

Union Station Clubhouse

Newsletter

Connellsville ChiliFest

By: Dustin M.

With the change of the clock, the City of Connellsville usually has a plethora of events to entertain the residents. The end of daylight savings time was no different. Usually, the time change is accompanied by a large book sale in the library basement, however, due to renovations there, that was postponed. As such, my mother and I went to a church rummage sale and clothing sale, followed by a new to us activity, ChiliFest. Not having the book sale and looking for something to do, we thought to give it a try.

The ChiliFest was sponsored by the Downtown Connellsville Initiative. Tickets were \$10 each. Your ticket allowed you to a four-ounce sample of all the chili in the different participating establishments. Money raised is used for downtown Connellsville initiatives. There were 11 establishments participating, including numerous restaurants, a coffee shop, a thrift shop, the museum (Canteen), the Art Center, and a Church. It should be noted that each location made four gallons of chili and many of them were cooked in large roasters. *(continued on page 2)*



Member Spotlight: David G.

David G. has been at Union Station Clubhouse for about three weeks. He enjoys the program and he thinks it is a lot of fun.

So far David has learned about working the front desk, which involves operating the intercom and answering calls. In addition, he has discovered how to do the mileage and billing.

David has a strong desire to learn the various other clerical tasks and improve on those skills he already has. With such an ambition, he has a great potential to enter the workforce as a clerical worker!



(Connellsville ChiliFest continued from page 1)

When the tour began, my mother and I were in the thrift shop so we started there where we sampled a chili by the Rotary Club. From there we proceeded to the other restaurants in the downtown business district sampling Korean, Santa Fe Dark Bean, Vegan, Turkey Chipotle, a Sweet & Sassy Chili, a pizza-flavored, and a Santa Fe White Chicken Chili. From there we headed to the Trinity Lutheran Church, where we partook in an Oktoberfest Chili that was made with sauerkraut and chocolate, before concluding at two locations on the city's west side.

These locations were unique, as the one had what we both called the best - a sweet & tangy chili. At our last stop, we were approached by a reporter for the Connellsville Daily Courier. Because we had visited all 11 stops, we were the focal point of her story on ChiliFest. We were in the article in the Courier on November 4, 2019 where I was quoted as saying "that it [ChiliFest] sounded like something fun to do."

Wreath Making

By: Rebekah M.

On November 15, a few members and staff got together at the Clubhouse to make wreaths for the upcoming Christmas holiday. At first it was a bit challenging to complete this project, but as time moved about things got a little easier and was fun. We laughed, got frustrated and helped one another out.



As a small snack we had spinach and strawberry dip. Though the process of crafting our wreaths was very relaxing, it was exciting to engage with one another. After completing our project I took my creation home and placed it on my front door to remind me of the great time that I had. I would love to do it again for another holiday!

Employment and Education Dinner

By: Dustin M.

On November 6, we had our Employment & Education Dinner after the Work-Ordered Day at the Clubhouse. Dubbed the E&E Dinner, this dinner is a pivotal part of the Clubhouse's employment and education programs as it gives members in those programs the opportunity to meet in a small group and share the successes and concerns that happen in work or school.

A meal is served, usually prepared by the members attending the clubhouse for Work-Ordered Day, thus providing additional workload for the Food Service Unit. Another part of the E&E dinner is a discussion topic relating to issues in the workforce, as that is one of the ultimate goals of members at the Clubhouse.

At the last dinner, which Scott graciously hosted, we covered the topic of constructive criticism and how to handle it with grace and not "fly off the handle." Scott was a great resource as not only a supervisor but as a mentor as well. He explained why constructive criticism is not meant to be a detriment to your work but rather as a be used as a way to improve it. Constructive criticism is traditionally meant to help an individual succeed at whatever task they may need assistance in improving.

The next dinner is scheduled for November 20 at 3:00 p.m. We hope to see all members that are in our employment programs as well as those in educational opportunities attending this important part of your employment program at the Clubhouse.

Clubhouse Halloween Party

By: Ra-Mel H.

On October 31, 2019, Clubhouse had its annual Halloween Party. I have been attending the Clubhouse for a few months and this was my first holiday social spent with members and staff.

There was amazing food! Everyone brought a dollar to pitch-in and help give back to Goodwill. Scott B. dressed up as a pirate. Ashley M. dressed up as the Morton salt girl. Each member and staff received treat bags. All members and staff enjoy themselves. All members and staff who dressed up in costume got a picture in front of the front desk.

Friendship Poem

By: Krysta C.

Friendship is a good friend who is there for you when you need them and they will always care and love you every day go by and they will be by your side every step of the way with you whatever you are going through in your life and they are your true friends are and they will be your friends forever and ever until the end of time.

Summer Flood Necessitates Total Fleet Replacement

By: Dustin M.

On the evening of Sunday, July 22, 5 inches of rain fell bringing Coal Lick Run that flows adjacent to the Clubhouse over its banks. It brought mud and water to the Clubhouse parking lot, totaling our entire fleet of vans. The vehicles were filled with water and debris making them all inoperable.

For the first time in almost 19 years, the Clubhouse could not operate any van whatsoever for two days. Rental vans were secured for two months and in September, the first two brand-new vans arrived at the facility. The other arrived a few weeks later giving us three 10 passenger vans and a seven passenger van. Our members and staff alike are very proud of the new fleet and are very appreciative of it!



Recent Speakers At The Clubhouse

On October 22, the Clubhouse hosted a representative from Laurel Business Institute as part of the monthly speaker series. They explained the programs provided as well as the financial options the school provides and what is required for admittance to the school.

On November 1, we had a video presentation on the results of the last agency Strategic Plan and looked forward to the future plan.

On November 8, we had the Consumer Advisory Board of Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services

give a presentation that included several current and former members along with others that shared their recovery journeys as well as tools that make recovery successful.

I look forward to more speakers visiting the Clubhouse in 2020!

