

PIN POINTS

a newsletter from

Philadelphia Independence Network

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

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to Work

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PIN is a program of JEVS Human Services


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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.

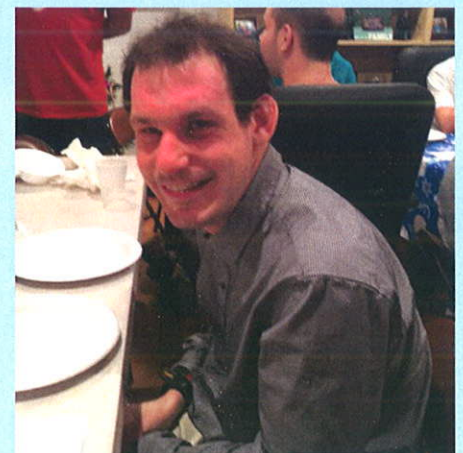
About 3 weeks after I joined the PIN program, I was offered a job at LA Fitness in the child care room. I like my new job a lot and have a very understanding boss! I take the bus to work and this was very new for me. I had both members and staff help me to learn to take the bus. In the beginning they 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.



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