

Can you find the 10 changes to the picture of our Friendsgiving celebration?

To see what changed, go to page 2.

PIN Friendsgiving



PIN Friendsgiving with Changes



contact us...

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MEMBER NEWS

Josh, a PIN member since August 2013, recently volunteered to serve on the PIN Steering Committee as the Member Liaison. In this position, Josh participates in meetings, relays information discussed in meetings to the member community, gathers input, and represents member perspectives in Steering Committee meetings and activities. Josh is a staunch advocate for himself and his peers. It is no surprise that he routinely volunteers to help new members feel welcome and to learn the ropes.



A Big Welcome to All our New Members!



Sam



From the left, Laura, Chrissy and Nicole

Congratulations to Our Many Members Who Started New Jobs!



Kyle has a volunteer internship at Staples



Nicole has a volunteer internship at Penn Wissahocken Hospice and Great Expectations Together



Laura has a paid position at Narberth Presbyterian Church and a volunteer internship at Creative Works and Great Expectations Together



Elyse has a volunteer internship at PALS



Chrissy has a paid position at LA Fitness



David has a paid position at Villanova University

PIN POINTS

a newsletter from

Philadelphia Independence Network

Volume 9

Spring 2016

JEVS Human Services' Community-Based Program, Where Young Adults with Disabilities Live in Their Own Apartments, with Supports



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Ryan's **TRANSITION** to Work

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Don't Worry
We're Here to Help!

FUN TIME
at PIN's Friendsgiving

PIN is a program of JEVS Human Services



Ryan's Transition to Work

By Ryan

I joined PIN in September of 2014 after I completed the Threshold Program at Lesley University.

Around the same time I met with my OVR counselor to get help finding work. I had volunteered at Lankenau Medical Center during my senior year in high school and during school breaks while at Lesley, so I was very happy when my OVR counselor told me about a job training program based at Lankenau called Project Search. At her suggestion, I applied and was accepted for the Project Search class which began in January 2015.

During Project Search I received classroom instruction in basic job skills and I had three 12 week "hands on" internships in different areas of Main Line Health System's (MLHS) operations. During each internship I received direction from the MLHS supervisor to whom my position reported, help from a "peer mentor" who was a regular employee in that job, and guidance from a job coach from the Project Search staff. My first internship was in food service in the Lankenau cafeteria, where I primarily did stocking work in the busy cafeteria environment. My second internship was in the Mail Room at Bryn Mawr Hospital, where I sorted mail and made mail deliveries within the hospital.

Just as I was about to begin my third internship, an opening was posted on the MLHS job site for a cafeteria worker at Lankenau. I had really enjoyed working in food service, so I asked if I could be



Ryan at work with (from left) Jennifer DeLuca, his supervisor and hiring manager and Amanda Privado, senior job coach and head of Lankenau Project Search team.

considered for this position. My job coach approached Jennifer DeLuca, my manager during my first internship, who agreed to create an internship specifically designed to see if I could handle all of the duties of the posted position. With the support of Jennifer, my peer mentor and my Project Search job coach, this final internship was a success, and I was offered a regular part-time position as a Food Service Assistant in the cafeteria at Lankenau. Because my final internship mirrored the actual duties of the posted job, my transition to regular part-time employment in the Food Service Department at Lankenau has gone very smoothly. I love my new job, and now I even serve as a peer mentor to new Project Search interns.

Lankenau Hospital is close to Narberth and can be easily reached by public transportation. This makes Project Search one more terrific option available to PIN members who want to receive additional job training that could lead to a well-paying job. It worked for me!

Answers to the Game

- Owl on top of wall unit
- Bracelet on woman's wrist
- Greens on woman's plate
- Cat on back of woman's chair
- Eyeglasses added to one man
- SEPTA logo added to a man's hat
- Hat with red flower added for one man
- Cup on front table changed from white to blue
- Decal added to sleeve of front man's shirt
- Flame added to the candle

The Next Big Step

By Chrissy

I am happy to say that I recently completed the Career and Community Studies program at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ). I lived at TCNJ with roommates in a house close to campus. I learned a lot there about independence. I didn't want to move back in with my parents. That would be like moving backwards and I was ready to move forward. One of my TCNJ housemates, Nicole, and I decided that PIN would be a good next step instead of moving back home to live with our parents. We wanted to live on our own. I really like living independently in my own apartment with Nicole.

In the beginning, I was nervous about coming here. I had to leave a job that I loved to move here and start fresh. It was scary at first thinking that nobody really knows me, but a few things were helpful in my transition. First, before I came to PIN I visited Narberth with my parents to learn about the area. The 2nd day that Nicole and I were in our new apartment,



Nicole (left) and Chrissy (right) in their apartment.

the PIN Director and some of the members gave Nicole and me a tour of Narberth and showed us some of their favorite shops and restaurants. They helped us find the closest grocery store. I came here from New Jersey and was not very familiar at all with the Philadelphia area. I also did not have a lot of experience using public transportation. I'm starting to get used to Narberth and can find my way around.

About 3 weeks after I joined the PIN program, I was offered a job at LA Fitness in the child care room. I like my new job a lot and have a very understanding boss! I take the bus to work and this was very new for me. I had both members and staff help me to learn to take the bus. In the beginning they rode with me on the bus to help me get comfortable. It only took 1 week until I could take it on my own!

It helped to have my roommate Nicole join with me. Also, everyone at PIN was so welcoming. Even though I'm still getting to know the PIN members, I am starting to make friends here. I do wish there were more girls... right now there are 5 girls and 13 guys. I'm also still gaining confidence and trying not to have my guard up if I want to try something new. Overall, I'm still learning PIN and the area and I am going to take it one day at a time.

New to PIN? Don't Worry. We're Here to Help!

By Josh

What I realize is when a new member comes to PIN, at first they are really worried. We help them learn about the scheduling and routine at PIN. We understand each member is different in their own way. Once we get to know them, we can find out how we can help, and we try to help them as much as possible so they have a chance to get used to PIN. We invite them to hang out with us at gatherings in our apartments, or local restaurants. We try to include them and make them feel a part of group activities. We give new members tours around Narberth, and give advice on our favorite spots and shops. We also give our opinions on places that are not the best. We show them the train and bus schedules and stops, and if they want the support, we sometimes ride along with them until they get comfortable. We help them see that Narberth is small, and we are part of the community. So as we all learn, new to PIN, no worries.

