



SPRING 2025

AP HAPPENINGS

Austin's Place Quarterly Newsletter

Spring Highlights

BY SARA HUBA

Early on this Spring, we celebrated Pi Day with, you guessed it... Pie! We had many options including Oreo, pistachio, and French silk pie! Then just a few days later, we all wore our favorite shade of green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. We colored some St. Patrick's Day coloring pages and made shamrock glasses.

The Easter Bunny also made another appearance here at Austin's Place. The Bunny hid eggs full of sweet treats for us to find. The Bunny also hopped around after he hid the eggs from us to get some pictures with their adoring fans!

We learned all about the life cycle of butterflies when we grew caterpillars. We watched them grow big enough to make their own cocoon. We patiently waited for them to hatch and then released them on the nature trails when they were ready to spread their wings any fly away!

We did another egg drop contest, but this year we waited until Earth Day and had a twist. All materials used for your egg drop container had to be recyclable. We got creative and used different bottles, soup containers, paper straws, and more! We had one container that looked like a flower, one that was a McDonald's french fry container, an airplane, and one that reminded us of the importance of reduce, reuse, recycle!

We enjoyed making different things in the kitchen like biscotti, a cake, mac and cheese, and croffles (waffles made out of croissants)! With the pool being opened at the end of May, we are all super ready for SUMMER!



All About Ally

BY MEGAN ADAMS

The next individual we would like to highlight is Ally. Ally became the program's 10th attendee, joining us in April of 2018. She is quite the social butterfly, often being our lead introduction for visitors who are stopping by or touring. Ally is sweet, compassionate, and empathetic. She's proven to be a hard worker (when, as with any of us, she wants to be) and a great friend.

Ally enjoys engaging in conversation with staff and peers. She loves to laugh and sing, and she can typically be heard enjoying both throughout the facility, bringing smiles to the faces of everyone around. Ally not only likes to sing, but she enjoys just listening to music and participating in a small group dance party. When she's not singing or dancing her heart out, she can be found playing games, crafting, coloring by numbers, learning about animals, and when the weather permits, enjoying the fresh air outside. On occasion, Ally will join her staff, and at times, some of her peers on community outings. Her preferred outings consist of going to the library and bowling.



Ally's day is filled with opportunities to not only enjoy her preferred activities but also to work on strengthening skills and accomplishing goals. Some of the goals she is working on include broadening her math skills, increasing appropriate socialization, strengthening the use of her right hand, and using her stander to stretch and strengthen her legs. Ally makes sure she knows everything that's going on and isn't one to hesitate to say what she's thinking or feeling.

Ally is a wonderful person, and we couldn't imagine how our program would look without her...her smile, her singing, or her contagious laugh. Every individual brings their own uniqueness and joy to the table here and Ally is just one part of what makes our program so enjoyable. Stick with us to meet our next highlight...Kirsten, to see how she adds to Austin's Place.





What's Happening?

BY SAMANTHA WILCZYNSKI

Join Us for the annual Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on June 14!

We're thrilled to announce that in just a few days, we'll be participating in our 9th Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! This event is a fantastic opportunity for us to unite, raise funds, and spread awareness about the impactful work at Austin's Place. As one of our largest fundraisers, the Highmark Walk ensures that 100% of the funds we raise directly support Austin's Place, thanks to Highmark covering the event's costs.

Our mission remains steadfast: to deliver top-quality programs for the individuals we serve. Thanks to supporters like you, we've created fun, safe, meaningful, and educational experiences at Austin's Place. As our program grows, your support is vital to sustaining and expanding our mission.

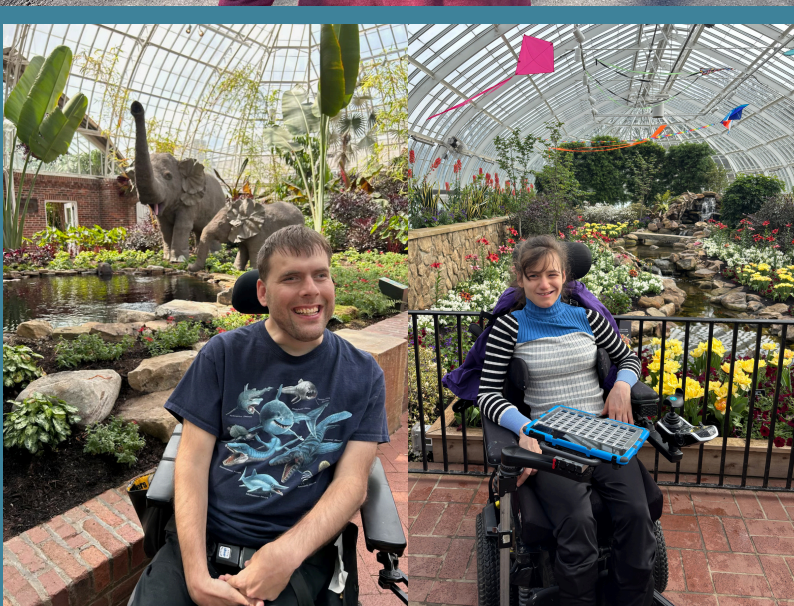
This year, our goal is to raise \$10,000, and with your help, we're confident we can achieve it! Fundraising is open and will continue until the walk concludes. Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference in supporting the incredible individuals at Austin's Place.

Register to walk or donate today:
http://hcf.convio.net/AustinsPlace_ButlerPA.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support!

Save the Date:

Join us for the 4th Annual Austin's Place Gala on Saturday, September 27th, at the Steamfitters Event Center in Harmony, PA.
<https://austinsplace.org/support/>





We Couldn't Do it without YOU.

BY BONNIE WILCZYNSKI

THANK YOU to K's Homemade Sweets from Butler for sending cookies for the staff this spring. In May, we celebrated our seven nurses during Nurses Week, thank you Christian, Aimee, Robin, Sarah, Emily, Hayley, and Kim!

Also, a big thank you to all the businesses and families for donating to be t-shirt sponsors for this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community! Thank you: Appalachian Land Management, BKY Financial, Climatech, Concordia Lutheran Health and Human Care, Druzak Auto Parts, FBC Chemical Corporation, Ford City Lions Club, Keith Janssen Catering, Moody Sales and Service, Only Fire Hemp Dispensary, SBA Communications, United Plate Glass Company, Vance Trucking, The Babjak Family, RLHollibaugh/Christopher Kim Design & Structural Engineering Services, AVAS Enterprises, Saxonburg Feed Company, and RT Industries LLC.

Check out the Austin's Place website

The Austin's Place website got a new look this winter. Be sure to check out the new website and share with family and friends: www.austinsplace.org.

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. 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.