**Union Station Clubhouse** 

# Newsletter

#### Game Day

By: Rebekah M.



On Saturday March 30, some members and staff came to the clubhouse for an in-house function. We spent time socializing and playing games. In addition, we were served pizza and soda.

The day was filled with so much fun! I really enjoyed myself! It was a good change for a lot of the members because it gave them the ability to come out of their house and enjoy their weekend. It is my hope that Clubhouse will continue holding Saturday in-house functions.

## Member Spotlight: Jesse B.

By: George H.

Jesse B. has been at the Clubhouse program for about four years and enjoys the fact that it helps him to get out of his comfort zone by making friends with both members and staff. This has resulted in him learning various social skills, which are important in learning how to cook meals when working as a team with more than one person.

The social skills he has acquired have also empowered him to build on the friendship and comradery listed above at the program. Jesse hopes to use the skills he has acquired since day one to eventually achieve his ultimate goal, which is to obtain employment and gain independence.



#### Autism Awareness in Fayette County

By: Dustin M.

It's that time again, April is Autism Awareness Month and for this year, I decided to bring the facts specific to Autism to the forefront of Fayette County. According to the ASERT, (Autism Services, Education, Resources and Training), there was an increase of 117% of individuals on the spectrum served between 2005 and 2011.

Of the 2011 count, in Fayette County, the majority of individuals with autism receiving services are between the ages of 5-17. However, the number of adults over 21 years old is increasing as the population of individuals with autism receiving services ages. Furthermore, with it being 2019, this means the majority of individuals will be coming of age in the near future.

As a result. I personally believe we need to step up the game of services provided to adults on the spectrum. We need support groups for High-Functioning adults to address the issues that they have as well as provide the supports specific to their needs, such as housing initiatives, better personal care needs and other initiatives. The goal should be to make those on the spectrum successful and productive members of the community and society.

While there is no cure for Autism, and it is lifelong, we need to secure a lifetime continuum of supports as individuals age over the years. We also must be grateful for the experts at the universities throughout the commonwealth for their dedication and expertise to those dedicated to the cause. Furthermore, we are also thankful to those at the Department of Human Services along with the state advocacy organizations that look for the wellbeing of individuals on the spectrum for years to come.

## Pizza & Movie Night

By: Krysta C.

On March 22, 2019, Clubhouse held its monthly Pizza & Movie Night. A lot of members attended the event in which we watched a very good movie. While watching the movie, we were served pizza and drinks. Everyone really enjoyed watching the movie, and we had a good time with one another. I cannot wait till we do it again next month because the individuals of the Clubhouse are like family to me and I really enjoy spending time with them.





