



AROUND THE HOUSE

Avondale House eNewsletter



Mark Your Calendar

- Jun 2: Extended School Year begins
- Oct 8: Avondale House Annual Bingo Bash
- Jan 17: Chevron Houston Marathon and Aramco Half Marathon

Extended School Year to Begin June 2nd

Having been out of our school building since spring break, we are happy to announce that we will be re-opening our school for extended school year starting on June 2nd. Since Governor Abbot's announcement on Monday, May 18th that summer schools may operate in person, we have been preparing to welcome our students back to school!



“Since the closing of school in mid-March, we have been providing distance learning to our students. We understand that this has been very challenging for our students with severe autism and their families,” says Steve Vetrano, Avondale House CEO. “Because of this, we felt it was important to re-open our facility as soon as it was safe to do so.”

During the extended break, we have taken the opportunity to conduct a deep cleaning and disinfecting of our facility as well as to make repairs and updates to our classrooms. “In opening for extended school year, we are proceeding cautiously and will follow CDC guidelines and take all necessary precautions to keep our students and staff as safe as possible,” stated Principal Paul Kandola. In addition to the usual screenings and temperature checks each day, the following practices have been put in place:

- Classes will be self-contained with no more than eleven individuals in a classroom. This includes teachers, staff, and students.
- We will have social distancing measures in place to minimize the number of contacts students encounter regularly.
- All instruction will be held in spaces that allow desks or work areas to be placed at least six feet apart.
- Classes will not combine for activities at any time.
- Students will not be brought together in assemblies, field trips, or other group gatherings outside of their class group
- Students will be instructed in good hand-washing techniques and given frequent opportunities to wash their hands.
- All staff will wear face coverings. Students who will tolerate it will be encouraged to wear face coverings as well.
- Arrival and dismissal procedures will be modified to reduce the number of individuals congregating in the hallways.

- Students will be received and dismissed from the drop off area only.
- The multipurpose room will not be available for use.
- No non-essential visitors, including parents or guardians, will be permitted in the building. Drop off and pick up will be curbside only.

For the month of June, the school hours will be from 9 AM to 2 PM. Starting July 6th, we will resume our normal hours of 8:15 AM to 3:15 PM. "We will continue to closely monitor the health & safety of everyone. If at any time we feel it becomes necessary to modify our plan, we will do so," says Kandola.

2020 Embracing Autism Luncheon Goes Virtual!

While our annual luncheon was scheduled during the COVID-19 outbreak, we did not let that get us down! Our wonderful co-chairs, Drs. Kathleen Mahon and Milan Jamrich, along with our guest speaker, Dr. Huda Zoghbi, pivoted with us to create the Virtual Unluncheon that aired on May 18th at noon on Facebook Live! We are so grateful to the **93 guests** who tuned in for the live event, as well as the **930 views** that we have gotten since! Together, we have raised over **\$86,000** for Avondale House's vital services and resources.

We still haven't quite met our goal yet, so please [donate here](#) and if you missed our live broadcast, don't worry! [Click here to view the entire virtual event.](#)

We are so thankful to our generous sponsors who continued to support this event!

Presenting Sponsor, Texas Children's Hospital

Platinum Sponsor, Westwood Wealth Management



Donor Spotlight: Sarom Makes Masks!

Sarom In has found a creative way to raise funds for Avondale House while protecting others during the COVID-19 crisis. Read her story below!

"The world around us is going through a crazy time and I wanted to support others in need. We brainstormed ways to do that which allowed me to stay home with my little ones during quarantine. I saw many in my neighborhood were in need of masks due to high amounts of healthcare workers living in the Pearland area. There was a demand for masks and I realized this would be a perfect opportunity to sew masks for a cause that we care deeply about. We automatically thought of Avondale House as the perfect non-profit organization to highlight and bring awareness to."



We want to thank Sarom for her creativity and continued support of Avondale House!

Do you have a unique fundraising idea? Email [Sarah!](#)



Celebrate Global Running Day by Joining Team Avondale House

Global Running Day is June 3, 2020! We know life has been unusual lately, but you can have fun outdoors by running or walking as the running community comes together on Global Running Day 2020! In addition, you can join Team Avondale House to show you run for autism in the annual Chevron Houston Marathon. Team Avondale House offers many options for people to participate from walking the 5k to running the full marathon. [Click here for more information.](#)

As you celebrate Global Running Day, it's important to run only when and where it's safe to do so for both you and your local community. Running during this pandemic is about keeping yourself and others healthy.

[Join Team Avondale House](#)

Send Cheer to Avondale House Residents

Avondale House residents have been abiding by social distancing guidelines and staying home. Send them something to show you care and keep them busy. We've added new items to the Amazon wish list.

[Click here to check it out!](#)



Team Member of the Month



Melissa Burghardt is our May team member of the month!

Melissa has done an exceptional job during the COVID-19 pandemic navigating all three group homes and assuring that the staff have the supplies and activities necessary to provide a meaningful routine while our residents stay safe at home. She was able to pivot quickly from supervising our Day Hab program to assisting residential students with their distance learning, as well as making the rounds to each group home to help out where needed. Her willingness to step in to fill a

weekend shift at one of our houses shows her commitment to our modified routine during this quarantine, and ultimately a commitment to do whatever it takes to keep our students and clients safe. Congratulations to Melissa - a true Avondale team player!

[Recent Donors](#)

Avondale House wishes to thank and acknowledge these recent donors:

Sherry Boss · Jo Ann & Randy Grooms · Kim & Court Hoyt · Meena & Scott Parazynski
Kathleen Mahon & Milan Jamrich · Nancy Hemmen · Nicholas Fauver
Megan Woodard · Box Tops for Education · Irene Batinga · Merari Dieguez
Janet & Rick Dixon · Michael Whitmire · Cecilia Vaquerano · Judy Haring-Green
Barbara Boyett · Glenda Hollingsworth · Christopher Castaneda · Elisabetta Damiani
Austin St. Denis · Jeffery Joseph · BP Energy Company · Michele Wiseley
Kymberley Scalia · Virginia Tomlinson · Alyson & Elliot Gershenson
Cristina & Mark Rodriguez · Bob Canino · Linda & Ed Parazynski · Susan Malmquist
Jesse Brown · Patti Kelly · Mickey & Dorothy Ables · Mark Packwood · Waylon Wood
Kevin and Tara Wallace · Caroline Baizan · Ellen & Coe Miles · Cathy & Al Nixon
Sue Oldham · Julie Dill · Jane & Mike Murray · Gail Vozzella · Bowers Foundation
Henrietta & Randall Grooms, Sr. · Greater Houston Community Foundation
Mary Weldon & Guy Buckley

[Donate Now!](#)



[Contact Us](#)



Share



Tweet



Share