



Austin's Place News

March 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

Jenny



March marks the beginning of spring and boy do we need a break from all this snow and cold! As we look forward to sunshine and spring flowers, we would like to highlight our newest VIP, Jenny. Jenny and her family moved here from far away just to join our day program, and we are so lucky to have her as a part of our group!

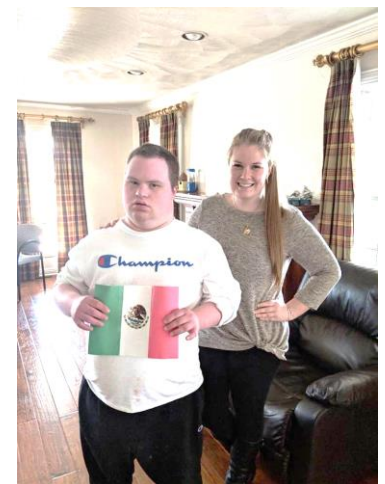
Jenny is very sweet with a great sense of humor and isn't above playing a little trick or two when you're not looking. And when she finds something funny, she has one of the best hearty laughs around. But it's not all tricks...she is also a treat to chat with and will always stop to say hello.

Jenny loves her music and can often be found jamming out to some tunes on her favorite headphones or spending time up at our therapeutic recreation center on one of the swings! She's pretty easy to spot in a crowd too because she loves wearing baseballs caps and is rarely seen without one. (I wish I looked as good in hats as she does). Jenny is also a very hard worker and is very adept at completing her vocational tasks every day as well as assembling and building things. She always makes sure that things are spotless in all of our offices!

So the next time you're around, pop in and see Jenny hard at work. Don't worry, she'll take a break to shoot you a smile and say hello!



Jamaica!



Mexico!

What's Happening? - Hello 2018!!

"Let's make the most of this beautiful day!" is a famous quote by a man who is loved by all, Fred Rodgers. This well-known saying is how he started off every one of his shows and here at Austin's Place we can't think of a better way to look at each new day! This month we are celebrating the birthdays of two iconic childhood figures, Mr. Rodgers and Dr. Seuss. When we were little and even now that we are older, Dr. Seuss always taught us the importance of adding something into each day! We will be taking ideas from his stories and incorporating them into activities like making Cat and the Hat pizzas and One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish salt paintings! Since March is Red Cross month, we will be using the inspiration given to us by Mr. Rodgers and focus on how to be a good neighbor and ways to give back to our community. Of course we can't forget about St. Patrick's Day! We have all been very busy making decorations for our dance party, we can't wait to show them to everyone! Finally, make sure you stay updated on our Facebook page, there might just be another bulletin board competition soon!



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



Austin's Place Winter Olympic Teams

South Korea, Germany, Belize, Zimbabwe, France, The Netherlands, Ireland, Jamaica, Columbia, China, Canada, The Dominican Republic, Sweden, Mexico, Italy, Australia, Belgium!



A note from the President...

With the anticipation of spring being just around the corner, we are making plans to get outside and get moving more at Austin's Place. We have really been enjoying the newly installed sensory and calming rooms indoors, as well as learning all about the Winter Olympics. But, we're ready for spring this month and very much looking forward to getting outside!

In the coming weeks, several of our staff will be taking classes to get certified as American Red Cross Lifeguards so we will be prepared once the pool is open. Clients and staff will be doing some seed planting in preparation for our vegetable and flower gardens we will be planting this spring. Plans are also underway for a picnic pavilion to be built next to our outdoor therapeutic center so we will be ready to fire up the grill!

Perhaps our biggest undertaking is our fundraiser to pave pathways and trails throughout our campus to make everything more accessible. If you haven't already done so, please consider walking with us at the Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community on May 12 (*more information on our Facebook page*). If you can't walk with us, you can register as a virtual walker or make a donation to our team. Either way, we thank you for your support!

Lastly, I would like to say THANK YOU to the many organizations, families, and friends who have been generously donating paper products, art supplies, cleaning supplies, clothing and snacks to Austin's Place. We are truly blessed with some awesome supporters. From everyone at Austin's Place, we wish you a Happy Spring and a Blessed Easter holiday.

~ 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.