



# Austin's Place News

## January 2018

AUSTIN'S PLACE • 447 DINNERBELL ROAD • BUTLER, 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

Amber



Winter is in full swing here at Austin's Place and we wanted to take some time out from shoveling snow and dealing with bitter cold to introduce you all to one of our newest members at Austin's Place, Amber. Amber has been with us for just a few months now but has made this place her own and rarely misses a day...or a beat.

Amber is a very sweet young lady with an adorable smile and a terrific laugh. She can be a bit of joker and has no problem expressing herself. She is a woman who knows what she wants and will always be sure to let you know. Amber is working on skills to become more independent, which include using eye gazes and gestures to communicate more effectively. She also continues to work hard every day to improve her fine and gross motor skills.

She loves playing games and is often found racking up wins in a friendly game of Trouble or Uno. She likes to be outside and enjoys a good story from time to time. She is a good artist and loves anything arts and crafts related. She is a beauty queen at heart and will stop everything if someone mentions spa day (who doesn't love a good spa day, though, right?)

We hope that you drop in for a quick hello the next time you are in the area, but be sure to put on your game face because you'll need your wits about you when you face off in a winner-takes-all game with Miss Amber.



PJ Party!!



Christmas hats!!

# What's Happening? - Hello 2018!!



Welcome to 2018!! It's hard to believe that the New Year is here already, it seems as if last year flew by! We had so much growth and expansion in 2017 and cannot wait to see what 2018 has in store for us! Thank you to everyone for all of their hard work and dedication as we move into the New Year!



Our United Way contribution code/book number for donations is:  
**12820486**



## A note from the President...

I hope you have had a wonderful holiday season! Now that it is January many of us reassess our busy lives and reflect on the past year and think about what we want to accomplish during the next year. With that in mind, I thought I would share with you a recap of what we have accomplished at Austin's Place in 2017.

Our biggest accomplishment in 2017 was our move and expansion to our Dinnerbell Road location in July. We moved from a one room building that was approximately 2000 square feet to a 22 acre campus with multiple buildings. In a six month period we more than doubled our clients and staff. Aside from the many changes required to change this residential location into a commercial property, we also made some enhancements for our clients.

Our first major project was the addition of a 5300 square foot fully accessible outdoor therapeutic center, complete with a freestanding musical sound garden. We added an outdoor fully accessible basketball hoop as well as a lift to make the saltwater therapy pool fully accessible.

As the cold weather started to come we converted a space for an indoor game room complete with basketball, air hockey, a bowling machine, and don't forget the Karaoke machine. We also added a second theatre room so we can accommodate more clients during our morning meeting and our afternoon educational hour.

Our last building project for the year was the addition of two sensory rooms. One room is a calming room complete with a cloud ceiling, laser star projector, aroma therapy, a vibroacoustic relaxer, infinity bubble wall, fiber optic wall sconce and soft music. The other sensory room is more interactive and includes an interactive hurricane tube, bubble podium, tactile loopie wall, resonance cushion, ladder lights and a tactile walkway.

We have some great plans for 2018. We will be kicking off our Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community fundraiser in February. More information on how you can support us with this effort to come. I look forward to sharing more information with you about the excitement and growth at Austin's Place in 2018. Thank-you for your continued support, and don't forget to stay updated with the latest news through our Facebook, Instagram and Website.

~ Bonnie Wilczynski, President

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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).

