

SPRING 2023

AP HAPPENINGS

Austin's Place Quarterly Newsletter



Spring Highlights

BY SARA HUBA

The last few months have been packed full of fun! We kicked off the spring by celebrating St. Patrick's Day. We all wore our best green outfits. Some of us even had on very cool hats! We also celebrated with some sweet treats.

Next came Easter. We had a nice time searching for eggs outside during our Easter egg hunt. After finding our eggs, we got special Easter bags for each client donated by the Saxonburg Rotary. We also did an egg drop contest. Everyone was tasked with making some sort of contraption that would keep an egg safe after being dropped out of a second story window. Extra points were awarded if it was Easter themed! In the end, our grand prize winner was... Phillip!

We also had a lot of birthdays and work anniversaries to celebrate over the last few months. Of course, we had a lot of treats, including cake, cookies, and candy from piñatas!

As always, we decorated the bulletin boards. We decorated one for Memorial Day with everyone's name on a star. There is a Swingin' Into Summer board with bunnies and butterflies. We also decorated one with everyone as their own firework! Finally, we made one to celebrate the start of baseball season for the Pirates!

We are excited that we can spend more time outside, at the outdoor therapeutic center, on the trails, and playing basketball. We also can't wait to start using the pool this summer!



All About...Chandler

BY MEGAN ADAMS

Last quarter we began highlighting the individuals who make Austin's Place possible, who make it the program that it is today. This quarter we will be highlighting our second individual, Chandler, who started attending Austin's Place in December of 2015. Her acceptance and transition to AP was seamless. She graduated with our namesake, Austin, from The Watson Institute and Austin's Place has proven to be a great place for Chandler to continue thriving in an environment with someone so close and familiar.



Chan is a wonderful soon to be 30-year-old (June 27th!) who has been gracing us with her presence, her beautiful smile...when she decides to show it...and her impeccable sense of style for the past 7 ½ years.

While here at AP, Chan works on a number of goals, including socialization with staff and peers, participating in range-of-motion (ROM) exercises, activities of daily living (ADLs), and self-feeding. Some of her favorite foods to work on this goal with are peanut butter and jelly, pancakes, or French toast...just to name a few. Chan is a food fan, and this is one way to pep her up! She enjoys recreational activities, such as being read to, listening to music, crafting with help from her staff, and anything that has to do with Barney.

Chan is also not one to shy away from a good time out in the community. She can be seen out and about, enjoying the museums, parks, zoo, and shopping centers when the weather permits. Additionally, she just recently began horseback riding outside of the program, allowing her to put those ROM exercises to good use!

Chandler has been a wonderful addition to our program. She wasn't our first individual, but she certainly wasn't our last. Stay tuned and look forward to reading about Patrick in the next issue.





What's Happening?

BY SAMANTHA WILCZYNSKI

This year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community was held on May 13 on the North Shore of Pittsburgh. It was a very wet and rainy day, but that didn't stop our team from walking! We had 15 walkers, and a few furry friends show up to represent Austin's Place and many more that donated to the cause.



To date, Austin's Place has raised \$3,575! We would like to thank everyone for their generosity and participation in this year's Highmark Walk! We are one step closer to purchasing an additional vehicle to get our individuals out and active in the community. Donations can continue to be made until June 30, 2023!

Donate Today:

http://hcf.convio.net/AustinsPlace_ButlerPA

We are very excited to announce the 2nd annual Austin's Place Gala will take place on Saturday October 21, 2023, at the Pittsburgh Marriott North in Cranberry. Rooms can be reserved now: tinyurl.com/austinsplace. Cocktail hour will begin at 6 o'clock with dinner starting at 7 o'clock. There will a silent auction and live auction featuring the great Lee Alan Hostetter.

We hope to raise even more this year in support of the mission of Austin's Place. Stay tuned for more information in our summer newsletter, and follow us on Facebook to stay up-to-date: www.facebook.com/AustinsPlacePA.



We Couldn't Do it without YOU.

BY BONNIE WILCZYNSKI

Austin's Place is THANKFUL for the families, friends, community members, and special guests who donate finances, items, and time (and talents) to our program.

This spring, the Saxonburg Area Rotary made personalized Easter Bags for all the clients with toys and treats. They also donated plastic eggs filled with candy for our egg hunt. The holiday was 'egg-stra' special thanks to their donation! Also, a big THANK YOU to Aramark! The company chose Austin's Place for their Aramark Building Community Day. Through the ABC Day grant program we received money to buy supplies and Aramark sent 11 volunteers to Austin's Place to spread mulch and weed flower beds.

Donate to Austin's Place

Your contribution is truly appreciated. 100% of donations received will go toward providing quality programming and items to the young adults at Austin's Place. Learn more about donation options: www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate

Volunteer at Austin's Place

Have a cool project, a musical talent, or something interesting and unique our clients might enjoy? We're always welcoming community members to share something with us. For example, in the past, we've had visits from turtles and an alpaca named "FriendLee," a local Fire Department (everyone loved seeing the big fire truck), a talented baton twirler, a fitness instructor, and a Pittsburgh business visit to do a science experiment with our staff. If interested, please email swilczynski@austinsplace.org.

Work at Austin's Place

Austin's Place is regularly accepting applications for experienced Direct Support Professionals and Nurses. Interested in working here? Email us your resume: jobs@austinsplace.org.

IF YOU HAVE ANY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS REGARDING THE AP HAPPENINGS NEWSLETTER, OR YOU'D LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR ELECTRONIC DISTRIBUTION LIST TO RECEIVE NEWSLETTERS AND INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR AT: AKURTZ@AUSTINSPLACE.ORG.