

Union Station Clubhouse

Newsletter



A Place To Call Home

By: Rebekah M.



The Clubhouse would like to congratulate two of our members who have recently achieved their housing goals. One of those members is Henry B. who has been in his own apartment for three months now. He said, "It feels different". He can shut the door and call his apartment home. Henry said at first it felt scary and lonely because he lives by his self. However, he has learned how to move past that feeling. His hope for the future is to move out of Brownsville. Henry's next goal is to get his driver's license.

Another member who has achieved his housing goal is Rich G. who has been in his

own apartment for two weeks now. He said he likes living on his own because his apartment is nice and clean, and he doesn't have to pick up after other people. In addition, he enjoys cooking in his apartment because he is able to prepare healthier meals. Rich has worked really hard for 3 years to get where he is now. His plan is to work towards maintaining his new place of residence.



Member Spotlight: Jen W.

By: George H.

Jen W. has been a Clubhouse Member since 2001, but has been in and out of the program for different reasons. Her favorite aspect of the program is that Clubhouse guarantees her a right to a place to go. She has learned various different skills, mainly computer skills dealing with clerical work, as well as fine-tuning her ability to be out in public.

As a result, Jen was able to use these skills to gain employment and be more social. Her ultimate goal is to become a Certified Peer Specialist, and because this requires immense clerical and social skill, if she keeps her "eyes on the prize," which she no doubt will most likely do, this possibility can almost certainly become reality for her one day.

Getting A Driver's License

By: Dustin M.

About a year ago, I came to the realization to make my future complete, I would need to obtain my driver's license. For some reason or another, I would procrastinate. When the physical form for applying for a learner's permit neared expiration, I mustered up the courage to go to the DMV to apply. When I went to the Uniontown DMV, I failed my vision screening. I would require an eye exam and to visit the driver center. I completed this on the Saturday before Easter and with the additional paperwork, I could take my test. I did not miss a single question on my test and I was awarded my permit.



The next step was learning to drive. I did my research and found an instructor out of Greensburg that came to Fayette County and had an emphasis on teaching students with learning difficulties. After explaining my needs to him, he suggested that I would likely be eligible to have instruction thorough him, while being paid through OVR. With the assistance of Clubhouse Staff, I filed the referral online and reopened my case.

Three months ago, I began behind the wheel instruction. I learned several maneuvers the first day that also included road instruction. I continued to have evening lessons at the local secondary school complex until I began to drive on the country roads. Next, I drove on several two-lane roads through several towns. After that, I learned the four lane highways such as Route 119 and the Mon-Fayette Expressway. The final part of this process was learning the major interstates and roundabouts.

The other piece of behind-the-wheel instruction was test prep, of which parallel parking was a part of. This came natural to me and was truly a blessing. With several weeks of everyday driving, my instructor and I finalized my preparations for my exam. This meant limiting lessons to the DMV and the surrounding area.

Recently, I took my exam, and mastered it on the first try. I was so proud of myself when I finished the test. I got to go to the photo center and get a driver's license and while it was a temporary one, you couldn't wipe the smile off my face. This was one of the last goals on my way to self-sufficiency.

I have to say the last year has been a lot of achievements, however there are still things for me to do like purchasing a car and auto insurance. Nonetheless, I look at it as an opportunity of maturing and being a true *Leader in Recovery*, like the award I won two years ago. As I said in that acceptance speech then and I still say now, there is the potential for recovery in everyone to their capacity.

Blondie's

By: April and Rebekah

We went to Blondie's Roadhouse for Eat-Out Night. The food, along with the service, was excellent. We all had a good time as we socialized. Crystal stopped by after her shift and we continued to converse. The wait staff was very friendly and understanding to our needs. The soup and cake were excellent choices from the menu. The ride to and from the restaurant was another excellent socialization opportunity.



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