



Austin's Place News

January 2017

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

Melanie McNulty



Melanie is 22 year old and is the best of friends with all of her peers. Always sociable and a great listener, Mel is comfortable hanging out with anyone and is sure to engage with everyone at some point during the day. Melanie loves swimming in the pool, long walks, and reading. She can often be found either outside at the picnic table or in a quiet corner reading a good book with her staff. Melanie also loves listening to others tell stories about their lives and what's going on in the world.

Melanie is a pretty smart cookie and is very adept at using her various switches to help us here at Austin's Place with things such as shredding paper and leading the morning meeting. She shows a great deal of passion for her tasks and having fun and it has been a great pleasure to watch her grow and mature in her short time at Austin's Place.

So the next time, you're in the area, stop by and share some story time with this lovely young lady. We promise, she'll give you her full attention.

A new year brings out a new VIP Spotlight. To start 2017, we are spotlighting Melanie McNulty, or "Mel Mel" as she is often known by her peers. Melanie graduated from the Western Pa School for Blind Children last year and started with us here at Austin's Place toward the end of June. Mel is a regular here now and most people feel as though she's been around since day 1.



The newest member of our Austin's Place Family, Bryan Babjak!



Reading stories with friends!

COVER PHOTO

Austin's Place Holiday Pajama Party 2016!

What's Happening? - A Healthy New Year!

New Beginnings: "The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book waiting to be written." When we return back from break, we will create New Year resolutions and then celebrate the beginning of 2017.

Health and Hygiene: We will kick off week two by learning about the importance of Health and Hygiene. Activities for the week will pertain to personal hygiene such as dental, hair and hand hygiene.

Nutrition and Healthy Eating: Beginning the week of January 16, clients will learn about "Healthy Eating and Nutrition." Clients will have the chance to learn about healthy food options and proper portions by preparing various recipes for the week.

Fitness and Exercise: For the fourth week of January, we will continue our new healthy lifestyle changes by learning about "Fitness and Exercise." Clients will learn about how much exercise is required to burn off specific caloric intake.

Safety: We will finish the month of January by learning about fire safety and community safety. Clients will learn about the importance of fire prevention, as well as the importance of traffic signs.



Lunchtime visits from some of our parents!



Austin's Place Employee Christmas Party 2016!



Parents participating in PJ day!

From the Director...

Happy Holidays from the Austin's Place gang and welcome to the New Year! December brought a month full of yummy cookies, gifts, games, togetherness, a sense of joy and so much more here at Austin's Place! We would like to give a special thank you to the Wilczynski family for hosting the Austin's Place employee Christmas Party at the Saxonburg Hotel earlier this month. Thank you for your generosity and for always making each one of feel appreciated.

All of our clients had a wonderful time at their Pajama Holiday party. We had an array of delicious pot luck dishes, great games, and comfy pajamas! It's been a fantastic holiday season so far and we hope to continue the fun into the New Year!

This past month we were able to help make a difference for local families this holiday season with our First Annual Austin's Place Holiday Food Drive. We were also able to finish painting our soup bowls for our Holiday Soup Bowl fundraiser with Thermo-Fisher Scientific. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and effort to make these events possible!

We had a visit from a really awesome film-maker, Tess Weaver, who made a heart-warming documentary about Austin's Place that really helped showcase how Austin's Place came to be and what it is really all about. Check out the video on Facebook and YouTube if you get a chance!

Lastly, we want to officially welcome a new member of our Austin's Place family, Bryan Babjak. We hope your time with us is filled with adventure and fun as we continue on into 2017! That's it for now folks. Check back next month for more news and updates. As always, feel free to check us out on Instagram and Facebook.

Austin's Place News

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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.

