

Union Station Clubhouse

Newsletter

It's A FACT!

By: Dustin M.



As many may know, Fayette County has FACT for our public transportation. Many members believe that the buses are solely for medical purposes, however that is simply not the case. Fayette County is fortunate to have eight fixed routes that serve many Fayette County locales throughout the work week, as well as four that provide Saturday service and a combined bus that serves both Uniontown and the Nemaquin Woodlands Resort on Sunday.

I must admit that reading a bus schedule can be quite confusing. When I was living in Johnstown I had a class in this which made riding their system (CamTran) easy. With their system, I could connect to AMTRAK to get to Greensburg where my sister lives on the weekends for a nominal cost. However, Fayette County is a much smaller county and is sparser in locales, therefore routes are longer and less frequent in number.

My first trial on the FACT bus was to Walmart in Connellsville some time ago from a location far from my house. When I went to return, I discovered that the bus, due to a variation in the schedule, was unable to take me to my originating point. Thankfully I had family that came to the rescue.

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Member Spotlight: Yvonne S.

By: Yvonne S.

I have been attending Clubhouse since Dec 2014. In early March 2015, I got a job working in the Goodwill kitchen. I worked at that job for almost three years. I was surprised and pleased to get that job.

The Clubhouse and working has helped me to live independently again and better than ever before. I am still living independently, but am not working right now due to health issues. I am attending Clubhouse less frequently but it is still a major support to my social and mental wellness.

I enjoy the company of like-minded people that I get to rub elbows with here at Clubhouse. I hope in time that my health will improve so I can work part-time again. Thank you, Clubhouse members and staff, for all the support you give me and also for the good you do for others.

It's A FACT

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Since living independently, I decided to give it a go again. Being in a more accessible location to the overall system has made accessing the system much easier. I can visit the library, hospital, Walmart, and Uniontown. This proved fortunate recently as our Clubhouse was unable to transport members recently and I was mandated to be at my employer, which has a bus stop and shelter in front of their facility. I was able utilize the fixed route system to go to and from work. Yes, I had to walk some distance, but if you live in a larger city, like Pittsburgh for example, oftentimes you have to walk.

Now, I'm not saying that everybody can walk to a bus stop, but there are programs such as FACT Gold that can assist using paratransit in this venture as well as the Persons with Disabilities Program. Both programs require payment for trips of 15% of the shared ride fare.

Nonetheless, I have used the fixed route system as a method of getting back and forth to my employment because of the location of the employer and a bus stop and shelter on site. Because of this, I felt it necessary to purchase, and include in my monthly budget, a bus pass that is quite handy and essential for me to navigate Fayette County.

Trip To Gateway Clubhouse

By: Rebekah M.

In July 2019, Rebekah M. and Amanda W. went to Greenville, South Carolina for a two week Training. On July 14 we left Uniontown and traveled 8 hours to Greenville, SC and arrived at the guesthouse.

The first night was tiring but really nice. The first week was long and tough. We arrived at the Gateway Clubhouse by 8 a.m., had discussion group, breakfast, participated in the work order day, and worked on our Action Plan.

We visited TEP sites and Gateway apartments and celebrated their annual TEP and Education Picnic at a state park with hot dogs, watermelon and corn hole.

Saturday I went to the social which included a trip to a farmer's market. It was nice and really cool to see.

The second week there Suzanne came and we worked together to bring new things back to our Clubhouse. But by the end of our trip, I was ready to come home and see my family and friends. I learned a lot and I'm very proud to bring it all back to our Clubhouse.

Note From A Member

By: Krysta C.

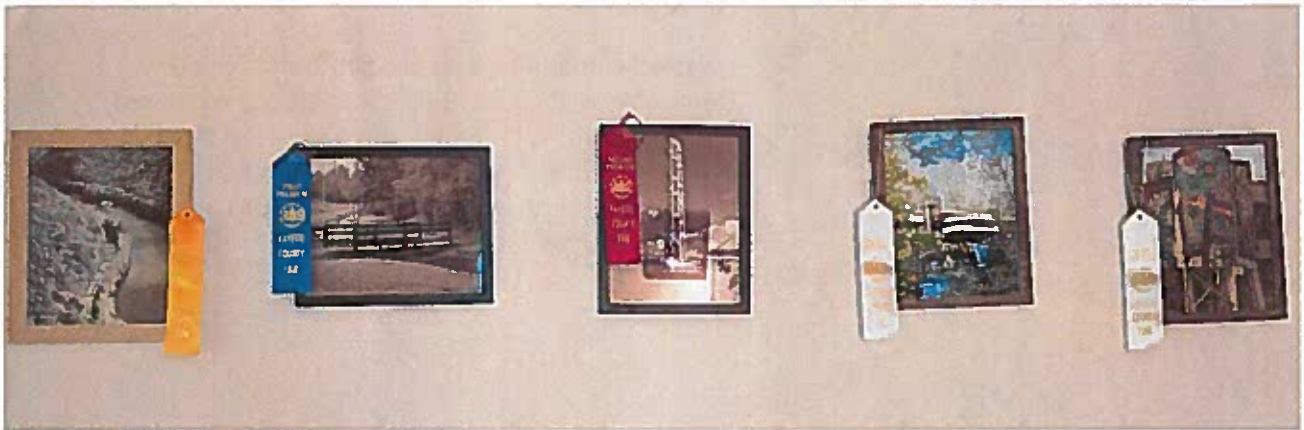
I have been coming to Clubhouse for three years now. I like putting smiles on everyone's faces each and everyday. They always put a smile on my face as well.

I have learned to follow the rules better and be better for myself as well. The skills you learn at the Union Station Clubhouse helped me. They include cleaning, cooking, typing, and how to give a tour as well.

My motto is live life day by day. Don't take life away from yourself. Live life to the fullest while you can and remember it well.

You Can Be A Winner...At The Fayette County Fair!

By: Dustin M.



My family has been involved in the Fayette County Fair since I was a child. I was in 4-H for several years as a child before I became mentally incapable to be a member of 4-H. However, as many of the members and staff know, my father raises horses on a farm in South Connellsville where I lived for most of my life before becoming independent last year. As such, my father has been exhibiting horses for the past several years at the Fair, which likewise has made me be at the fair more.

Many know that I enjoy taking photos for fun and never for profit, as does my mother. So, we decided last year to enter some photos in the fair for judging last year. I felt I didn't have a chance. As we were entering the pictures the glass broke in one of my frames! However the chairperson allowed it to be entered, providing that the glass be entirely removed. After the closed judging the next day last year, I discovered that one of my photos won fourth place.

I entered four photos this year and they ALL placed this year. One first place, one second place and two third places. The picture that won first place was taken during a Clubhouse outing to Hutchinson Park last fall. This has also made me discover that I perform much better photographing in black and white and more so in landscape photos, which were my top placing photos.

I would like to put a statement that when we think of our 10-day fair as well as our other three state-sanctioned fairs (of which I am also entering photos at one of them as well) we must remember to appreciate the agriculture and handiwork capabilities of Fayette County residents. The fair is not just about the carnival rides, politics and food, but was primarily established years ago as a way to showcase the fruits of hardworking people's labor and we must continue to treasure those talents and profitable industries in Fayette County.

Eat Out Night: Texas Roadhouse

The restaurant was crowded and the food was really good. The members all had a good time. It was nice to socialize with friends and eat a good meal. I had chicken fingers, baked potatoes, and corn. My food was really good. My friend Jesse had rattlesnake bites. Clubhouse Staff Tammy had steak, loaded potatoes and veggies. The buns were tasty too.





Sullivan Brothers Coffee Company

By: Krysta C.

I started working at Sullivan Brothers Coffee Company on July 30, 2019. I wash dishes, clean the bathroom, wipe tables off, sweep and mop floors and clean my area after my work is done. I love my job and my coworkers at Sullivan Brothers Coffee Company.

Three New TE's Join The Ranks

By: Dustin M.

The past few weeks have been flourishing with activity in our Transitional Employment Program (TEP). For those who are not aware, we currently have positions at the Fayette Campus Workforce Development Center (WDC) on Connellsville Street in the front office and the daytime mobile janitorial crew.

Also, the Clubhouse has placements in the community at Sullivan Brothers Coffee Company, as well as a seasonal position in the laundry facilities at Nemaocolin Woodlands. The Clubhouse is working in earnest to obtain additional placements for members who desire to enter the workforce.

Krysta C. began her first TEP on July 30, 2019 at Sullivan Brothers Coffee Company where she performs cleaning and dishwashing. The owner, also an Advisory Council Member, spotlighted Krysta and her dedication on his Facebook page a few days after she started. He mentioned how well-trained she was and the benefits the TE Program provides to small businesses such as his.

On the same day George H. started his placement at the front office at the Fayette Campus WDC. His superiors were extremely pleased with his performance and dedication to the job. He will be an asset to the agency that will not be forgotten.

Lastly, Tammy G. started with the daylight mobile janitorial crew on August 5. While the daily shift of the position is only two hours, five days a week, the crew fills a necessary need to keep the facilities of several human services agencies up to par. The service they provide would otherwise be very costly if maintained in-house by these agencies. This is our second placement to this crew and it has been made known that the hard work and dedication of our placements is much appreciated!

Congratulations and Best of Luck to all new TEP's and all current TE's, SE's and IE's.



Goodwill 9
Southwestern Pennsylvania Goodwill

www.goodwillswpa.org