



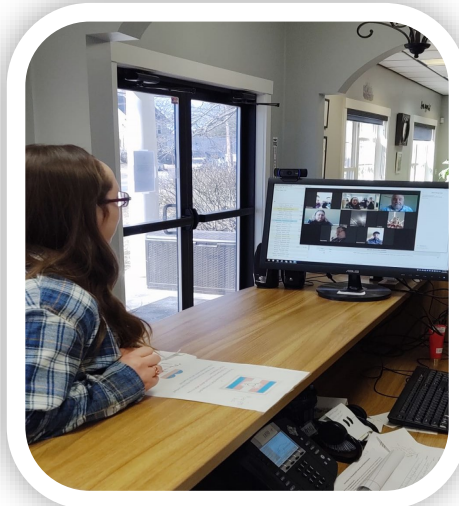
The Village Vibe Summer Edition 2020

Concurring COVID-19

Our Tag line **Creating Change Through Community** has never felt more significant than now. The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic created many challenges for all of us here at Village Clubhouse. On March 17th, we had to make the difficult decision to interrupt our ability to work with members inside of our physical building for a period of six weeks. The staff team and membership did an exceptional job at adjusting to the changes and challenges during this time.

A tremendous amount of energy and collaboration went into connecting with members and development of a hybrid model of operation. We developed a daily reach out schedule and quickly implemented a delivery of Clubhouse programming in a variety of different ways. We connected through our Facebook page, live streams and daily facilitation of Zoom meetings and workshops. For a period of six weeks, we did not have any members in the Clubhouse. On May 7th after receiving word from the agency that the restrictions for social gathering had loosened we were able to develop dynamic and diverse safety protocols and procedures to begin the process of bringing members back on site. We started with six members per day organizing into morning and afternoon block shifts. Each shift was four hours each with time in between for cleaning and sanitizing. We were absolutely thrilled to have members back in the building. We continued providing telehealth services on a daily basis in order to accommodate members not able or unwilling to reenter the physical building at that time. The next step regarding capacity consisted of bringing in more members on a daily basis with a plan to begin scheduling tours for potential new members. As a result of increased capacity, we were able to serve over 80% of our membership on site and actually saw an increase in our member retentions and referrals. In June we experienced an influx of new member referrals and were successful increasing our membership overall.

Zoom ... Zoom... Every Day WE Zoom.....



Celebrating Working Members



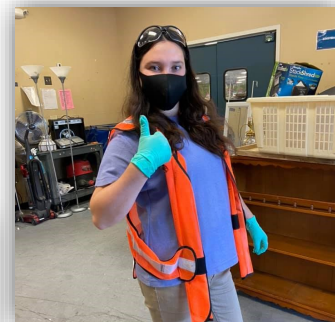
David Westman



Matthew Davison



Brandy Thomas



Miranda Doak



Gavin Munsey

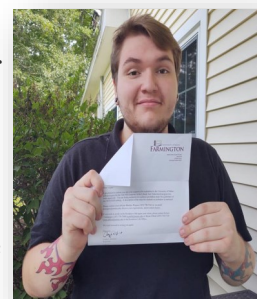


Devonia Redlon

Continuing Education



In the best of times making the decision to go back to college or finishing high school can be stressful. Throw a global pandemic into the equation and many individuals can feel added stress. Join us in celebrating both Logan and Tom as they persevered and achieved their individual goals. Logan is pursuing a degree in Liberal Studies at The University of Farmington in the Fall.



Tom graduated with honors from Mount Ararat High School in June.

Wellness

The Clubhouse continues to promote wellness in our daily routines. We are fortunate to have so many community partners to help us achieve and maintain our wellness goals.



Village Swag Store



We are the Village People !! We have partnered with Elliott Office Products Inc in the designing and purchasing of our Village Swag. We have several items available for purchase such as, t-shirts, baseball tee's, sweatshirts, hats and logo masks.



Village Clubhouse Walks For NAMI



The NAMI Walk goes VIRTUAL this year. Traditionally the walk is one of the biggest fundraising events the Clubhouse participates in. This year's walk was entirely different. Village Clubhouse collectively fundraised over \$200.00 for this event through

bottle collection and private donations.

Young Adults Happenings



We started the process of implementing a young adult committee here at the Clubhouse in early February. We are working to identify and discuss the unique needs and interests of our young adult population. Our young adults have put a lot of time and effort into the creation of expectations and guidelines in order to create a framework for the committee. Their focus has been to introduce the Clubhouse community and model to other young adults, outreach young adults in order to support and engage in the work ordered day, identify and present the Clubhouse Model to the community with a focus on area high schools and vocational programs, and buddy with young adults in our community through the work ordered day.

ZOOM Helped Me Connect



“When the Clubhouse was closed due to the COVID-19, pandemic, being able to participate in Zoom every morning helped me stay connected. It made me feel like I was still involved in the Clubhouse. I was feeling overwhelmed by the pandemic, but I got through it by using my coping skills through Zoom.. Some of the activities I did to stay busy during this time was sorting buttons, practiced my money skills by working in my math books, played board games, baking, and participating in community activities at the local nursing homes. I also engaged in unit work remotely by making special birthday cards for my peers. When I heard that we could start coming back to the Clubhouse I was glad to return. Being at the Clubhouse helps me not dwell on things in my past.” Penny Smith



“For me , isolation was difficult. I consider myself an extrovert. Zoom was the only thing that allowed me to communicate and have conversations with others. It was helpful for my mental health, in that I isolated less. I went on a nature walk with Zoom . Participating remotely enabled me to still have a voice in the decision making at the Clubhouse, even though I wasn't able to be there in person. My employment at Old Navy was affected for a period for seven weeks. It was essentially put on hold.. Job coaches were great at keeping me in the loop, letting me know when I would be able to start .“ David Westman



“Not being at the Clubhouse was difficult for me. I started at the Clubhouse right before the pandemic began. I liked cooking in the kitchen, answering the phones, and reading news of the day. The shutdown made me feel unhappy and bored. I felt very happy when I could start coming back to the Clubhouse. I like being with my peers and making new friends.” Stephanie Delano



“My experience from the onset of COVID was that I was very nervous coming back to the Clubhouse. Prior to the pandemic I was attending four to five days per week, seven hours per day. When COVID hit I felt very much in the dark and didn't know how to take back my life. Because of the reach out and connections I experienced with colleagues I eventually became more comfortable with returning to the Clubhouses physical building. As I became more comfortable I gradually increased my time from one day to four days. I feel perfectly at home and safe. Coming back to Clubhouse has made all the difference in my life. I'm happy to be back.” Krista Hodsdon

ZOOM Helped Me Connect (continued)



"I have been a member of the Clubhouse for around 18 months. At the time of the virus outbreak I had been a member for about a year.

I did not feel connected to the clubhouse at all. I would only come once in a while maybe 5 times a month if that. I could not get myself to feel comfortable while being there. I could not make friends . I would only come into Clubhouse for a couple hours to use the computers to look for work. I did not feel much support from anyone. The virus broke and zoom started interacting with the clubhouse. I started to understand more of how the clubhouse worked. I started to build confidence in the staff team. I started to build relationships with the people that zoomed. There was a core group that had been zooming all the time. This helped me feel much more a part of the clubhouse. I started enjoying all the zoom activity, I was looking forward to each zoom meeting to see everyone that I was connecting with. It was a different kind of connection and it was working for

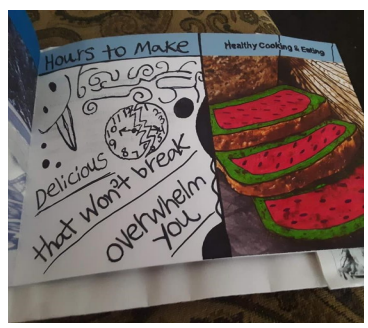
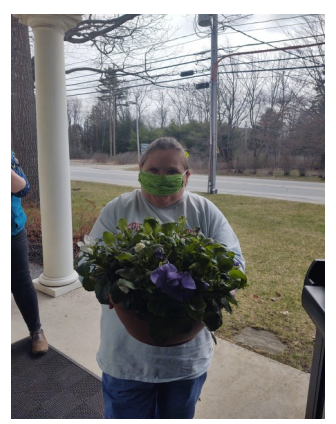
me.

Once the clubhouse reopened I felt like I belonged there. I was part of each day's actives to the fullest. I attend most days each week for the morning time until about 12 :00 or 12:30 each morning I arrive around 7:30 to check people in . I feel like this is my job to suit up and show up and it gives me a purpose each day that I awake. To be motivated. I enjoy attending each day with enthusiasm. And when I have to miss a day do to appointments I miss going to the clubhouse."

Nyingje Rioux

Clubhouse Gets Creative

Our Colleagues tapped into their creative sides during the pandemic. Here are a few pictures of some of our members who took initiative during their time away from the Clubhouse . Pictured below is Vicki Fleury with her crocheted afghan.. Nyingje Rioux planned and facilitated WRAP presentations once we restarted our work ordered day operations. Penny Smith dropped by the Clubhouse to bring us some Spring pansies. Logan Mason spent some time adding to his art portfolio and Victoria Molta dropped off yummy treats to share with the community.



Advisory Board Updates

We are happy to announce a couple of additions to our Advisory Board.

Please help us in welcoming Kevin Jones, General Manager of Old Navy. We'd also like to welcome Brandi Farrington who is the Administrator of Community Services with Kennebec Behavioral Health.



- Candy Lessard– Director
- Amanda Kinsey– Assistant Director
- Giff Jamison– Program Director of Tedford Shelter
- Melissa Winchester– CMS Supervisor, Sweeter
- Tad Stride—Peer support Specialist, Sweetser
- Brandy Thomas– Member of VCH
- Krista Hodsdon– Member of VCH

Upcoming Events

We are excited to participate in the first ever Virtual Clubhouse Conference. The ability to participate virtually will enable many more staff and colleagues the opportunity to participate in this incredibly diverse and unique experience.



Village Clubhouse Statistics

- Total Active Membership: 61**
- Average Daily Attendance: 25**
- Young Adults: 19**
- Members Engaged in Continuing Education: 6**
- Members Engaged in Wellness: 55**
- Members Working Transitional Employment: 6**
- Members Working Supported Employment: 8**
- Members Working Independent Employment: 10**

