

SPRING 2024

AP HAPPENINGS

Austin's Place Quarterly Newsletter



Spring Highlights

BY SARA HUBA

Happy spring!

The weather has been great and we have been loving spending as much time as we can outside. We enjoyed going on the swings and making our own music in the music garden. We were happy to get back outside and take some trips on the zip line. We also took lots of relaxing walks and bike rides on the nature trails. Soon, the pool will be open and we cannot wait!

Our updated bulletin boards for this spring were fun to make. We had one with hot air balloons all throughout the sky. One of our bulletin boards had cute bunnies and another was decorated for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Let's Go Bucs!

We had another special visitor this time around: the Easter Bunny! The bunny visited with all of us and also came with a lot of Easter eggs for us to do a fun egg hunt. We had a blast hanging out with the bunny, finding some eggs, and eating candy!

Speaking of yummy treats, we celebrated Pi Day with some delicious pies from Eat 'n Park. We may not have made pies this year, but we did make Easter and spring themed cookies that we had fun decorating. Not only did we make snacks, but we made homemade lip balm! Another awesome craft was for Earth day. Everyone colored a picture and glued it to a headband to make cute headbands!

We hope everyone has a fun filled summer!



All About...Phillip

BY MEGAN ADAMS

It's safe to say that we have all been looking forward to the first day of spring and the warmer weather that comes with it. Our individual highlight, Phillip, is no exception. In July of 2017, Phillip became our sixth individual and the first to start at our current facility location. Since day one, Phillip has demonstrated a level of determination and persistence that, at times, goes unmatched.



While at Austin's Place, Phillip works on increasing his level of communication with staff and peers through use of his iPad. He is also working on engaging and remaining focused on individual and peer to peer tasks. Phillip enjoys plenty of activities that keep him busy throughout the day. He enjoys playing Uno, memory and matching games, and bingo. He also likes to build puzzles, play with Playdoh, look at I Spy books, and work on math and spelling worksheets. Phillip enjoys being outside on the trails, swinging at the Outdoor Therapeutic Center, and being out in the community, whether that's to hang out in a local park or go to the store to restock his beloved popcorn and Playdoh. While he definitely enjoys keeping busy with these activities, make no mistake, he will also not shy away from a break to watch videos, look at pictures on his iPad, or take a seat in the recliner to listen to some Christmas tunes...yes, even in May.

It's hard to believe that we are coming up on his seventh year here with us. Phillip is sweet, affectionate, a quick learner, hard worker and is always willing to give a quick nod, wave, and a silent hello. He's a face that we have grown accustomed to seeing every day and we couldn't imagine this place without him. Every individual, like Phillip, brings a uniqueness to Austin's Place and that's what makes every day special. Stay tuned for our upcoming individual highlight...Amber, to see how she fits perfectly in with our Austin's Place family.





What's Happening?

BY SAMANTHA WILCZYNSKI

We're counting down the days to summer sunshine and warm weather! What else are we counting down until? The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on Saturday, June 22nd!

If you haven't heard, The Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community is an annual fundraising walk that benefits local health and human service agencies. Highmark Inc. coordinates and underwrites the cost of the walk so that 100 percent of the money raised by walkers goes to the participating nonprofits. The primary goal of the Walk is to help participating organizations raise money for their individual missions and energize the community to live an active and healthier lifestyle.

The goal of Austin's Place remains, to provide the highest quality programming for the individuals that we serve. A big part of that goal is to offer our individuals as many opportunities as we can, both in house and out in the community. With the nicer weather just around the corner, this will give us the opportunity to spend more time out and about in the community and our favorite warmer weather spots! Our goal for the walk this year is to raise \$10,000 and with your help, we know we can reach that goal!

Thank you for your continued support and generosity! We hope to see you on June 22nd! Can't join us? Consider making a donation on our behalf to support our fundraising campaign.

Register to Walk or Donate Today:

http://hcf.convio.net/AustinsPlace_ButlerPA

** When you register to walk, you can sign up as an individual, create your own team, or sign up with the Austin's Place Team**

SAVE THE DATE!

The Austin's Place Fall Fundraising Gala will be held on Saturday, November 9. Stay tuned for the summer issue of the newsletter for more details.



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. A special thank you to all the businesses who are sponsoring our Austin's Place Team T-shirts for the 2024 Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! THANK YOU to Allegheny Valley Winlectric Co., AVAS Enterprises, BKY Financial, Dollar Bank, Diemert Insurance, Inc., Gateway Engineers, JPC Construction Services, L Pizza Plus, Pedicone Engineering, Smile Dental Center, and Tags & Title Transfers Co.!

This May, we also recognized National Nurses Week. Austin's Place has the best nurses - thank you for all you do every day for our clients.



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.