



NEWS

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Aaron's Acres Team-up with Allstate to Empower Youth with Disabilities to Give Back, Receives \$5,000 Allstate Foundation Grant

Allstate Foundation Helping Hands® Grant will support Aaron's Acres year-round recreational therapeutic programs for children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities

LANCASTER, Penn., July 18, 2019 – Five Allstate agency owners and agency staff members recently came together to volunteer with Aaron's Acres, mentoring older teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Together, Allstate volunteers and the young adults planned and hosted an ice cream social for residents of a local nursing home. Thanks to their volunteerism, Aaron's Acres will receive a \$5,000 Allstate Foundation Helping Hands® Grant. The organization will use these funds to support their year-round therapeutic programs for children and young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

"It is our honor and privilege to work with such an outstanding and dedicated group of individuals at Aaron's Acres," said Vera Boak, Allstate agency owner in East Petersburg. "Their passion and enthusiasm is contagious. They continue to benefit and enhance their community by providing more and more families of both children and young adults with disabilities enriching experiences. Having the ice cream social with their neighbor organization, the Pleasant View Retirement Community, lives into their mission."

Aaron's Acres has a simple mission: to provide individuals with disabilities, ages 5-21 years-old, with year-round therapeutically based and age-appropriate recreational programs. These programs are directed by specially trained and certified staff in a supportive environment and aim to enhance socialization and communication skills.

"Aaron's Acres is blessed to work with Allstate representatives and The Allstate Foundation on this social engagement project as we bridge the gap between our participants and the residents of Pleasant View Communities," said Maria Kapsak, Community Outreach Coordinator at Aaron's Acres. "It is projects such as this that allow our participants to understand the benefit of giving back to their community. Raising awareness and growing partnerships are vital to our sustainability as an organization. Granted funds will support programs and aid families experiencing financial hardship send their children to camp. We are thankful for the contribution of The Allstate Foundation and local Allstate agents as we bring everyone together to 'embrace possibilities, beyond disabilities.'"



Aaron's Acres is one of thousands of organizations this year to receive Allstate Foundation Helping Hands Grants secured by agency owners, personal financial representatives and licensed sales professionals on behalf of the nonprofits where they volunteer. The grants support organizations addressing domestic violence, youth empowerment, disaster preparedness, hunger and other causes.

Participating Allstate agency owners and staff include:

- Meredith Allen, Allstate Agency Staff for Owen White Agency, Columbia, PA
- Vera Boak, Allstate Agency Owner, East Petersburg, Penn
- Karen Hershman, Allstate Agency Staff, East Petersburg, Penn
- John Mellish, Allstate Agency Owner, Columbia, Penn
- Shelly Santoni, Allstate Agency Owner, Elizabethtown, Penn



(Left to right) Karen Hershman, Vera Boak, Meredith Allen, Shelly Santoni, and John Mellish

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