



ACHIEVA NEWS



The Family Trust Serves Thousands

The Family Trust manages funds for people with disabilities, allowing them to have money for things that improve the quality of their lives, such as supplemental medical expenses or in-home care, without the fear of losing their government funding. The Family Trust also helps families of those with disabilities with general estate and financial planning. In serving its 1,100 clients, The Family Trust works with courts, service providers, the Social Security Administration, the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, and other state and federal agencies.

"On average, we distribute about \$100,000 each week to help families

and our clients," explained Kathleen D. Hendrickson, Esq., president of The Family Trust. "The money has helped fund renovations to homes so

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that they are more accessible, the purchase of cars to transport family members with disabilities and even travel costs so that clients are able to visit family members."

Trusts can be used as part of estate

planning and as part of a savings plan for young children. Parents who set up a trust for their young child give grandparents and other family members an easy way to make gifts.

This gives families the option to save as they would for any other children in the family, without jeopardizing government support.

People with disabilities can lose eligibility for essential, life-long supports and services if they have assets in their own name. Often assets worth as little as \$2,000 can trigger a loss of eligibility. Trusts managed by The Family Trust can give families options that they never

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ACHIEVA Home Care Earns CHAP Accreditation

ACHIEVA's home care services have received a three-year accreditation by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP), an independent, nonprofit accrediting body for community health organizations.

"The CHAP accreditation publicly certifies that an organization has voluntarily met the highest standards of excellence for home and/or community-based health care," according to CHAP's website. In addition, becoming a member of the accredited agencies will give ACHIEVA access to "a broad network of professional resources and guidance to building intra- and inter-organizational collaboration and strength."

CHAP was the first accrediting body for community-based health organizations in the United States. Today, only 1,450 agencies have reached accreditation status

nationwide. ACHIEVA is one of 104 state and only 5 local organizations to be endorsed by CHAP, and is the first accredited agency to specialize in providing services for children and adults with disabilities and their families.

The accreditation is part of a larger initiative that will allow ACHIEVA to

CHAP accredited agencies in the United States have been recognized leaders in the industry, with their cutting edge technology and forward thinking treatment of consumers, serving as true role models for all home health care agencies.

obtain "participating provider status" with HealthChoices, a Medicaid-funded program comprised of Gateway, Unison and UPMC for You. The designation will enable ACHIEVA to reach more families who are in need of respite care, utilizing the HealthChoices reimbursement process.

"Once ACHIEVA is a participating provider, ACHIEVA will be added to the provider list and families will be able to choose ACHIEVA for respite services," explained Rose Warman, director of ACHIEVA home care. While other agencies on the list have a medical focus, including home health care following hospital stays and those that serve the elderly or people with chronic health issues, ACHIEVA is the only organization specializing in providing supports to people with developmental and intellectual disabilities.

ACHIEVA is pleased to announce that Pittsburgh has been selected as the site of The Arc of the United States' 2009 Convention, after competing with two other cities for the distinction. Attendees will hear advocates, self advocates and other speakers who will share the most up-to-date information in the disabilities field. "We're thrilled," commented Mike Tiani, chairman of the ACHIEVA Board of Trustees. "It's an honor to be able to welcome people from all over the country to ACHIEVA and to the City of Pittsburgh. We're going to work hard to fulfill our pledge of being the most hospitable city to ever host the National membership of The Arc."

l. to r. Mike Tiani, chairman of the ACHIEVA Board of Trustees, Mary V. Jordan, incoming president of The Arc of the United States and Marsha Blanco, chief executive officer of ACHIEVA.

ACHIEVA Gets Nod To Host 2009 Arc of United States Conference



Legislative Update

Governor Ed Rendell Proposes \$78.5 Million Increase for Mental Retardation Services in PA Budget

Governor Rendell's 2007-2008 budget includes an additional \$78.5 million for community mental health services, a 10 percent increase over last year's amounts.

Of that figure, approximately \$29 million—expected to be matched with federal funding—will be used to provide home and community-based services to an additional 3,428 people. An additional \$54 million is slated to be spent by the state and federal governments in the 2008-2009 budget.

"Hopefully we're going to be able to bring a lot of people who are in crisis to safe landings," Marsha Blanco, ACHIEVA's chief executive officer said. "It's a very promising budget proposal for people with developmental disabilities and their families."

Governor Rendell also proposed \$2.3 million for autism services, a 65 percent increase and \$45 million for early intervention, up 18 percent from last year.

The state legislature must vote on the 2007-2008 budget by June 30, 2007.

President Bush Signs Two Key Pieces of Legislation to Provide Support to People with Disabilities and Their Families – Your Help is Needed to Get Funding!

In December, President Bush signed two important bills into law: the Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006



In early March, volunteer Board members from The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh (serving Allegheny and Beaver counties), The Arc of Butler County as well as ACHIEVA staff traveled to Washington D.C. to meet with legislators to discuss disability policy issues. From l to r: Dr. Michelle McCollin, chair of the Board of Trustees for The Arc of Butler County, Beverly Pietrandrea, a trustee of The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh, Representative Jason Altmire of the 4th Congressional District, Amy Wild, director of marketing and communications, ACHIEVA, Alexandra Robinson, chair of the Board of Trustees for The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh and an ACHIEVA Trustee, and Jeanine Schultz, partnership coordinator for ACHIEVA.

and Combating Autism Act of 2006.

The Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 authorizes \$289 million over five years for state grants to develop lifespan respite programs to help families access quality, affordable respite care. The funds are to be used for the development of new programs, planned or emergency respite care services, the training and recruitment of respite care workers and volunteers, and caregiver training.

The Combating Autism Act of 2006 will increase activities related to research, prevention and treatment of autism related disorders through the year 2011. The Act also authorizes the establishment of regional centers for collection and analysis of data related to the numbers, incidence, correlation and causes of autism spectrum disorders and other developmental disabilities. Provisions have also

been made to increase early screening for children and to support healthcare providers through training in evidence-based intervention techniques.

While the President's authorization for both the Combating Autism Act and Lifespan Respite Act are a step in the right direction, a question remains in regard to funding. Currently, the FY 2008 federal budget has no money allocated to initiating these acts. We know how important the services detailed in these bills are to people with disabilities and their families. Please share your stories and concerns with your legislators and urge them to fight to add funding to the federal budget in support of the Combating Autism Act and Lifespan Respite Act. For more information, please contact Candy Smith, president of The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh at (412) 995-5000 x 513 or via email: csmith@achieva.info.

Fran Carter, ACHIEVA Trustee 2007 NAWBO Making the Connections Award Honoree

"I've come full circle," explains Fran Carter, ACHIEVA trustee and chairperson of the Board that oversees ACHIEVA's services, about her involvement with ACHIEVA. "I worked for the County when community living was just beginning, so I was well aware of ACHIEVA's services. Now, I'm involved with ACHIEVA first hand."

Fran, who lives in Penn Hills, is chief executive officer of MAJ Trucking of Virginia Beach, VA. She first became

affiliated with ACHIEVA through Community Endeavors more than five years ago as a member of their Board. "After Community Endeavors became part of ACHIEVA, I was nominated to be the Chairperson [for the Board that oversees ACHIEVA services] and later asked to be on

the ACHIEVA Board as well."

Fran's commitment was celebrated on March 28th when she was honored at the National Association of Women Business Owners' (NAWBO) 2007 Make the Connections Awards Luncheon. The event was held at the Pittsburgh Hilton.

"NAWBO recognizes the impact that service organizations make toward invigorating our region. We recognize and honor volunteers, who, through their tireless efforts and commitment, make our communities viable and prosperous," said NAWBO's congratulatory letter.

"I am truly honored to receive the award and to have been nominated by an organization as distinguished as ACHIEVA."
— Fran Carter

Fran Carter
ACHIEVA Trustee



Residence:
Verona, PA

Education:
Bachelor's Degree in Social Work, Howard University
Master's Degree in Child Development University of Pittsburgh
Business Training Duquesne University

Title:
CEO, MAJ Trucking Virginia Beach, VA

Additional Volunteer Efforts:
Safe Start Advisory Board member
Leadership Pittsburgh member

Family Trust

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had before, because the assets in these trusts do not count when the government determines a person's eligibility for supports and services. ACHIEVA fought to become the first organization in the country to obtain government approval to provide family trust services to help plan and privately finance support for loved ones with disabilities.

The Family Trust was established in

1998, managing a \$38,000 pooled trust for one beneficiary. Since then, The Family Trust has expanded rapidly, adding 1,100 clients and payback and common law trusts to their offerings. The Family Trust is one of only a handful of court-approved fiduciaries in Pennsylvania offering trust choices to people with disabilities.

Trusts sometimes seem like options only for the very wealthy. The Family

Trust makes trusts available to all people with disabilities so that they can enjoy the "extras" in life.

For more information on The Family Trust, please contact Kathleen D. Hendrickson, Esq., president of The Family Trust at (412) 995-5000 x405 or via email: khendrickson@achieva.info or Maria Smith, M.Ed., vice president of The Family Trust at (412) 995-5000 x434 or via email: msmith@achieva.info.

Upcoming Events

Join ACHIEVA at our upcoming events!

Highmark Walk For a Healthy Community

Saturday, May 19, 2007
Heinz Field, Pittsburgh PA
 7:15 a.m. registration
 5K Walk Start: 8:30 a.m.
 One-Mile Fun Walk Start:
 8:45 a.m.



Come alone or form a walk team to show your support for ACHIEVA and those we serve when you walk at this year's Highmark Walk For a Healthy Community. Because the entire event is underwritten by Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield, 100 percent of the funds raised by walkers go directly to the participating nonprofit of their choice. After the walk, join ACHIEVA for food, beverages, activities and raffle prize drawings. Complete your registration online at: www.walkforahealthycommunity.org. For more information, please contact Sarah Kelly at (412) 995-5000 x460 or via email skelly@achieva.info.



ACHIEVA to Participate in Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's 4th Annual Community Partners Concert

June 21, 2007
Heinz Hall, Pittsburgh PA
8 p.m.

ACHIEVA will once again participate in the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra's Community Partners Concert on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 8 p.m. The event will feature The Fifth Dimension, as well as world-famous conductor Chelsea Tipton and the Pittsburgh Sphinx competition winner.

Symphony patrons earmark the cost of their tickets to the participating community partner of their choice. Because the costs of the event are underwritten by corporate sponsors and orchestra services are donated by the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, ticket revenue from the

concert is distributed among the participating nonprofits, including ACHIEVA.

2007 Ticket Prices:
 \$19 gallery seating
 \$39 family circle seating
 \$59 dress circle, grand tier, main floor
 \$110 gold circle premium seating

Gold circle tickets also include admission to the evening's reception.

Tickets will be available online at www.pittsburghsymphony.org or through ACHIEVA. Please use ACHIEVA's code 2332 when ordering online. The proceeds of tickets purchased directly through ACHIEVA will benefit the services that support people with disabilities. For more information, please contact David Tinker, CFRE, ACHIEVA's director of development, at (412) 995-5000 x436 or via email: dtinker@achieva.info.

Extreme Makeover: ACHIEVA Website Edition

ACHIEVA's website, www.achieva.info, has a new look. Debuting in March, the new site was designed to be more user friendly and to provide information about ACHIEVA's services based on age, giving users quick access to the individualized services they need.



Immediately noticeable is the new layout, designed with warm and inviting hues from the ACHIEVA color palette. The left side navigation provides a quick and easy way to access information about services, employment and other information including leadership bios, resources and giving options. The "What's New" section on the ACHIEVA home page is a fast link to the latest events, legislative issues and upcoming workshops.

"The site was developed with a self-advocate, parental or

caregiver perspective in mind," explained Chris Filippi, vice president of corporate development.

"By using age as the basic organizing factor, people can easily find the services that are available." Structuring the site by a consumer's age also highlights the uniqueness of ACHIEVA's offerings: ACHIEVA is the only local organization that provides support to those with disabilities throughout their entire lifespan.

Thanks!

**ACHIEVA wishes to thank
National City, whose
generous donation facilitated
the website redesign.**

Upcoming Events

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It's Never to Early to Plan Your Golf Calendar!

**9th Annual Acclamation Systems
Million Dollar Golf Challenge
to Benefit ACHIEVA
Monday, August 27, 2007
Valley Brook Country Club
McMurray, PA**

Please join Joe Ott, president of Acclamation Systems, for the 9th Annual Acclamation Systems Million Dollar Golf Challenge to benefit ACHIEVA. Ten golfers will be randomly chosen to participate in the Million Dollar Golf Challenge, which will be held immediately after the golf tournament. For more information, please contact Debbie

Malanowski at (412) 995-5000 x452 or via email: dmalanowski@achieva.info. More information is also available on the ACHIEVA website: www.achieva.info.

**Acclamation Systems Million Dollar
Golf Challenge Schedule:**

- 9:30 a.m. registration and complimentary driving range
- 10:30 a.m. brunch
- 11:45 a.m. shotgun start
- 5:30 p.m. Million Dollar Golf Challenge
- 6:30 p.m. dinner, prizes and awards

A special thank you to John Seretti Chevrolet and Jim Rooker, who each hold golf tournaments throughout the year to benefit ACHIEVA.

**Rook's Charity Fund 11th
Annual Golf Outing
Saturday, June 23, 2007
1:15 p.m.
Blackhawk Golf Course**

For more information, please call (724) 266-1556.

**Christopher Seretti Memorial
Golf Classic
Monday, August 20, 2007
9 a.m.
Montour Heights Country Club**

For more information, please call (412) 264-3325 or visit www.seretti.com.

Gifts of Support

ACHIEVA gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations that have made financial contributions between January 1, 2006 and March 15, 2007. Great care has been taken in the preparation of this list. If we have inadvertently omitted the name of

one of our supporters, our apologies are offered, along with our desire to correct the information. Please contact Sarah Kelly at (412) 995-5000 ext. 460 or via email: skelly@achieva.info to report any omissions or errors.

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Congratulations to Erin Gannon, Early Education Intervention Aide for ACHIEVA's Ludwig Preschool Readiness Program, for being named Queen of St. Brigid's Court and participating in Pittsburgh's St. Patrick's Day Parade! Erin received a proclamation and met Mayor Luke Ravenstahl.

We Want Your Feedback!

If you have comments, questions or suggestions about ACHIEVA's supports, we want to hear from you!

Please call the toll-free customer support number at 1-888-272-7229 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The receptionist will route your call to the correct department.

Thank you!

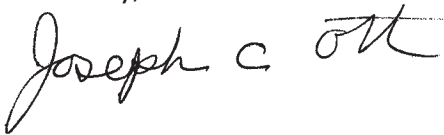
Add Your Name to the List!

Each year thousands of families receive services and supports from ACHIEVA. Infants and toddlers receive early childhood development services, families of school age children receive technical assistance and advocacy regarding special education and adults with disabilities have access to residential and vocational opportunities. Through The Family Trust, families of adults receive assurance that ACHIEVA will care for their family member when they are no longer able to do so.

This year, we are asking families to again join us in saying thank you to the individuals and businesses that support ACHIEVA. On August 27, 2007, at the 9th Annual Acclamation Systems Million Dollar Golf Challenge that benefits ACHIEVA, the Families and Friends of ACHIEVA will sponsor Hole #1. This is an opportunity to thank the golfers for their support and to remind the greater Pittsburgh community that ACHIEVA was founded by families and is still the only organization that serves families and people of all ages with disabilities. The names of all participating families and friends will be placed on the "Thanks from ACHIEVA's Families and Friends" sign at the first tee.

Please consider showing your support by making a minimum gift of \$25. Your help will make our event a success as well as thank those who participate in this year's outing. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Joseph C. Ott
Honorary Chairman
Acclamation Systems Million Dollar Golf Challenge
Member of the ACHIEVA Board of Trustees

(DETACH HERE)

We wish to show our support for ACHIEVA. Please add our names to "Families and Friends of ACHIEVA"

Checks should be made payable to: **ACHIEVA**

Please send your contribution to: "Families and Friends of ACHIEVA",
711 Bingham Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15203

\$25 _____ Other _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____

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A copy of the official registration and financial information of ACHIEVA may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Please return no later than August 17, 2007 to be included on the hole sign

ACHIEVA News is published by the agency's Communications department. To provide feedback or to report duplicate mailings, contact:

Amy C. Wild
Director of Marketing and Communications

ACHIEVA
711 Bingham Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203

Phone: 412-995-5000
Fax: 412-995-5001

E-mail: awild@achieva.info

ACHIEVA, supporting nearly 7,000 children and adults with disabilities each year, is accredited by The Council on Quality & Leadership for People with Disabilities, the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP) and the American Camp Association. For more information, call 412-995-5000 or visit our web site at www.achieva.info


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ACHIEVA NEWS

Did you know that you can raise money for ACHIEVA every time you search the web?



When you use www.goodsearch.com and designate ACHIEVA as your charity, ACHIEVA gets a penny for each search you perform. While it might not seem like much, the average internet user would generate \$10 per year. If just 100 people use the service, ACHIEVA would receive \$1,000. The more people who use www.goodsearch.com—powered by Yahoo!—the more that ACHIEVA will benefit.