



119 Main Street, Topsham, Maine 04086

"Creating Change Through Community"

# 2025 Year in Review

## JANUARY



### Colleagues getting CPR/First Aid Certified

Clubhouse Standard 25. The Clubhouse assists members to reach their vocational and educational goals by helping them take advantage of educational opportunities in the community. When the Clubhouse also provides an in-house education program, it significantly utilizes the teaching and tutoring skills of members.

In January, Cheyenne, Andrew and Eli traveled to Capitol Clubhouse to participate in CPR/First Aid Training. This was a hands on learning experience where the 3 of them were immersed in various scenarios to learn skills. They all finished the training and gained a 2 year certification. This training also allowed Cheyenne, Eli and Andrew to connect and work alongside colleagues from other clubhouses, strengthening their relationships in their larger community.

## FEBRUARY

### John finishes his TE Placement at Spindlegworks

Transitional Employment (TE) is a pivotal part of the Clubhouse Model. In February, John completed his 6 month placement at Spindlegworks through our TE partnership. This was John's first TE placement with Clubhouse. John had not worked in the last 3 years before this placement and has gone on to work at other TE placements such as Wendy's where he has been able to build skills, his resume and create employer references for his future employment goals.

"I find TE's very fulfilling because I have learned new skills as well as ones I may have forgotten. Plus I usually end up liking my co-workers." John



## MARCH



### Second Clubhouse International Accreditation

Completing our second Clubhouse International Accreditation is a testament to our dedication and the vibrant community we've built together. We were honored to welcome Audrey from Fountain House and James from Yahara House as our accreditation team. Their visit, spanning from March 10th to 12th, provided valuable insights as they immersed themselves in our Work-Ordered Day, participated in unit meetings, and interacted with our advisory board, employers, staff, and Clubhouse members. Their findings report, delivered on the final day, celebrated our strengths and offered thoughtful recommendations for further growth. This feedback is invaluable as we strive to continually improve and serve our community better. We're excited to carry forward the insights gained and are grateful for the formal recognition of our efforts by Clubhouse International.

### Sharing culture within our community!

What a wonderful opportunity to celebrate diversity and learn from one another! Having Yazy and her mom, Samira, share their Moroccan culture through cooking was an enriching experience for everyone involved. Moroccan cuisine is renowned for its vibrant flavors, aromatic spices, and rich traditions. Such cultural exchanges foster understanding and camaraderie, making the workplace a more inclusive and harmonious environment. It's wonderful to see colleagues come together to celebrate and learn from each other's backgrounds.



# APRIL

## Second annual Space day

We were honored to welcome Brian, Sharon, and Diane from NASA back to the Clubhouse for our 2nd Annual Space Day. This annual partnership provides an incredible opportunity for our members to engage with real NASA professionals and deepen their understanding of space exploration. Our guests from NASA delivered an engaging presentation about the realities of space travel, we learned about the rigorous training astronauts undergo, the unique challenges of living and working aboard the International Space Station, and how astronauts manage basic needs such as eating, sleeping, and exercising in a microgravity environment.



## Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Officer visit



On April 16<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed NAMI Maine who was hosting a Crisis Intervention training (CIT) to officers and dispatchers from Augusta, Cape Elizabeth, Bath, Brunswick, Bowdoin College Security, Topsham, Boothbay, Cumberland police departments, Sagadahoc Sheriff's Office, and Lincoln County Sheriff's Office. Through this partnership the Clubhouse model was shared and members shared their personal stories of recovery and how Clubhouse has positively impacted their lives.

# MAY

## Kim and Lainey attended world seminar

During the Clubhouse International World Seminar, Lainey and Kim engaged deeply with the global community dedicated to mental health support, gaining valuable insights and sharing their expertise. Their co-facilitated workshop was a highlight, as it brought together diverse perspectives on integrating education into the work-ordered day—a system that structures work and community activities for members. By collaborating with colleagues from Unlimited Solutions Clubhouse and Grand Avenue Clubhouse, they were able to showcase successful strategies and innovative practices that have been honed through previous training sessions at Genesis Clubhouse and Alliance House. This collaborative effort not only reinforced the importance of education in supporting mental health recovery but also strengthened the bonds within the international Clubhouse community, fostering an environment of mutual learning and growth.



# MAY CONTINUED

## Cheyenne Graduates with her associates degree!

Cheyenne's educational journey exemplifies the transformative power of community support and personal dedication. By leveraging the resources offered by Clubhouse and community, she



successfully earned an associate degree in Criminal Justice from Central Maine Community College on May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Her academic path didn't stop there; she is now ambitiously pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Mental Health and Human Services with minors in Sociology and Public Administration at the University of Maine at Augusta. Cheyenne's commitment to her education and passion for helping others position her to make a significant impact in her future career. With her sights set on working with at-risk youth, she is on a promising path to contribute positively to her community, illustrating the importance of educational opportunities in achieving vocational goals.

# JUNE

## Second Round of Drivers Education



The partnership between Village Clubhouse and Carver's Driving School is a testament to the power of collaboration in empowering individuals to achieve their goals. Through grant funding, this initiative has successfully facilitated the journey of six colleagues towards gaining their

driver's permit, alongside providing them with 10 hours of practical driving experience. This not only enhances their independence but also expands their opportunities for personal and professional growth. The broader collaboration with sister Clubhouses—High Hopes, Capitol, and Looking Ahead—further amplifies the impact, enabling more colleagues to pursue their aspirations. Such initiatives highlight the importance of community support systems in helping individuals navigate their path to success.

# JULY

## Young at Heart group started

This year our colleagues took the lead in establishing a "Young at Heart Committee". This committee is designed to support our adults within the Clubhouse community through connection and lived experiences.



# AUGUST

## KBH annual management BBQ at Village



Every year our leadership from our Auspice Agency come down to the Clubhouse and BBQ with the members and staff. This is a great opportunity for our Clubhouse community to with our Auspice supporters and build relationships in our broader community.

# AUGUST CONTINUED

## Maine Coalition BBQ at Capitol

For the first time this summer all 5 of the Clubhouse in the state of Maine got together for a BBQ at Capitol Clubhouse. On Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> a group of Village colleagues spent the day connecting with colleagues from all over the state. This was a great time to see already established collegial relationships and make new ones while also in true Clubhouse fashion, sharing ideas and our different communities.



# SEPTEMBER

## Anthony achieves DSP of the Year



Anthony was awarded Direct Support Professional (DSP) of the year through his long term employment with Independence Association. Anthony started working with Independence through TE and upon his completion, His employer maintained his employment through their maintenance and then becoming a DSP.

## First Alumni BBQ

In September, we hosted our very first Alumni BBQ. We invited colleagues who no longer attend the Clubhouse to join us for some BBQ and reminisce about changes since they last attended.



## Annual NAMI Walk

Our yearly trip to Augusta to support NAMI Maine for the walk was great. This is a great opportunity to see local providers and access community resources all while supporting mental health.



# OCTOBER

## Mental health awareness month



October is Mental Health awareness month and this year we asked colleagues "What does Mental Health mean to you?"

Colleagues stated various responses such as: focus, care, happiness, healing, and harmony. At Village Clubhouse we celebrate each other for our successes and differences but one thing that brings us together is our common goal of reducing the stigma of Mental Health.

# OCTOBER CONTINUED

## Annual apple picking trip



We had a great turn out for our annual trip to Rocky Ridge Orchard where we picked apples. The majority of the crew decided to have conversations while enjoying fresh baked goods and a select few trekked out into the orchard.



Clubhouse Standard 32. The Clubhouse has recreational and social programs during evenings and on weekends. Holidays are celebrated on the actual day they are observed.

## Annual Halloween party



This year's Halloween theme was inspired by Classic Horror Films. Our front yard was transformed into a spooky pet cemetery and a chilling camping scene. The Halloween party featured our annual potluck, a costume contest, and the classic doughnut-eating contest on a string.

# NOVEMBER

## Tedford Building opening

Judy and Nialania attended the opening of the new Tedford Emergency Shelter Building.

The grand opening event was on November 20, 2025. The new shelter, can accommodate 24 adults and 10 families at a time. It combines two of Tedford's existing shelters into one building and will increase existing capacity by about 60% and the family units can have up to 8 individuals/family members accommodated.

Being able to engage in our community with our community partners is a great way to know the resources available and support our Clubhouse community as a whole.

"I like the security feature and also their ability to accommodate big families. The most interesting part of the whole building is that the family units are set up like an apartment. They also have ADA accessible units." - Nialania

For more information visit:  
<https://www.tedfordhousing.org/>



## Judy is our new Director



We welcomed Judy from a unit coordinator as our new Director! Judy started working at Village Clubhouse in November of 2022 and has been working our food services unit alongside colleagues!

"Judy is bright and she brings new ideas to every meeting and encourages us all to do better." - Aspen

"Judy is already helping to shape our culture and direction through this transition." - Nialania

# DECEMBER

## Holiday Spirit week

A cherished annual tradition at the Clubhouse to kick off the holiday season is Spirit Week. This year, we embraced the festive spirit by wearing holiday-themed socks, ugly sweaters, holiday hats, and participating in red-and-green day. The week culminated with a cozy PJ day, leading up to our much-anticipated Christmas party.



## Annual Christmas party

During our annual Christmas Party we had many colleagues participate in activities including our yankee swap and a potluck. Many laughs were shared and this years most sought after item during the Yankee Swap was a Dunkin gift card. Some other popular items were a giant peanut butter whoopie pie and emotional support fries.



“My favorite part of the Christmas party was the food because I like trying new foods.” Aspen  
 “I liked that we played christmas music and I got to hang out with my friends.” Alexis  
 “I enjoyed laughing throughout the Yankee Swap and spending time with my friends.” Liz  
 “I enjoyed seeing everyone’s creativity with their holiday PJs and sharing memories while enjoying good food together.” Kim

## ADVISORY BOARD & SPONSORS

- Judy Martin** – Clubhouse Director
- Cheyenne Hutchins** – Member Colleague
- 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
- Bethany Skelton** – Vocational Rehabilitation
- Kevin Jones** – General Manager of Old Navy, Freeport, Maine
- Madison Samson**- Officer at the Topsham Police Department
- Matthew Beck**- Maine State Representative, South Portland District

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!



## Transitional Employment Partnerships

- Old Navy
- T.J Maxx
- Wendy’s
- Spindleworks
- Wicked Whoopies



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