



# Austin's Place News

## December 2016

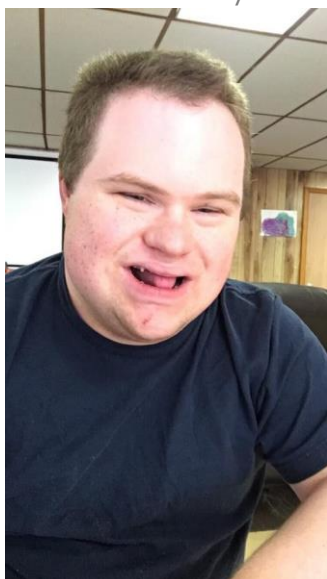
AUSTIN'S PLACE • 134 SHENOT ROAD • WEXFORD, PA

SNAPSHOTS

Mission Statement: *To provide specialized, intensive transitionally-focused training for young adults graduating from traditional school systems who are diagnosed with autism spectrum, developmental and intellectual disabilities and who are moderately to significantly impaired.*

## VIP Spotlight

Patrick Maloney



December brings us the holiday season full of bright lights and shining stars...and speaking of stars, this month's VIP spotlight lights up the night sky with Patrick Maloney! Often called "Patchy" by his peers and the staff here at Austin's Place, Patrick has been attending since February and has been a regular attendee 3 days a week ever since.

Patchy is 23 years old and has really come into his own here at the day program. Over the past several months we have really watched his personality blossom and he has become quite independent in making choices and completing everyday tasks.

You can often find Patchy working at his favorite seat at the table and never passes up the chance to color a picture, play a game or do a puzzle (there's no such thing as too many pieces when this jigsaw master is around). He also loves the pool and can usually be found hanging by the pool fountain on Wednesday afternoons.

Patrick has been working on some vocational skills lately and is getting quite adept at vacuuming and wiping down tables. He has been a big help around Austin's Place and has been volunteering weekly at the Woodlands to help them keep their cafeteria clean and tidy. He's a smart cookie and catches on pretty quick. We can't wait to see how far he can go and we plan to be right there with him, cheering him on the whole way.



Austin and Megan painting bowls for Thermo Fisher Scientific Crock Pot fundraiser



Autumn outside enjoying the Fall air and getting some exercise

### COVER PHOTO

Some of our wonderful employees!

# What's Happening? - A Month of Holiday Cheer!

**Kick off to the Holidays:** The start of December has us welcoming in the winter holiday by decorating Austin's Place for the season. We will also start our holiday food drive to help out families in need this holiday season.

**Deck the Halls:** For our "Deck the Halls" week, clients will have the opportunity to participate in a holiday door decorating contest, a candy cane scavenger hunt, and decorate ginger bread houses!

**Christmas Around the World:** Beginning the week of December 12, our clients will learn about how other people "Around the World" celebrate their winter holiday. Clients will learn about Hanukkah, Babbo Natale, and Kwanza. We will finish the week by wearing our ugly Christmas sweaters.

**It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas:** "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" will bring lots of excitement with the upcoming holiday. Here at Austin's Place we will have our Christmas party and gift exchange at the end of the week.

**What a Wonderful Life:** When we return back from Christmas break, we will reflect on "What a Wonderful Life" we have at Austin's Place. We will share the wonderful life we have by packing up our food drive and delivering it to a local food bank.



Austin's Place is taking steps to improve our health and raise funds by forming a team for the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community!

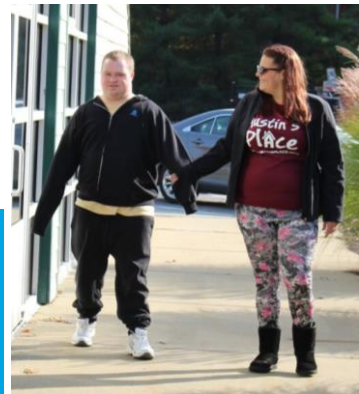
**HIGHMARK.**  
**WALK FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SATURDAY, MAY 13  
STAGE AE  
PITTSBURGH'S NORTH SHORE**

Participating Nonprofits Keep All Funds Raised

[WWW.WALKFORAHEALTHYCOMMUNITY.ORG](http://WWW.WALKFORAHEALTHYCOMMUNITY.ORG)



## From the Director...

Hello and welcome back to Austin's Place! We're getting ready to kick off the holiday season and the folks here have been bustling with loads of cheer.

This past month we broadened our horizons, learning about classic art, music, and history. Now we are ready to celebrate the upcoming holiday seasons! With plans for a Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Lunch and the annual Christmas Party, the whole place should be hopping with excitement. We hope that Santa and his reindeer make an appearance this year (and we hope that he remembers to bring his sack full of presents too)!

We have been hard at work here since the last time we updated you all. We are preparing our own Austin's Place soup bowls as part of another fantastic fundraiser opportunity with Thermo Fisher Scientific! For those of you who were with us last year, you might remember our Austin's Place Cookie Cookbook. Well we've upped the ante this year with a Crock Pot Recipe Cookbook filled with delicious submissions from all of our friends and families. Everyone at Austin's Place has worked together to get the bowls prepped, fired and painted. Thank you to all who submitted their delicious recipes!

From all of us here at Austin's Place, we hope you have a safe and happy holiday surrounded by family and friends!



Michael Anderson,  
Program Director



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If you have any comments or questions regarding Austin's Place News, please contact the Public Relations Director at [AKurtz@austinsplace.org](mailto:AKurtz@austinsplace.org).