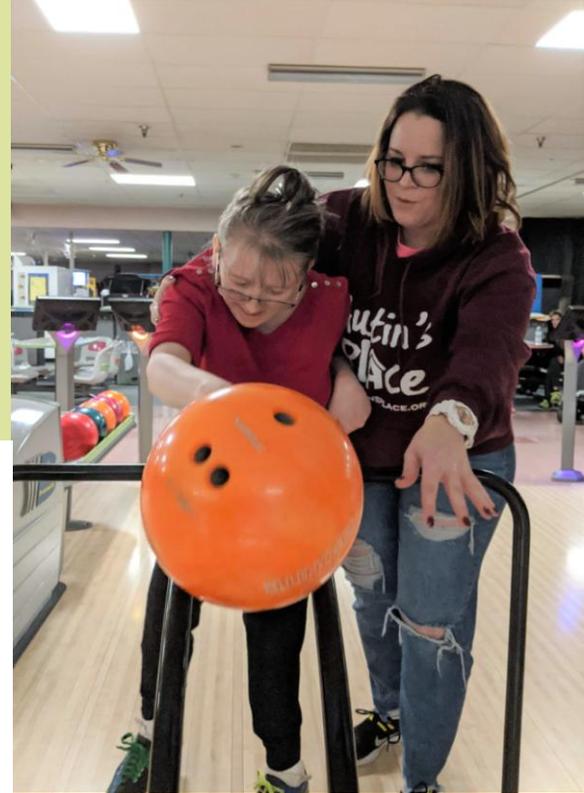


AP Happenings

Austin's Place Quarterly Newsletter



Winter Highlights

By: Sara Pittinaro

This winter, we did a lot of fun activities at Austin's Place. We even had a few visitors. Santa Claus made a surprise visit on the day of our Christmas Party and came bearing gifts. We were excited to see Santa come a few days before Christmas. Also for the holidays, we watched *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* and made gingerbread houses. Everyone made their own special ornament for the Christmas tree, along with some festive Christmas crafts.

The Boy Scouts made a few special visits with a different activity each time. We made lanterns and hung them up around the facility. We learned about healthy foods, nutrition, and the food pyramid. We also learned about the solar system and planets. We enjoy playing games when the Boy Scouts come. We played a game where we learned about our peers and their likes and interests.

Another recent visitor was George Casselberry. He came in to share his harmonica skills with us. George is self-taught and has been playing for over 20 years. He even has a few CDs! He played songs such as *She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain*, *Yankee Doodle*, *On Top Of Old Smokey*, and *You Are My Sunshine*. We especially love having musical visitors at Austin's Place.

We celebrated the Super Bowl and monthly birthdays with pizza parties. We learned about sea creatures, made sea creature crafts, all while wishing for warmer days. Luckily, there were a few out-of-season days we were able to enjoy the outdoors.

Continuing with our culinary skills, we hit the kitchen to make rice crispy snow balls, bear toast, puppy chow, a king cake for Mardi Gras, and had a French fry bar.

We were able to keep pretty busy for the cold winter months. We are all definitely looking forward to spring so we can use all of wonderful equipment around Austin's Place.

Our newsletter is a great place to check out photos and learn more about what's happening at Austin's Place! You can also 'like' our Facebook page to stay up-to-date with information, events, photos, and more.

www.facebook.com/AustinsPlacePA

Out & About

By: Jaime Pallack

During the cold weather, we try to get out and about as much as possible to avoid the winter blues. We have been venturing out and going shopping at the local malls such as the Mills and Clearview in Butler. We enjoy going in to Bath and Body Works and enjoying the scents of the different candles and lotions. Most times we will stroll down to Rural King and look at the baby ducks they have for sale and, of course, get some popcorn! And always, before we leave, we take a break and get a pretzel snack from Auntie Anne's.

If we aren't shopping and strolling the mall, you can often catch us at the local library reading books, working on puzzles, enjoying the activity table, and socializing.

We also try to go out to lunch at least once a week, usually Fridays and we typically go to Eat N Park. It has a wide menu variety and there's something for everyone to pick from. Sometimes we step out of our normal routine and even surprise our staff and give them a laugh!

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Around AP

By: Megan Adams

Austin's Place is not only focusing on getting our client's out into the community, but we are also focusing on bringing new and exciting projects to the facility for the clients to enjoy.

The newest addition to the campus came in the fall of 2019 in the form of a zip-line, which was installed behind the pool area. The zip-line added to the expansion of outdoor therapeutic equipment, which also includes the installation of two additional swings in the same area as the zip-line.

The Outdoor Therapeutic Center has been a staple in our clients' days (when the weather permits) since its installation in 2017. Because of the constant utilization, Austin's Place felt it was necessary to expand upon the center by adding the additional swings and the zip-line, giving our clients more options and new equipment to enjoy.

Stay tuned for our Spring Issue of the newsletter when we'll share exciting details about our new Greenhouse and outdoor Music Therapy Center coming later this spring!



Have something you want to **Ask Ally**? Email us at info@austinsplace.org and your question might be included in an upcoming newsletter!

Asking Ally

By: Ally Ambrizana

All About Ally

Meet Ally! One of our awesome clients at Austin's Place. Each issue she'll be sharing information with us, whether it's something going on at Austin's Place, or a topic special to her. This issue, we're learning 'All About Ally.'

Ally's full name is Alexandria Marie Ambrizana and she celebrates her birthday on August 1. This year, she'll turn 24! Ally lives in Cranberry Township and went to school at Seneca Valley. She also has a younger brother.

Some of Ally's Favorites include:

- Color: Pink & Purple
- Food: Pizza
- Activity: Swimming
- Holiday: Christmas
- Vacation Spot: Disney World

Her favorite thing about coming to Austin's Place – all of the staff is so nice!

Nick volunteers EVERY week. He dusts the sanctuary at East Union Presbyterian Church every Tuesday, and helps with Meals on Wheels at Glade Run Presbyterian Church every Friday. Above, Nick is helping out at the West Deer Food Bank (which he does monthly).



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.

- Our United Way contribution code/book number for donations is 12820486
- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Austin's Place when you shop at: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-1066002>.

The official registration and financial information of Austin's Place may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement. Gifts to Austin's Place are deductible as charitable contributions to the fullest extent permitted by law.

Giving Back By: Sam Lang

Here at Austin's Place, we don't let the inclement weather stop us from getting out there and giving back to the community we love. We saw this winter as an opportunity to volunteer, doing everything from Meals on Wheels to spaghetti dinners. Every day - rain, snow or shine - we were out there doing what we could to help out.

One of the ways we did that was by working with the wonderful volunteers at Meals on Wheels. Every week, Nick packed up lunches for the people of Butler County. He even made some friends in other volunteers, who all looked forward to seeing Nick each and every Friday.

Local churches are one of the main places we currently volunteer. In addition to helping to clean the church weekly, we also put together gift bags for kids in the community, as well as set up for a few spaghetti dinners. Patch, Ally, Jenny, and many others came ready to work and always left happy, knowing they were able to help out. More often than not, we'd end these outings with a few games of basketball; but not before the work was done!

We had such a great time this winter, getting out there and giving back to the community however we could. It's definitely been a busy few months, but we wouldn't change a thing. We felt good volunteering, had some fun, and made so many friends! We look forward to continuing to get out there and give a little back, especially in warmer weather.



Events & Announcements

- Join Austin's Place for this year's Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community. Can't join us? Consider making a donation on our behalf to support our fundraising campaign. This year's event takes place at Heinz Field (Pittsburgh, PA) on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at 9am with both a 5K and 1K route available. **Register to Walk or Donate Today:** <http://hcf.convio.net/AustinsPlaceButlerPA>. When you register to walk, you can sign up as an individual, or sign up with the Austin's Place Team: <http://hcf.convio.net/goto/AustinsPlaceTeam>.
- 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.
- This spring we'll be hosting our annual Rummage Sale! We don't have specific(s) yet...stay tuned! But, think of us as you start your spring cleaning!
- 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. For example, in the past, we've had visits from turtles and an alpaca named "Happy," a local Fire Department (everyone loved seeing the big fire truck), a talented baton twirler, and a Pittsburgh business visit to do a science experiment with our staff. If interested, please email swilczynski@austinsplace.org.

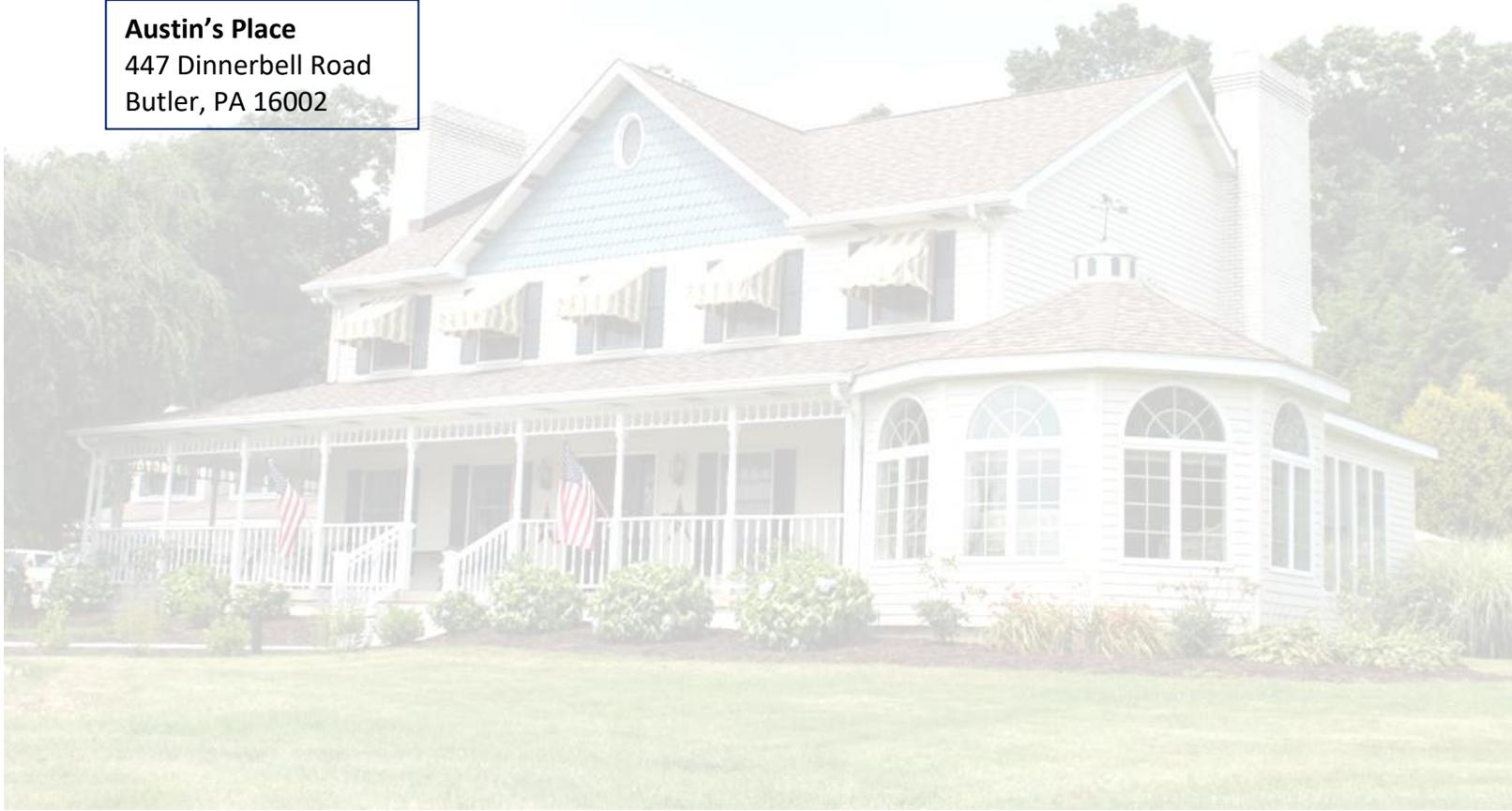




Smiling Away those Winter Blues...



Austin's Place
447 Dinnerbell Road
Butler, PA 16002



From the President...

I am excited to share with you our new quarterly newsletter, "AP Happenings." Read through, check out the photos, and let us know what you think! Also, a big thank you to our staff, and our awesome client Ally for contributing to our first issue.

I encourage you to register for this year's *Highmark Walk for a Healthy Community!* Last year we had a great turnout, and I know this year will be even better! We hope you will walk with the Austin's Place Team this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support. And don't forget – 'like' us on Facebook!
Bonnie Wilczynski, President



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.