restaurants. Access to therapy is provided to all (i.e. therapies include Physical, Occupational, Music, Art and Speech). Day Services are also available.

A few years ago, the Presser Cottage's bedrooms were redecorated with designs provided by a local design college. New paint, wall-hangings, furniture and carpeting have created a new and pleasant environment. The common areas of the home were also updated, an indication of New Avenues' dedication to providing a home-like environment for the residents. We were proud to be contributors to these efforts.



The Petrash Family

Laura has been profoundly affected since moving to Presser Cottage. Her social skills have improved from living and interacting with her peers. Her interests have grown with her participation in Music and Art Therapy. Her communication skills have improved as a result of her Speech Therapy. Physical and Occupational Therapy have had a positive impact on her daily life. Since Laura moved to Presser Cottage, she has grown and matured. She is happy and content. Our experiences and Laura's experiences with New Avenues have been nothing but positive.

We are convinced that this community resource must be preserved for all who will need it in the future. An endowment can be a step toward this. Laura's mother, Rose Marie, and I want to be a part of this effort. We made a bequest in our wills that will ultimately provide a contribution to the New Avenues Endowment Fund.

*Donald A. Petrash*



If you are interested in learning more about how you can help New Avenues through its fund, please contact Karen Knavel, Community Relations Director, (216) 481-1909 x224. We look forward to helping you continue to show your support for New Avenues!



## 2010 Major Donors

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Enterline Foundation

### Protector (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

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### Friend (\$500-\$999)

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Louise Dobranski  
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Mary & Roger Zimmerman

# Gifts Made to New Avenues

New Avenues wishes to thank the individuals, corporations, and foundations that have generously given support to the programs of New Avenues during the fourth quarter of 2010.

## \$100 to \$500

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Susan & John Galeazzo

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*In Memory of Manuel & Gloria Lozano*  
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*In Memory of Nancy McGinty*  
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*In Memory of Cyril Reider*  
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*In Memory of Vincent Simonetta*  
Terry & Sharon Macklin

Thank you for your on-going support of New Avenues. If there is an omission or error in any of the contributions listed, or if you want to make a contribution, please contact Heidi Lamb, Resource Development Coordinator, at (216) 481-1909 x221.



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## VALUES STATEMENT

New Avenues to Independence, Inc. believes in the worth of and respect for individual dignity, personal preferences, and social justice for all individuals we serve. Our fundamental values are:

- Every person has potential for growth and inclusion.
- We value promoting a positive image about persons with disabilities by providing education and information to the public.
- We value promoting quality of life and opportunities and protecting rights.
- We value the individual and their family relationships.
- We are committed to excellence and continuous improvement in the quality of our supports and services.
- We value and nurture staff competency.
- We are committed to personal and professional integrity.
- We value accountability to our various publics.
- We are committed to innovative practices for persons with disabilities in work, social, and home settings.
- We value participation in the public policy arena.
- We value responsible stewardship of all resources.

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Please send your suggestions and comments to:

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