



Supporting and empowering individuals with disabilities and their families through Education, Outreach, Networking, and Future Planning Services.



JUNE 2018

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Families Navigate the Options to Protect Their Futures

From the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Article by Tim Grant



Parenting two sons with special needs became so demanding for Colleen Cenk two decades ago that she gave up her career in marketing to become a full-time advocate for her children. To make sure her boys were safe and healthy, she also set up a special needs trust that would provide for them in the future if she were unable to. "The important thing for a parent with a child with disabilities is knowing when you pass, somebody will fulfill the role you have filled," she said.

As a trustee for special needs trusts, ACHIEVA Family Trust helps individuals with disabilities and families navigate the options to protect their futures. ACHIEVA recently teamed up with Downtown financial advising firm Hefren-Tillotson to hold a series of seminars on special needs trusts that will focus on an important gap that has until now been missing from the education toolbox - financial advising.

ACHIEVA and Hefren-Tillotson hold workshops around the country, at no charge, for those who want to learn more about special needs trusts and receive professional guidance. The remaining workshop will be held 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. June 21, 2018 at Autism Connection of PA in Millvale. More will be scheduled beginning in September.

[Read more here](#)

You Can Receive Medicaid Long Term Care Benefits at Home

Karen S. Timko, CELA
Julian Gray Associates

Did you know that residents of Pennsylvania who are over the age of 60 or have a disability and need long term care can receive Medicaid benefits not just in a nursing home but also while living at home? Most of us want to live at home as long as possible even if we need caregivers to help us stay at home. Through the Home and Community Based Services waiver program, Medicaid will pay for services in the home including paying for caregivers for the disabled and for seniors over the age of 60 years. The Medicaid programs under which Medicaid provides services in the home or community are called waiver programs because the Federal government has "waived" its requirement that all Medicaid services be provided in a nursing home. This waiver allows Medicaid services to be provided at home, as an alternative to nursing home care.

To qualify for a Medicaid waiver program, you must meet the same medical and financial eligibility requirements as those required to receive Medicaid benefits in a nursing home. For the medical eligibility determination, you, as the Medicaid applicant, must be evaluated by a county representative and a physician must certify that you require nursing home level of care.

[Read more here](#)

Ensuring Son's Future With a Little Help & Guidance

From United Way of Southwestern PA

Leslie and Kevin Greene have a love-filled home in Pittsburgh's North Hills. Their 15-year-old son, Nicholas, has Angelman Syndrome, a neuro-genetic condition that results in severe developmental delays, lack of speech, movement and balance disorders and seizures. While Nicholas does not speak, he engages abundantly with everyone in his life.



"He's very sociable," Kevin said, explaining that his son loves going to the mall, taking walks around their neighborhood and attending The Watson Institute Education Center in Sewickley. Nicholas has a curious nature, much on display as he navigates his iPad and explores the workings of new toys. "He's very inquisitive and determined," said Leslie. "His teachers call him their little engineer." Like most families raising children with complex disabilities, thoughts of the future are daunting. Kevin and Leslie want a future for Nicholas that continues the safe, healthy and satisfying life he knows.

The Greene family turned to ACHIEVA Family Trust's Future Planning Project, supported by United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania. The Greene family met with ACHIEVA Family Trust Attorney Jacki Connell and Director of Education and Outreach Maria Smith to learn about special needs trusts and other options.

[Read more here](#)

Attorney Spotlight

David S. DeRose, Esq.



David S. DeRose, an associate at the law firm Quatrini Rafferty, concentrates his practice in the areas of estate planning and administration, family law, real estate and zoning. With 42 years of experience as an attorney, Mr. DeRose is a member of the Westmoreland County and Pennsylvania Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Pennsylvania Association for Justice and the Association for Conflict Resolution.

For nearly thirty years, Mr. DeRose has served as Chair of the Westmoreland County Bar Association Building Committee and is a founding member of Lawyers Abstract Company of Westmoreland County and served on its Board of Directors from 1987-1994.

He previously served for seven years on the Westmoreland County Bar Association Board of Directors and is a Past President of the Association. He is currently the Chairperson of the Westmoreland Bar Foundation.

[Read more here](#)

VaultArt Studio invites you to attend themed exhibitions throughout Summer 2018:



Rat's Nest (opening May 4)

(Like This): Perspectives in Fiber (opening June 1)

One Year Retrospective (opening July 6)

Punk (opening August 3)

Pizza (opening September 7)

bat_man (opening October 5)

Hard is contrasted with soft in the first two exhibitions: "Rat's Nest," featuring clay and wire artwork, followed by "(Like this): Perspectives in Fiber," featuring weave and textiles. The rollout of Summer shows continues through July with "One Year Retrospective." This exhibition is the first anniversary of VaultArt Studio, and showcases the most ambitious achievement of each artist. Then, artists cut loose in August and September and experiment with counterculture aesthetics and humor through "Punk" and "Pizza." In our last show of the Summer season, artists look ahead to Halloween in "bat_man," an exhibition featuring Dark Knight-themed work.

VaultArt Studio is a project of ACHIEVA, the only agency of its type in southwestern Pennsylvania that provides lifelong supports to individuals with disabilities and their families.



Do You Have Questions About Financial Planning/Future Planning?

If so, please join ACHIEVA Family Trust and Hefren Tillotson for a free seminar on financial topics including estate planning, budgeting, and funding a special needs trusts and/or ABLE Accounts.

Thursday June 21, 2018
6:30 - 8:30 pm

This program will be held at the offices of Autism Connection
35 Wilson Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15223

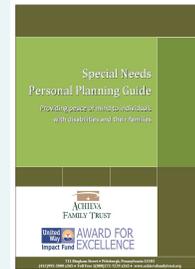
[Click here to register to attend](#)

This program is made possible through a grant from the Foundation for Financial Planning.

SPECIAL NEEDS FUTURE PLANNING RESOURCES

Special Needs Personal Planning Guide [\(DOWNLOAD\)](#)

The Future Planning Guide is a resource and profile of your family member containing all of the information that makes them unique. The details of this picture includes your family member's health history as well as their experiences with life and learning, family and friends and likes and dislikes. The Future Planning Guide assists in developing a plan to help ensure that your family member's needs are met day-to-day, on special occasions and in times of emergency.



Future Planning Attorney List (Greater Pittsburgh Area) [\(\(DOWNLOAD\)\)](#)



See our list of attorneys located in Pittsburgh and the surrounding area who have expressed an interest and are willing to assist families and individuals with disabilities regarding their future planning needs. These attorneys can assist families in determining the types of future planning that will best meet their needs. In addition, these attorneys are able to draft future planning documents that may include a Last Will and Testament, Special Needs Trust, Power of Attorney and Living Will. If you are interested in future planning, please feel free to contact one or more of the attorneys listed to discuss your needs.

ACHIEVA Family Trust for Special Needs Trusts [\(WEBSITE\)](#)



“ ACHIEVA protects her money from her going out and blowing it, or anyone else getting their hands on it. It helps her use that money and feel normal to do the things she likes. With the trust, Kara can do the same things that other kids do. ”

ACHIEVA Family Trust has been providing services to help families and people with disabilities plan for their future for more than 20 years. Individuals with disabilities and their families face significant challenges in planning for their financial stability. ACHIEVA Family Trust provides information to individuals and can serve as trustee for several kinds of trusts benefiting individuals with disabilities.

ACHIEVA Family Trust:

- Serves as Corporate Trustee for Common Law Trusts, Pooled Trusts and Payback Trusts to benefit people with disabilities.
- Distributes trust funds to increase individuals' quality of life while preserving eligibility for essential government services.
- Adds case management and social work expertise to the traditional role of corporate trustee.
- Utilizes the expertise of PNC Bank and Capital Group for Investment Management.

VIEW ARCHIVED WEBINARS

UNDERSTANDING GUARDIANSHIP AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Presenter: Nora Gieg Chatha, Esq.

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HOUSING OPTIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Presenter: Michelle Stockunas, Program Manager, ACHIEVA, A Home of My Own

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

I WANT TO WORK BUT I AM AFRAID OF LOSING MY GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Presenters: Bill Frase, Assistant Director of Community Employment, ACHIEVA, Joy Smith, Area Manager AHEDD, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), Marci Katona, and Josie Badger, #IWantToWork Campaign Manager

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Presenter: Jeff Ruder, Esq., Ruder Law

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WHAT'S NEW WITH THE OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENTAL PROGRAMS (ODP) - WAIVER RENEWALS FOR THE CONSOLIDATED AND PFDS WAIVERS, INCLUDING THE NEW SERVICES

Presenter: Kristin Ahrens, Director, Bureau of policy and Quality Management, ODP

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MANAGED LONG TERM CARE AND WAIVERS

Presenter: Janice Meinert, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

HIPAA LAWS AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION/MENTAL HEALTH ADVANCED DIRECTIVES

Presenters: Mark Zacharia, Esq., Associate Counsel, UPMC Corporate Legal Department
Julianne Washington, Esq.

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

TURNING 26? HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND HAPPY NEW WORLD OF HEALTH INSURANCE

Presenters: Sally Jo Snyder and Leslie Bachurski, Consumer Health Coalition
Libby Powers and Susan Saule, CHANGE Children's Hospital

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

EDUCATIONAL TRANSITION PLANNING FOR CHILDREN AGES 14 - 22

Presenters: Dr. Erin Grimm, Allegheny Intermediate Unit, Eric Jankoski, Baldwin Whitehall School District Transition Coordinator, Mary Hartley, 21 & ABLE, United Way of Southwestern PA, Sarah Vogel, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR)

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GUARDIANSHIP & POWERS OF ATTORNEY

Presenters: Heidi Rai Stewart, Esq. and Matthew Lautman, Esq., Houston Harbaugh

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SSI, SSDI & REPRESENTATIVE PAYEES

Presenter: Elaine Cole, Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration

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MEDICAID, MAWD, & WAIVERS

Presenter: Erin Guay, Paralegal, Pennsylvania Health Law Project

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MEDICARE

Presenter: Bill McKendree, Team Leader, APPRISE State Health Insurance Program

[VIEW WEBINAR](#)

ACHIEVA Family Trust

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[Visit Our Website](#)

[Email Us](#)

ACHIEVA is an agency that is dedicated to providing the best quality services for people with disabilities in "celebrating abilities and exceeding expectations."

STAY CONNECTED

