



Happy New Year everyone! Last year was not what we expected, but it allowed Aaron's Acres the opportunity to think differently, adapt and create new programming. We look forward to 2021 with optimism as we continue to offer creative solutions to virtual programming and to connect with families who have children with disabilities.

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## **2020: A not so typical year** *A review of Aaron's Acres programming*

### **MARCH**

Committed to providing programming to children and young adults with disabilities in even the most challenging times, Aaron's Acres partnered with some of its favorite people to share free community accessible content. Aaron's Acres saw the need to create a sense of normalcy for families and participants and a resource for the larger community. Weekly content was shared via YouTube with the help of local entertainers, performers, experts and trainers.





## JUNE

Summer camp 2020 transitioned to virtual programming. Aaron's Acres held four 2-week summer camp sessions starting in June and ending in August. Summer camp 2020 offered an additional 2-week session, programming was free for registered participants and staff were paid for their time, as were performers, specialists and friends of Aaron's Acres participating in camp.

## JUNE

Aaron's Acres held its first drive-by supply pick-up day for participants and their families at LCBC Manheim. A drive-by supply pick up day was held before each summer camp session. Aaron's Acres staff cheered on visiting participants and participants were happy for some familiarity in friends and staff.



## JULY

Aaron's Acres held its first family friendly, socially distant BINGO event in the parking lot at LCBC Manheim. The event allowed for friends to safely reconnect, play games and enjoy some food together.

## SEPTEMBER

School Year Program was held virtually for older children 13 to 25 and free virtual content continued every other week for younger children via YouTube.



## OCTOBER

The Aaron's Acres Admin Team hopped in the van and made personal surprise visits to participants' homes -- just to say "Hi!" and "We're thinking about you!"

# What is the Aaron's Acres Admin Team looking forward to in 2021?

*"Our organization is about connections and building meaningful relationships with others, even virtually! For 2021, I am looking forward to connecting with more people of all abilities, ages and backgrounds within our community to share the Aaron's Acres story. While I prefer face to face meetings, I am grateful for*

*current technology that allows us to continue programming."*

**Risa Paskoff**

Executive Director

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*"I am excited to see what new and exciting things we can add to our programs during 2021, both virtually and face to face."*

**Elaine Burnett**

Program Director

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*"As we start 2021, I am filled with hope and look forward to the day when we can all be together in person! In the new year, our team remains committed to listening and responding to the needs of our participants and their families. I am also looking forward to continuing to find creative ways to connect with our community of supporters and to share our Aaron's Acres story with new friends."*

**Kate Mullen**

Director of Development & Community Relations

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*"Seeing the smiles on the participants' faces is always so precious. I look forward to seeing the joy and happiness the Aaron's Acres programs bring."*

**Heather Good**

Finance Manager

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*"I am looking forward to another year of creativity and innovation. Last year pushed us to try new things and think outside of the box. That brainstorming is what led to an impactful virtual program for the participants and families of Aaron's Acres. I can't wait to see what we come up with next!"*

**Gabi Kime Toews**

Events & Communications Coordinator

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