



# Avenues

Choose your direction and grow

Founded as UCP in 1952

1st Quarter 2024  
Newsletter

Proud member of the  
United Way



## Our Programs

We are always up to something fun!



**First Friends Preschool & Daycare and Eldergarden teamed up for Christmas fun!**

Hazleton Vocational & Employment program welcomed Claire Alfree from WNEP TV. She let viewers know what services we provide for industry. Our team works to provide quality services to you at a reasonable cost.

Our Vocational & Employment Services in Pottsville and Hazleton provide an integrated environment, encouraging both personal growth and independence.

**Check out the video by clicking on the link:**

<https://www.wnep.com/video/news/local/luzerne-county/avenues-helping-those-with-disabilities-and-local-businesses/523-87711c22-ca43-4ee2-903a-1e060e968bbf>



Ken Lorah explains his work to Claire from WNEP

**Examples of our services include:  
Assembly, Mailing Prep, Shredding, Janitorial**

Contact us to see if we can help you.

**Hazleton:**

Vince Alessandri  
(570) 501-1005 ext 504

[valessandri@avenuesofpa.org](mailto:valessandri@avenuesofpa.org)

**Pottsville:**

Terri Moyer  
(570) 628-5316 ext 204

[TMoyer@avenuesofpa.org](mailto:TMoyer@avenuesofpa.org)

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## LESSIE'S Corner

Lessie's Garden Greenhouse & Giftshop



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**SPRING COMMUNITY BASH MAY 11, 2024**

**FALL FEST SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

**CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 7, 2024**



# Business Corner



*We thank all of the community for supporting Avenues. This quarter we are focusing on Dollar General Distribution Center Bethel and Dollar General Distribution Center Pottsville. Not only do they sponsor our Avenues Foundation fundraising events, they have also supported us in other special ways. The Pottsville Center sponsored Lessie's Garden Greenhouse & Gift Shop Christmas Open House. The Bethel Center donated items for giftwrapping for a fundraiser we did at Yuengling Gift Shop & Museum. Thanks so much!*

# Norman



Norman is a beautiful kitty who lives with Briana our HR Manager/People Operations Strategic Partner. Her boyfriend has some rental properties. About 5 years ago he went in to check on a recently vacated property and was greeted by Norman. The vet thinks he was about 3 or 4 years old when he adopted Bri and her boyfriend. He enjoys sitting on the porch with his people. He also likes cat napping and birdwatching in the sunroom. Bri says she shares a very special bond with Norman. He is vocal and she wishes she knew what he was saying!

# WE HAD A FUN FALL!



Debbie



Tommy



Tim



Kyle



# Individual in the Spotlight

**Ken Lorah**, Nanticoke was recently featured on our WNEP segment. He began working for the Hazleton Vocational program less than a year ago and he loves it. Ken takes great pride in the work he does. He also enjoys his own art room in the home he shares with roommates. Ken went to school for art and even won second place with one of his stencil drawings. Bowling and puzzles are two other favorite pastimes. He has volunteered for the Shavertown Fire Police, helping to direct traffic. He was even the catcher for his church softball team. Ken celebrated a birthday on Christmas Day! He is very close to his sister and brother.  
Thank you Ken for your work here at Avenues.



## DSP SPOTLIGHT



### Great Job, Autumn!

Avenues would like to congratulate Autumn McDonough for being the first employee to earn the DSP-I certification through the NADSP E-Badge Academy!

Autumn works full-time as a Direct Support Professional at our PossAbilities Central program. She also works for our Home and Community program and invests countless hours of free time into completing the NADSP certification program.

In the short time she's worked for Avenues, Autumn has exemplified our mission statement and core values by providing quality support and care to everyone she serves.

Autumn took a moment to reflect on her experience with the NADSP program.

**Q: How does it feel to be the first Avenues employee to earn the DSP-I certification?**

A: Exciting! I've really missed doing anything related to education, so I'm grateful for this opportunity.

**Q: Do you think that working through the certification program helps you in your daily work?**

A: Yes! I've found myself thinking back to the trainings a lot throughout the day, especially the one on "systematic approaches".

**Q: Do you have any advice to assist your co-workers who are also working on the DSP certification program?**

A: Don't overthink it. I think when it comes to the testimonials especially, there seems to be a misconception that everything we write about needs to be a huge, life-altering example. It doesn't need to be huge. It can be the smallest, most innocuous part of your day, as long as you think it even remotely fits the prompt.

*"Autumn is thoughtful in her work, has a positive attitude, and is an asset to the PossAbilities Central team"*

*-Jacqueline Kurtek,  
Site Supervisor*

## CONGRATULATIONS! DSP CERTIFICATES ACHIEVED!

**Employees who have earned DSP certifications through the NADSP E-Badge Academy:**

Emily Umbenhen, Site Supervisor, Retail Programs  
Front Line Supervisor Certification

Autumn McDonough, DSP, PossAbilities Central  
DSP II Certification

Kristy Corrigan, DSP, PossAbilities Central  
DSP I Certification

Amanda Friend, DSP, Milton PossAbilities  
DSP I Certification

Makaya Ando, DSP, Milton PossAbilities  
DSP I Certification

Heather Sinko, DSP, Milton PossAbilities  
DSP II Certification

Rebecca Kovich, DSP Pottsville Vocational  
DSP II Certification





Thank you for supporting Avenues since 1952! To contribute to our annual appeal, please visit our website at <https://avenuesofpa.org>

You can also support us at <https://account.venmo.com/u/avenues-foundation> or <https://paypal.me/AvenuesPA>

**Your donation makes a big difference**

Avenues Annual Appeal

Visit [avenuesofpa.org](https://avenuesofpa.org) for details  
Thank you!

**Avenues ATF Central YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY MAY 11TH 9AM TO 2PM**  
**2 PARK ST. POTTSVILLE**

**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

Supporting individuals with disabilities [www.avenuesofpa.org](http://www.avenuesofpa.org)

**FREE FOR AVENUES EMPLOYEES**  
**\$10.00 PER SPOT - TABLES NOT PROVIDED**

CALL: (570) 622-7920 EXT 131 OR  
EMAIL: [JKURTER@AVENUESOFPA.ORG](mailto:JKURTER@AVENUESOFPA.ORG)  
DEADLINE: APRIL 29TH  
\*RAIN OR SHINE!



**Thank you to everyone who donated items to us for the Simon Kramer Cancer Institute!**



**Our Adult Recreation events are always so much fun! For Thanksgiving we did a craft.**

*Nanny's Kitchen*

**TAKE & BAKE PIZZA**  
**1755 W. MARKET ST., POTTSVILLE**

Large	\$13.00
w/ Topping	\$17.00
Medium	\$11.00
W/Topping	\$14.00
Personal	\$6.00
W/Topping	\$7.00
French Bread	\$8.00
W/Topping	\$9.00
Cauliflower Crust	\$11.00
W/Topping	\$12.00
Each additional topping	\$1.00.

**TO ORDER:**  
Email [KHughes@avenuesofpa.org](mailto:KHughes@avenuesofpa.org)  
or call (570) 622-7920 x 201  
by 12pm Thursday.  
Pick up Friday between 2pm and 4 pm

Support individuals with disabilities

**WEEKLY TOPPING SPECIALS!**  
CALL TODAY FOR INFO OR SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS...

## Winter Craft



There are many ways to make a paper plate snowman! How creative can you be? Grab a paper plate (or 3!), some construction paper, a marker or paint and have fun!

Many programs have activities and stories. Check Avenues Facebook page for more good news.

To submit a story or birthday, email [knoel@avenuesofpa.org](mailto:knoel@avenuesofpa.org)

Visit us at [avenuesofpa.org](https://avenuesofpa.org) and Like us on [Facebook!](#)