



Life-long opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

The History of Development at Allegheny Valley School

Since 1960, Allegheny Valley School (AVS) has grown from a single-site organization serving 10 children into a multi-faceted organization serving more than 900 children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The following chronology outlines some of the important milestones in the evolution and development of Allegheny Valley School.

1960

AVS is founded, organized and incorporated by Patricia Hillman Miller with help from Bob Prince and Doug Hannah.

1961

Official opening of original AVS facility for ten clients in a turn-of-the-century mansion on West Prospect Avenue in the Crafton/Ingram area adjacent to Pittsburgh.

1965

First expansion of the AVS facility, an addition to the building dedicated as the Patricia Hall Wing.

1968

Two additional wings are added to the AVS facility.

1973

Official opening of the new 55-acre campus in Robinson Township, a facility with 180 beds.

1977

First on-campus group home is opened at the Robinson Township facility.

1978

Original AVS facility on West Prospect Avenue is closed temporarily while plans are made and funds are raised for renovations.

1980

Large group home is opened in Butler, providing an additional 15 beds.

Second group home is opened on the campus of Robinson Township.

1983

Two more on-campus group homes are opened on the Robinson Township campus; they are the first fully adapted ICF/MR-certified group homes in Pennsylvania.

Renovated original facility on West Prospect Avenue in Crafton/Ingram area is reopened and renamed the Patricia Hillman Miller Campus, providing 63 beds.

AVS participates with Myron Cope in founding the Pittsburgh Vintage Grand Prix.

1984

Group home is opened in Butler County for residents dispersed from the Pennhurst State Center in Philadelphia.

AVS takes over operation of Highland Park Center, a 132-bed facility in Pittsburgh.

1985

Highland Park Center is closed and replaced with 23 group homes in Allegheny, Beaver, Butler and Mercer Counties.

Annual AVS Capital Funding campaign is renamed in honor of Bob Prince, "Founder, Friend and Benefactor" who died on June 10, 1985.

1989

Two additional group homes are opened in Beaver County and one additional group home in Allegheny County.

AVS takes over operation of a 161 bed residential facility in Philadelphia and establishes the Philadelphia Campus of AVS.

Two new facilities are opened to provide day programs for adults, the Edward J. Zapp Program Center in Robinson Township and the Slippery Rock Program Center north of Pittsburgh.

1990

Ten group homes are opened throughout Philadelphia.

A new fully adapted on-campus group home is opened at the campus in Robinson Township.

1991

A new fully adapted on-campus group home is opened at the campus in Robinson Township.

A new group home is opened in Allegheny County.

1993

The Slippery Rock Program Center is relocated to a larger building and the former center is converted into a group home.

1994

The Edward J. Zapp Program Center is expanded with a new 10,000 square foot addition.

A new group home is opened in Allegheny County.

AVS takes over operation of a 48 bed residential facility in Butler naming it the Butler Campus of AVS, and a 48 bed residential facility in Hummelstown, the Hummelstown Campus of AVS.

1995

A 5,000 square foot addition to the Patricia Hillman Miller Campus is completed.

AVS closes its Butler Campus and moves into six new group homes opened in Butler and Mercer Counties.

Six new group homes are opened in Dauphin County.

1996

A new group home is opened in Allegheny County.

AVS opens its Corporate Center.

1997

A new group home is opened in Beaver County.

A new group home is opened in Allegheny County.

AVS expands its residential service options to include supported living and family living programs.

1998

Seven new group homes and an apartment are opened in Allegheny County.

A new group home is opened in Lebanon County.

1999

Four new group homes are opened in Allegheny County.

Two new group homes are opened in Lebanon County.

One group home is opened in Dauphin County.

2000

Aspin Center in Dauphin County is taken over by AVS.

Three new group homes are opened in Allegheny County.

One new group home is opened in Beaver County.

Three new group homes are opened in Dauphin County.

2001

One new group home is opened in Allegheny County.

Two new group homes are opened in Dauphin County.

A new program center is opened in Allegheny County.

2004

AVS takes over Greenwich, an 84 bed facility in Philadelphia County.

2005

Two new group homes are opened in Bucks County.

Five new group homes are opened in Montgomery County.

Two new group homes are opened in Philadelphia County.

Eleven new waiver homes are opened in Philadelphia County.

Six new family living programs are opened in Philadelphia County.

AVS opens its Administrative Office in Philadelphia County.

A new program center is opened in Bucks County.

2006

Three new group homes are opened in Montgomery County.

Three new group homes are opened in Bucks County.

2007

Two new family living programs are opened in Butler County.

2008

One new group home is opened in Montgomery County.

One new group home is opened in Philadelphia County.

One new family living program is opened in Beaver County.

Allegheny Valley School is acquired by NHS Human Services* and becomes *An NHS Human Services Company*. The AVS corporation remains intact within the NHS Family of Companies. AVS' continues to operate as it has since 1960; its headquarters remain in Robinson Township.

**NHS is one of Pennsylvania's largest non-profit providers of human services. NHS operates in several states and provides services to more than 50,000 individuals in the areas of behavioral health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, addictive diseases, autism, juvenile justice, elder care and foster care. The combined organization's priority is to deliver quality care to vulnerable individuals.*

2009

One new group home is opened in Montgomery County.