

AP Happenings

Austin's Place Quarterly Newsletter



Spring Highlights

By: Sara Pittinaro

We enjoyed spring at Austin's Place – especially Pi Day, St. Patrick's Day, and Easter. We celebrated Pi Day by, of course, eating some delicious slices of pie. For St. Patrick's Day, we all wore our best green outfits and enjoyed some cupcakes. For Easter, we had an Easter egg hunt and a scavenger hunt that led to a treat bag full of goodies. We also celebrated with cake for birthdays and our wonderful nurse's for Nurse's Week in May.

We started our garden this spring as well. All the plants started out in the greenhouse until they were ready to be transferred to the garden. We planted pumpkins, zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, potatoes, and wildflowers, just to name a few. Stay tuned on Facebook to see our progress!

We enjoyed making some crafts and working on our spring bulletin boards. We made different butterfly, rainbow, and Mother's Day crafts. For our bulletin boards, we had a Jump into Spring board where all the individuals were frogs, Hoppin' into Spring with bunnies, and another board with lots of flowers, bees, and chicks to show that Spring is In the Air.

We got to work in the kitchen and made plenty of tasty treats—bread, cake mix cookies, no-bake cookies, and cupcakes. We are never short on treats here!

We are so excited for the warm weather now, and can't wait to continue to spend time in the great outdoors at the outdoor therapeutic center, on the nature trails, and best of all, in the pool!

Our newsletter is a great place to check out photos and learn more about what's happening at Austin's Place! You can also 'like' our Facebook page to stay up-to-date with information, events, photos, and more.

www.facebook.com/AustinsPlacePA

Out & About

By: Mandy Hunt

After a cold winter, the friends at Austin's Place were eager to get out and about into the community. Spring at Austin's Place means more outside time and outings to some of our favorite places such as the zoo, local parks, and the museum. We added in new places too, like West Park Alpaca Farm. Chandler enjoyed the alpaca's company (as pictured above)!

Another new favorite location for us to burn energy is the No off Season facility in Russellton, PA. This facility provided us an indoor area to kick around a soccer ball, throw a football, or just run around and be active.

McConnell's Mills has always been a favorite destination to go adventure. Whether it is sitting watching the water flow or walking on the trails, we always have a smile on our face. We enjoy Deer Lakes Park too, with its walking trails, and pond (to watch the ducks!). In the summer, we will be back to play on the splash pad, a definite favorite!

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Out & About Continued

When the weather outside is rainy our favorite activity is to go bowling at Family Bowlaway in Butler. Along with bowling, we like to venture up to Playthings Etc. to check out all the new toys and gadgets they have for us to test out.

We are looking forward to continuing our outings to our favorite places and also finding new spots to hang out at this summer.

Around AP

By: Megan Adams

While the ongoing pandemic continues to throw unexpected and sometimes unwanted changes our way, Austin's Place has been fortunate enough to continue growing the program and add to the amenities for our clients.

The outdoor music garden has been completed and has proven to be a hit with our music lovers, like Kirsten. The walking trails have also been paved and adorned with memorial benches that pay tribute to those who have had a profound impact on Austin's Place. Around the trails you can also find the clients and staff making funny faces in the cutout photo boards that have been painted by our own staff members. The garden has sprung to life too and gives the individuals here a chance to showcase their green thumbs.

When our individuals are looking for additional activities, you can find them out and about in the community. We now have a total of 8 vehicles, including a newly added third wheelchair van. This provides plenty of opportunity to get our folks out to enjoy some preferred activities. Stay tuned for our summer edition to find out what will pop up next around the facility.



Just Talk To Jake

By: Jake Meyers

Meet Jake! One of our awesome clients at Austin's Place. Every other issue he'll be sharing information with us, whether it's something going on at Austin's Place, or a topic special to him.

Jake is 32 years old. He has a twin brother named Matt, and a sister, Jodi. He also has a pet dog named Ginger. Like a true Pittsburgh native, his favorite colors are black & gold!

5 Questions to Get to Know Jake

1. *If you could have one superpower, what would it be and why?*
Fly, it would feel cool
2. *What would you do if you won \$100 million dollar in the lottery?* **Go to Florida and buy a boat**
3. *If you could only eat one meal for the rest of your life, what would it be?* **Meatloaf with mashed potatoes**
4. *If you were an animal, what would you be?* **Tiger because they can climb trees and they don't mess around.**
5. *A genie grants you three wishes. What would they be?* **1. Drive a cool car 2. See dolphins 3. Go skydiving**



Have something you want to **Just Talk to Jake** about? Email us at info@austinsplace.org and your topic might be included in an upcoming newsletter!

Special Shout-Outs

Austin's Place is still somewhat limited in what we can do and where we can go given COVID-19. But, we are certainly thankful for our volunteers that come to Austin's Place! **A special thank you to the Bayer Group.** They came out this spring (in the rain!) to help spread mulch and prepare the grounds for the upcoming summer months.

We are also very grateful to community businesses who support our clients and mission. **Another very special thank you to Charlie Vrabel, owner of No Off Season Sports in Russellton, PA** for allowing our clients to use the space free of charge. We appreciate your generosity and support of our program! Our clients love the space.



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.

Donate online through a secure PayPal account: www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate

Donate by mail

Checks can be mailed to:
Austin's Place (Office)
276 Kaufman Road
Gibsonia, PA 15044

Support us through United Way or AmazonSmile

- Our United Way contribution code/book number for donations is 12820486
- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Austin's Place when you shop at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-1066002>.

The official registration and financial information of Austin's Place may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Gifts to Austin's Place are deductible as charitable contributions to the fullest extent permitted by law.



Events & Announcements

- 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.
- 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.
- **SAVE THE DATE:** This Fall, Austin's Place will host its first ever fundraising Gala. The Gala will take place on **Saturday, September 24, 2022** at 6pm at the Doubletree by Hilton in Cranberry, PA. The goal for the evening is to raise \$50,000 in support of the mission of Austin's Place. You can choose to support the fundraising gala in a myriad of ways—becoming an event sponsor (monetary donation), donating an item for the silent or live auction, sponsoring a table for the gala evening, or simply helping us spread the word to your family and friends. There is no support amount too small. The gala sponsorship form is included in this newsletter issue on pages 6 and 7.

For questions about sponsorships, donations, or the gala event, please call 724-352-2786 or email apgala@austinsplace.org. Donations will be accepted via mail, phone, or online. Visit www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate to learn more.



DoubleTree by Hilton, Cranberry PA | Dinner Provided | Live and Silent Auction

Austin's Place provides specialized one-on-one support for young adults who are diagnosed with autism spectrum, developmental, and intellectual disabilities. By sponsoring and supporting the Austin's Place Gala, you are helping to provide young adults with special needs a safe and supportive day program where they can go to continue refining the life skills needed to become contributing members in their local communities.

SUPPORT LEVEL:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diamond (\$10,000) | <input type="checkbox"/> Platinum (\$5,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gold (\$2,500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver (\$1,000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pearl (\$250) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Austin's Place Friend (\$100) | |

ITEM OR SERVICE DONATION FOR GALA AUCTION:

Description:

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ Check (make checks payable to 'Austin's Place')
☐ Credit Card (call 724-352-2786)

Name/Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail _____

Name as it will appear in the auction program book _____

Questions about Sponsorship or Donation(s)?
Call Austin's Place at 724-352-2786 or email apgala@austinsplace.org

Sponsorship Levels

Diamond (\$10,000 or more)

VIP table of ten at the Gala
Full page ad in program
Corporate logo on bid paddle
Opportunity for representative to speak at opening of the gala for five minutes
Corporate recognition throughout auction area
Corporate logo recognition on Austin's Place website and social media pages
Special favor for each person at your table

Platinum (\$5,000)

VIP table of ten at the Gala
Half page ad in program
Corporate recognition throughout auction area
Corporate logo recognition on Austin's Place website and social media pages

Gold (\$2,500)

Quarter page ad in program
Corporate logo recognition on Austin's Place website and social media pages
Table host for table of ten

Silver (\$1,000)

Corporate logo recognition on Austin's Place website and social media pages
Table host for table of ten

Bronze (\$500)

Corporate logo recognition on Austin's Place website and social media pages

Pearl (\$250)

Special in honor or memory of loved one flowers to be displayed at Gala

Austin's Place Friend (\$100)

Thank you for supporting our program—High fives all around

Visit www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate for more information.

Austin's Place
447 Dinnerbell Road
Butler, PA 16002



From the President...

I am excited to share with you our Spring Issue of the quarterly newsletter, "AP Happenings." Read through, check out the photos, and let us know what you think! Also, a big thank you to our staff, and our awesome client Jake for contributing to our Spring issue.

I'm also excited to share the Fall Gala information in this issue. Check it out. Any help is truly appreciated.

Thank you for your ongoing support. And don't forget – 'like' us on Facebook!

Bonnie Wilczynski, President



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.