

SUMMER 2024

# AP HAPPENINGS

Austin's Place Quarterly Newsletter

## Summer Highlights

BY SARA HUBA

Another great summer here at Austin's Place is in the books!

Our bulletin boards showed how much we look forward to summer. One had a lot of fish that told us it was O-FISH-ALLY Summer! We had our Flip-Floppin' into Summer with flip flops galore and We Are Coconuts About Summer. Lastly, we had one decorated for the Olympics!

We spent a lot of time out in the community this summer. We enjoyed shopping at our favorite stores like Target, TJ Maxx, Kohl's, and Michael's. We checked out all the local parks, including Moraine, Crooked Creek, and Alameda. We visited a bunch of different animals at the Pittsburgh Zoo, Living Treasures, and Keystone Safari. We had fun learning about the different animals and feeding some of them! We also had a blast at places like Dave and Busters, the bowling alley, and the movie theater!

When we weren't out on the town, we enjoyed spending the hot days outside in the pool. We also added a new pool game – a basketball hoop! Now we can combine two of our favorite outside activities, swimming and shooting hoops! And of course, we made great use of the Outdoor Therapeutic Center and the nature trails.



# All About...Amber

BY MEGAN ADAMS

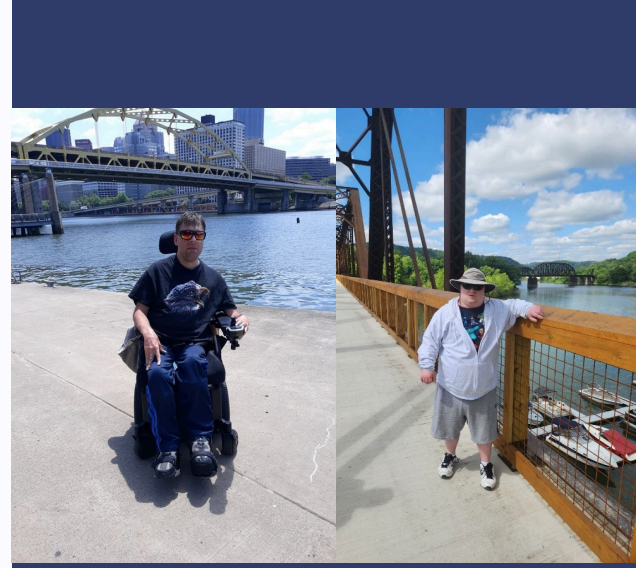
This summer has made it easy for all of us to get outside and enjoy the nice weather by strolling along the trails, swimming, and going on outings to the local parks and zoos. Our seventh individual, Amber, is just one of our folks that enjoys getting outside. She loves swimming and enjoys being out in the community. She joined us here in August of 2017 and continues to be a huge part of everyone's day.



Amber has a great personality. She's sweet, loving, and silly but she can also be quite spunky and sassy if she's given the opportunity. While here at Austin's Place, Amber's goals are to make and maintain friends her age and be as comfortable and independent as possible. Amber enjoys being around others, even if she's not directly interacting. She likes to listen to stories, look at books, play board or matching games, and watch movies or some preferred television shows. SpongeBob and old sitcoms are some of her favorites! Amber also enjoys music of any kind, dancing, arts and crafts, and of course, her soft blanket.

Amber can be a busy girl, but don't let her fool you, she will sometimes pretend to be sleeping if she just isn't feeling it...a sentiment I think we can all relate to every now and then. When she's not busy doing her own thing or "sleeping," Amber makes her presence known and we simply could not imagine this place without her.

Stick with us as we highlight the upcoming fall months and our next individual, Nick, in our next issue!





# What's Happening?

BY SAMANTHA WILCZYNSKI

We are very excited to announce that the 3rd annual Austin's Place Gala will take place on Saturday November 9, 2024, at the Steamfitters Event Center in Harmony, PA. The evening will include dinner and drinks, auctions, and a keynote speech by former Pittsburgh Steeler's quarterback, Charlie Batch!

We will kick off the evening with a cocktail hour beginning at 6 o'clock with dinner following at 7 o'clock. We are excited to be at a new and larger location and with your help we hope to raise even more this year in support of Austin's Place mission.

There are many ways for you to support the fundraising gala! By becoming an event sponsor or table host, you have the opportunity to not only support Austin's Place, but benefit from a multitude of corporate advertisements before, during, and after the event!

You can help us keep the entertainment of the evening alive and full of fun by donating an item(s) to our auctions. Donations for the gala are being accepted from now until November 1, 2024. Austin's Place is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Your company/group will also be recognized at the event for your donation. If you do not have any items, you're interested in donating to the auction, monetary donations are also accepted via mail or online.

Finally, simply help us spread the word to your family and friends. There is no support amount too small.

By supporting the gala, you are not only helping to provide young adults with physical and intellectual disabilities a safe and supportive day program, but also a place where they can continue to learn and refine their life skills, engage with peers and the community, doing things that are important and meaningful to them and continue to strengthen their independence.

For questions about donations or the gala event, please call 724-352-2786 or email [apgala@austinsplace.org](mailto:apgala@austinsplace.org). Visit [www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate](http://www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate) to learn more.

We hope to see you in November!



# 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 families and staff who raised money and/or walked for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community in June! This is one of our biggest fundraisers for Austin's Place and 100% of the proceeds benefit our mission. We hope you will join us next year too!

Thank you to Justin Petroff of JPC Construction for new siding and Nieto's Masonry for new stone on our chimneys. The summer refresh looks great! Be sure to stop by to see it, or check out photos on our Facebook page.

Lastly, a thank you to our amazing staff who designed and decorated the float for the Saxonburg Fireman's Carnival parade and walked in the parade. It was the first time Austin's Place was in a parade, and we hope it won't be the last! Job well done all.

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## Donate to Austin's Place

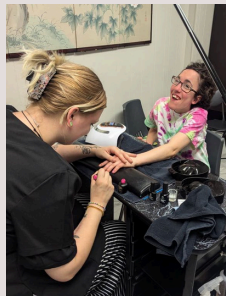
Your contribution is truly appreciated. 100% of donations received will go toward providing quality programming and items to the young adults at Austin's Place. Learn more about donation options: [www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate](http://www.austinsplace.org/index.php/donate)

## 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. If interested, please email [swilczynski@austinsplace.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:AKURTZ@AUSTINSPLACE.ORG).