



Royer-Greaves School & Services
www.royer-greaves.org



Growth and Renewal for the Future



Dear Royer-Greaves Community,

After more than two decades of serving the students, adults, and families at Royer-Greaves School for Blind and Services – the past eight as executive director – I will retire this spring.

Deputy Director Debra Jerome-Campbell will be Royer-Greaves’ next executive director. She has built a tremendous connection with our students, adults, families, and staff and also has exceptional business knowledge and savvy. Debra is the exact right person to lead Royer-Greaves, and I know that our community will support her as strongly as you have supported me. Thank you.

I’m proud of what Royer-Greaves has accomplished over the past eight years: Providing more people with the education, services, and living options they need to thrive. Finding more ways for students and adults to experience all that our greater, off-campus community offers. Building new partnerships. Finding more funding sources. I’m proud of the individual accomplishments of every student and adult I’ve met here. You have been my inspiration and my motivation, and you have my heart.

After I retire, I will remain part of our wonderful Royer-Greaves community. I’ll be helping in any way I can, delighting in events and musical performances, and, as always, cheering you on.

With gratitude,

VICKY MAYER, Executive Director

Executive Director Vicky Mayer to Retire in May. Deputy Director Debra Jerome-Campbell is Ready to Lead



Debra Jerome-Campbell,
Future Executive Director

After eight years as Executive Director and 23 years in a myriad of roles at Royer-Greaves School for Blind and Services, Vicky Mayer will retire on May 30. Deputy Director Debra Jerome-Campbell will become our new Executive Director.

Vicky’s tenure

“Vicky has been a fixture at Royer-Greaves for a very

long time because of her direct and human-centered approach,” said Royer-Greaves Board President Ari Christakis. “The work we do is challenging and it is not always easy to balance the needs of an organization with the needs of the individuals we serve. A good manager

can find that balance, but a great leader like Vicky also models that balance to the colleagues around her. Her impact will be felt for many years to come, and our Board cannot thank her enough for her service and dedication.”

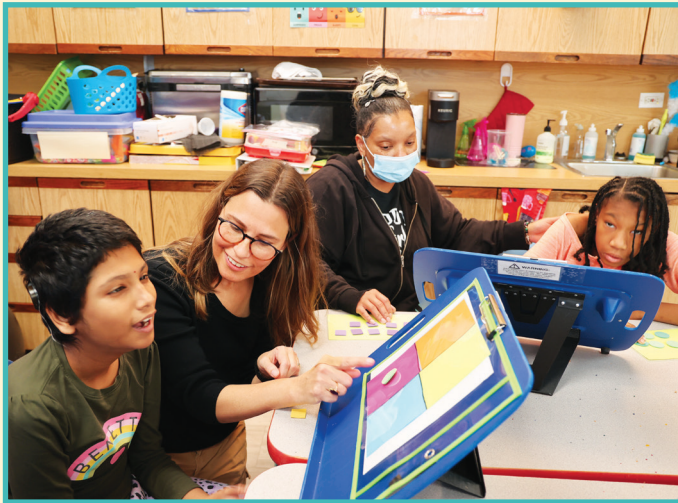
Under Vicky’s leadership, Royer-Greaves School’s enrollment has tripled and the Adult Day Program has grown significantly. Both programs currently have waiting lists. Vicky has also lead Royer-Greaves’ efforts to increase the time that adults spend in the greater community, create a comprehensive plan for growth, secure more non-governmental



Ari Christakis, Board President

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Executive Director Vicky Mayer to Retire in May. Deputy Director Debra Jerome-Campbell is Ready to Lead (cont'd.)



funding through grants and donations, and upgrade campus infrastructure and technology.

One of the accomplishments she is most proud of is a major transformation in adult residential services, closing on-campus dormitories so that residents live in supportive, community-based environments instead.

“I think that we’ve always supported an everyday life for our people, but the move into the community gives adults more accessibility, more resources, and more opportunities to develop new relationships with people in addition to the staff that supports them,” said Vicky, who holds a bachelor’s degree in education from Ohio State and a master’s in education from Maryville University in St. Louis.

Vicky’s retirement goals include spending more time with her grandchildren and traveling with her husband. She also plans to be at every possible Royer-Greaves event and performance.

Debra is the right leader for Royer’s next chapter

The Board is enthusiastic about Royer-Greaves future under Debra’s leadership. “Debra brings a similar depth of experience to the role of Executive Director and she has a proven track record of effective management, even as Royer-Greaves has expanded the number of people who participate in our programs,” said Ari, the Board President.

“Debra and Vicky have worked closely together for many years, and we have coordinated this transition to

minimize any disruptions to our programs and clients. As a Board, we could not be more confident that Royer-Greaves is well-positioned to continue that growth.”

The two leaders each began their Royer-Greaves careers more than two decades ago, providing hands-on care to adult residents. “We were called house mothers, and we were very much like their parents,” Debra remembers. One adult, who now lives in a Royer-Greaves community group home, did not communicate much when she arrived – she would only cry in her sleep. Whenever Debra bathed her, she would sing to her. “After four or five years of me singing in the bathroom with her, one morning she just started singing with me.” Debra remembered. “Now, she knows she has a voice and she uses it. And she isn’t afraid to say no.”

Debra went on to become a residential supervisor, then a program director before becoming Deputy Executive Director in 2016.

Debra’s Goals for Royer-Greaves’ Future

With the Royer-Greaves’ school and adult day programs entirely full, building more capacity so that more adults and students can be served will be among Debra’s chief goals as executive director. “We have to grow. Our gym needs to be upgraded. We want to expand our residential options. It all comes back to funding,” Debra said. As funding through Medicaid has become more unpredictable even as requirements expand, Royer-Greaves has become more reliant on donations and grants, and that will continue, she said.



Royer-Greaves Honors Edward Marrah as Direct Support Professional of the Year and Allante Maxwell as Runner Up



Edward Marrah Honored as Direct Support Professional of the Year



Allante Maxwell – Runner Up

In recognition of their dedication and kindness to Royer-Greaves residents and their coworkers, direct support professional Edward Marrah received the 2024 Jessie Royer Greaves DSP of the Year Award and Allante Maxwell was named runner up.

The awards were given on Sept. 9 - Dr. Royer Greaves 150th birthday – at a lunch recognizing the contributions of all Royer-Greaves Direct Support Professionals, who help residents live as independently as possible by assisting with day-to-day needs.

Edward, who has been a DSP for four years and works at Chichester House, treats every resident like family. He offers hugs and conversation and even downloaded music for a resident on his own time so she could always have her favorites on hand. He's equally wonderful to his coworkers – reliable, considerate, and ready to help.

"I really love the job. I love the people – the residents and my coworkers," Edward said. One resident, Brandi, is like a second daughter to him. "Every morning when I help her, she says 'Thank you, Daddy. I love you.' She is always giving me that flower, that complement, that I am doing a good job," Edward said. Winning the first DSP of the Year Award "Inspires me to do more," he said.

Allante, who works at Turner House, is one of Royer-Greaves' younger and newer DSPs. She's already making a difference. Allante is dedicated to individuals and excels at accompanying them to their doctor's appointments. She instinctively knows what needs to be done around Turner House and takes the initiative to do it.

Royer-Greaves Hosts Panel of Community Inclusion Experts at Fall 'Lunch and Learn'



Royer-Greaves hosted a panel of Community Inclusion experts for our Fall 2024 Lunch and Learn. All shared their experiences and expertise with providers from Royer-Greaves and around the area during an informative session on this important topic.

Our thanks to speakers Bridget Fowler, Syracuse University InclusiveU Residential Coordinator; Katie Thompson, Program Representative in the Southeast Region of ODP; Kimberly Thomas, PCHC Integrated Health Systems Navigator; Christine Sides, PCHC Behavioral Health Specialist; Shani Jackson, PCHC Outreach Projects Coordinator; and Julio Nieves, PCHC Health Care Community Outreach Specialist.

Royer-Greaves

SCHOOL FOR BLIND & SERVICES

A special Thank You to Our Fall Lunch & Learn Event & Platinum Sponsors

With the generous support of our sponsors, Royer-Greaves hosted renowned experts in Community Inclusion who shared their knowledge on a topic critical to enriching the lives of children and adults with an intellectual disability and other disabilities.

It would not have been possible without your support.

Thank you.

Event Sponsor

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Please Support Royer-Greaves 2024 Annual Appeal & Help Make Wishes Come True



Founder, Dr. Jessie Royer Greaves

Your gifts have always helped us empower children and adults with visual impairment and intellectual and physical challenges to live their most independent and meaningful lives. This year, we ask you to give in honor of the 150th Birthday of the woman who founded Royer-Greaves and continues to inspire our work, Dr. Jessie Royer Greaves. As she taught us, all people can learn, grow, and achieve, and we can do so much to support their journeys when we come together!



Please make your 2024 tax-deductible donation today!

Donate electronically via PayPal or your credit or debit card at royer-greaves.org.
Click the yellow "donate" button.

Prefer to donate by check? Please contact **Director of Development and Community Outreach Nicholas Voight** at **610-644-1810 ext 232** or nvoight@royer-greaves.org

Scan to Donate!



Thank You!

Board Member Spotlight: Pauline Broberg



Pauline Broberg first connected with Royer-Greaves through its music program, specifically the work of Music Therapist Suzanne Kane. While studying music therapy at Immaculata University, Pauline completed a practicum with Suzanne, who introduced her to the transformative power of music therapy.

"Suzanne dedicates each day to helping people communicate through music. She works with students individually and in groups, and the responses she receives are incredible. The students are fully engaged and feel special as she interacts musically with them. It was magical to witness," Pauline recalls.

After her practicum ended, Pauline continued to attend Royer-Greaves' musical performances and looked for ways to support the school. Last year, she accepted an invitation to join the board. "I love working with the board and using creative thinking to solve the challenges we face," she shares. She has a particular passion for Royer-Greaves' educational and music therapy programs.

Now a board-certified Music Therapist, Pauline also serves as the University-Affiliated Supervisor at Holisticare Hospice, where she mentors interns from around the world. She is recognized as an expert in transition music therapy, which supports patients who are actively dying, and hospice songwriting.

A University of Pennsylvania graduate, Pauline spent years working as an intercultural negotiator in developing countries before starting a family with her husband, Robert. When their youngest began school, she began to work as the preschool music teacher at a local Y, eventually expanding the Y's music program. Inspired by her experiences, she decided to pursue formal training in music therapy, interning at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. In addition to her master's in music therapy, she holds degrees in natural science, international education, Chinese, and social work. She is also a certified death doula.

Pauline and her husband live in Berwyn. She is completing a doctorate in education—conducting applied research on improving intern transition music therapy rates.



SAVE THE DATE!

Royer-Greaves' annual holiday performance will take place **Wednesday, Dec. 11** at 6 PM in our campus gym.

118 South Valley Rd.,
Paoli

Watch Facebook for more details.