

What's the Deal With...? New Avenues to Independence Elisabeth Scheele

Bratenahl hosts a special community within our community. Since 1991 eight ladies with developmental disabilities have called the Village of Bratenahl home. The home is run by New Avenues to Independence, Inc, founded in 1952 by a group of parents with special needs children. The mission of New Avenues is to provide opportunities for people with disabilities and special needs to become more independent and productive members of society by offering the highest quality support services and developing innovative and inclusive programs.

Residents living in the Bratenahl Group Home all work outside the home and return each evening to help with regular household duties. They are employed at meaningful tasks — document shredding, labeling, small production and janitorial work. A full spectrum of services provided by New Avenues includes speech, occupational, physical art and music therapy along with all necessary medical care.

The acceptance of the group home by the Village has been unwavering. In fact, members of Village government have met with other communities who have expressed concern about the inclusion of such homes in their neighborhoods. So grateful was New Avenues that they nominated the Village of Bratenahl for an award and singled out the Bratenahl Community Foundation for special mention in their recent Annual Report.

As members of our community, the ladies attend our Village holiday party. The Foundation has made a commitment to the home and donations have allowed the ladies to get their hair styled and purchase new clothing for the event. If you have attended one of the holiday gatherings and met any of the ladies you have no doubt witnessed their enthusiasm.

In the spirit of the holiday season consider little ways that you might help make a big difference in the lives of these very special neighbors.

Bratenahl Group Home Wish List

- Winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves
- Toiletries including toothpaste, deodorant, toothbrushes, and soaps
- Dish towels and cloths, wash cloths and towels, bath mats and shower curtains
- Iron
- DVD movies– (G, PG or PG-13)
- Music CDs (Michael Jackson is a favorite)
- Shoe organizers, closet and drawer caddies
- Board games (Ages 3-6)
- Funds for recreational opportunities including dinner out in the community for the eight ladies and three staff assistants

Also stop by, visit and get to know your neighbors or consider volunteering your time at the home.