



# Village Clubhouse

Winter  
2026  
Edition

Creating Change Through Community

## JOYOUS WINTER

As winter comes to a close, we're pleased to share a few highlights from the past several months at the Clubhouse.

We welcomed visits from USM college students, celebrated members' New Year goals and resolutions, and continued to spotlight employment achievements and transitional employment placements. We also marked a leadership transition, saying farewell to one Assistant Director and welcoming our new Assistant Director to the team.

In addition, we brought our community together by organizing a Valentine's Day dance and hosting several celebratory gatherings. We are especially proud to recognize and congratulate colleagues who have achieved important educational milestones during this time.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to a productive and memorable season.

## NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS & GOALS

As part of the new year we held a new years party on January 2<sup>nd</sup> for our extended evening program. This was a time when we collectively shared and supported each other in our goals for the next year with each other. Below are some of our colleagues goals for this year.

"I want to spend more time with family."

"To make better choices food wise."

"I don't want to be upset and I'd like to work on being nicer to other people."

"To have better boundaries and stay single."

"To continue to heal and grow."

"To clean my room so that I can get new furniture."

"To save money and travel."

"To spread good vibes and lose weight."

"To maintain friendships."



# USM OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS

Village Clubhouse has had the privilege of collaborating with the talented occupational therapy students from the University of Southern Maine (USM). Over the course of five weeks, the students joined us every Friday, working alongside our colleagues during the work-ordered day. During their time with us, they engaged with members, conducted interviews, and gained valuable insight into the Clubhouse Model.



Here are some personal statements from a few of the students!

**“Its been a wonderful experience to be taught by colleagues and I’ve appreciated every minute of it!”- AJ Pettengill**

**“My experience at Village Clubhouse has allowed me to connect with members and develop therapeutic relationships, a skill that I look forward to using in my future OT practice!” - Michael Cyr**

**“I have enjoyed getting to know all of the members at the Clubhouse so far! This experience has taught me so much about myself as a future occupational therapist!” -Annie von Seggern**

**“This experience has been so rewarding! It has helped me develop my therapeutic skills to help members and future clients!”- Kelly Curran**



# TRANSITIONAL & SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Supported employment emphasizes individualized support, ensuring that members receive the level of assistance they choose in order to successfully maintain their employment. The Clubhouse plays an important role in providing this support in a variety of ways. This can include regular check-ins, practicing workplace conversations through role-playing, advocating with the employer at the member's request, assisting with reporting earnings to benefits and entitlement programs, and offering ongoing guidance as needed. Members are empowered to build confidence, maintain stability in their roles, and continue progressing toward their personal and professional goals.



Billy began his new supported employment position with Hudson Bus Lines in February, working as a bus aide.

Billy states his favorite part of his job is “being able to interact with the kids.”

Eli began participating in the Merrymeeting Food Council Farm Skills Training Program on March 23. Through this program, he will learn the fundamentals of gardening, participate in farm tours, and gain exposure to farm equipment. This opportunity provides Eli with paid work experience while developing practical, hands-on skills in the labor field. Eli shared that he is most looking forward to “expanding my knowledge” through this experience.



Transitional employment is a pillar of the Clubhouse model and allows members to obtain real paid employment opportunities through our community partnership with local employers. Colleagues working in Transitional Employment are provided support similar to supported employment in addition to transportation support, placement management and more.



Andrew finished up his 9 month placement at Old Navy on March 13th!

AJ started his 6-9 month placement at Spindleworks on December 15th!



Hunter started his 9 month Placement at Wendy's on January 5th!

Abby finished her 9 month Placement at Wicked Whoopies on January 8th!



## SUPPORTED EDUCATION

In fall of 2025 Sam graduated from University of Maine at Augusta with a degree in Liberal Studies!! Sam plans to march with his class on May 9th 2026.

“I'm glad that Clubhouse allowed me the space to work on my college stuff.”

Sam hopes to use his degree to pursue a career in archival science.



# ASSISTANT DIRECTOR CHANGES: SAYING GOODBYE TO RICK AND HELLO TO SELENA



On Friday December 5, 2025 we said see you later to our assistant director of the last 5 years Rick before he transitioned to a new role with Maine Health! This was a time where we as a community celebrated successes and shared our favorite memories while working with Rick. Over his years here at Village Clubhouse Rick has helped support colleagues in their housing, employment, and education needs.

### What we will miss most about Rick:

“I’ll miss your dad jokes and the way you work through any obstacle that comes your way. Thank you for everything you have done for me.” - Aspen

“I’m going to miss Rick making me laugh.” - Julia

“How he includes everyone in everything!” - Hal

“I’ll miss his dad jokes and our talks about sports and music.” - John T.

“I’ll miss his presence.” - Dylan

“His passion for the Clubhouse.” - Judy

“I’ll miss the laughs we shared, the discussions we had and honestly the list is long but also all he did for Clubhouse.” - Chris P.

“I’ll miss his sense of humor.” - Mandie

“I’ll miss having the Batman to my Robin around!” - Kim



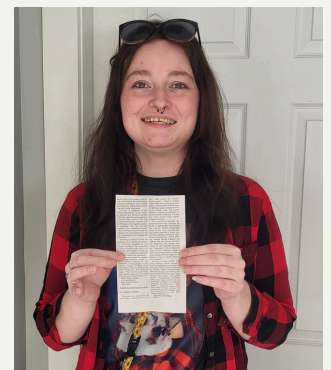
On Monday February 2, 2026 we welcomed our new Assistant Director Selena Wetherby. Selena comes to us from our sister Clubhouse Looking Ahead Clubhouse where she has worked as a unit coordinator for the last 3 years. Selena graduated from the University of Southern Maine in 2020 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work. Before she started her Clubhouse journey, Selena was a Child Protective Caseworker for the State of Maine. Some of her favorite Clubhouse projects at LAC have been helping organize their annual community event Standing Together in Growing Mental Health Awareness (S.T.I.G.M.A), and creating community connections to help improve member’s lives and Clubhouse programming. In her Free time Selena can be found, crafting, cooking, or spending time on the beach (yes even in the Maine winters).

# CHEYENNE’S FEATURE IN THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS

During one of her fall semester courses, Cheyenne wrote an article addressing the need for mental health support and resources to reduce crime.

We want to congratulate her on this assignment then being published in the Bangor Daily News!

”It wasn’t part of the assignment but encouraged to send it in to a news paper publisher. I thought I would just send it in just for fun to see if I would get lucky. I was so happy when I received the email saying they would publish it. It was the first time I had anything published. Hopefully not the last!”



# CLUBHOUSE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

On January 9th, we had the pleasure of celebrating our colleague Anthony and his partner Jess as they prepare to welcome their new baby. The gathering was filled with games, laughter, and heartfelt moments as colleagues came together to share stories, well wishes, and advice for the exciting journey of parenthood ahead.

As a community, we were proud to support Anthony and Jess by organizing a collection of baby essentials to help them prepare for their new arrival. Colleagues generously contributed a variety of thoughtful items, including onesies, toys, and a bassinet, ensuring the soon-to-be parents feel supported as they get ready to welcome their bundle of joy.

The celebration was a wonderful reminder of the strength and generosity of our workplace community. It was a meaningful opportunity to show our support for Anthony and Jess during this special milestone, and we look forward to celebrating the arrival of their newest family member.

In February, Anthony and his partner Jess, welcomed baby boy Braley!  
 Congratulations from your Clubhouse colleagues!!!



In Clubhouse we do our best to create opportunities to engage in our community while increasing positive peer bonds. Some highlights from January include colleagues traveling to Bowdoin College for a hockey game, and hosting a baby shower for our colleague Anthony! While in February we held our valentine's dance and Cupcake wars! In March we spent time with 2 of our sister Clubhouses in Maine working to strengthen our natural supports.

## Bowling with LAC

## Bowdoin Hockey



## Valentine's Dance

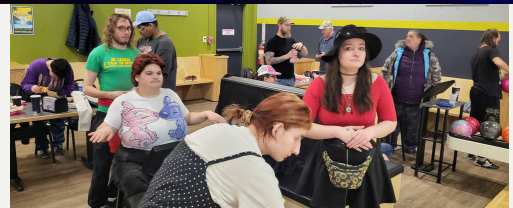


5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Verdelle	3	4	7	5	X	1	7	9	9	5	7	98
Amber	7	14	34	52	60	69	88					67
Yaz	1	5	6	1	2	7	7	3				60

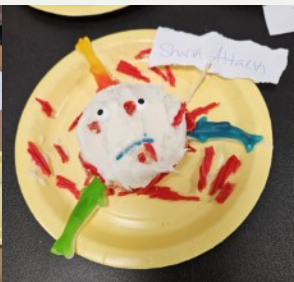
  

6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
John T	9	12	20	29	36							36
Trio	8	8	4	4	8	7						40
Marcus	3	7	8	11	6							25
Shelly	0	1	8	0	1	9	3					52

PROFESSIONAL BOWLER DON CARTER WAS THE FIRST ATHLETE TO LAND A MILLION DOLLAR ENDORSEMENT.  
 111,111,111 X 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,901,054,321



## Cupcake wars



# WORK ORDERED DAY



## ADVISORY BOARD & SPONSORS

**Cheyenne Hutchins** – Member colleague

**Judy Martin**- Clubhouse Director

**Selena Wetherby**- Clubhouse Assistant Director

**Brandi Farrington** – Administrator of Community Support Services, KBH

**Michelle Baldwin**- Program Director of Tedford Shelter

**Hayley Smith-Rose** – Radio Personality and Host of Hot Radio Maine 104.7FM

**Madison Samson**- Officer at the Topsham Police Department

**Bethany Skelton** - Vocational Rehab Counselor

**Matthew Beck**- Maine State Representative, South Portland District

**Susan Noyes** - Professor and Chair of Occupational Therapy, University of Southern Maine

### Transitional Employment Partnerships

Old Navy

Wendy's

Spindleworks



If you are interested in scheduling a tour, please call the Clubhouse at 207-837-6260.

If you are an employer and would like to partner with the Clubhouse, please feel free to reach out to us as well!

### Follow us online!



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