

Village Clubhouse

Summer 2025 Edition

Creating Change Through Community





HAPPY SUMMER

It's been a fun and busy summer here at Village Clubhouse. We held our first Alumni Barbecue and enjoyed seeing old friends! Extended evening programming included Yard Game Olympics with colleagues from Looking Ahead Clubhouse, Comic Con Night, Water Wars, Mini Golf and dining out together! The Clubhouse is working to increase our connections in the community and have formed a Community Engagement Committee. Through Unit meetings we have worked together to update and create new and meaningful work tasks. The feedback from colleagues has been essential to this process.

UNE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY STUDENTS

Village Clubhouse has been fortunate to collaborate with the talented occupational therapy students from the University of New England (UNE), bringing innovative tools and strategies to support our members and strengthen the Clubhouse community. This partnership has provided valuable opportunities for growth and improvement in our work-ordered day.

In September through the end of October, the UNE students immersed themselves in the Clubhouse experience by actively participating in our work-ordered day, working side by side with members in each unit. Through thoughtful engagement, they conducted interviews with individuals to better understand the strengths, challenges, and unique dynamics of each unit. Their goal was to identify practical ways to enhance our daily operations and overall environment.



The culmination of their efforts was the presentation of their innovative projects to each unit. These presentations included demonstrations of the tools and strategies they developed to address specific needs identified during their time at the Clubhouse. Members and staff alike were guided on how to effectively implement these tools to improve productivity, organization, and collaboration within the work-ordered day.

We are deeply grateful for the UNE occupational therapy students' dedication and creativity. Their collaborative spirit and commitment to enhancing the Village Clubhouse have made a meaningful impact. This partnership exemplifies how academic-community collaborations can empower individuals and organizations to thrive.

Thank you to the University of New England and their occupational therapy program for their continued partnership. We look forward to future opportunities to work together in building a stronger, more innovative Clubhouse community.

WORK ORDERED DAY



SECOND ANNUAL SPACE DAY









2nd Annual Space Day: NASA Returns to the Clubhouse!

This past April, we were thrilled to welcome Brian, Sharon, and Diana from NASA back to the Clubhouse for our 2nd Annual Space Day!

This special event gave our members—and guests from our sister Clubhouses—a unique opportunity to interact with real NASA professionals and dive into the world of space exploration. Our NASA guests delivered a fascinating presentation on the realities of life in space. Members learned about: The intense training astronauts undergo

🤽 Daily life aboard the International Space Station

How astronauts eat, sleep, and exercise in microgravity

A lively Q&A session followed, with curious Clubhouse members asking thoughtful questions and receiving first-hand insights from the experts.

More than just a fun afternoon, Space Day sparked inspiration, curiosity, and a deeper interest in STEM careers among our youth.

We're so grateful to NASA for their continued support and commitment to youth outreach—and we're already looking forward to Space Day next year!

TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT UPDATES

We would like to highlight our members who were in a transitional employment placement over this Summer. 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.



andrew: Old Navy



Alexus: T.J Maxx



Aspen: Goodwill



Abby: Wicked Whoopies



Johnmarcus: T.J Maxx



Eli: Spindleworks



Cheyenne: T.J Maxx



John T: Wendy's

FAREWELL RHEANNA

Our summer wrapped up with a bang this year as we said not "goodbye," but "see you later" to our incredible staff member, Rheanna.

She is continuing her journey within Kennebec Behavioral Health (KBH) by accepting an exciting new role as an Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment Specialist.

Rheanna has been an essential part of the Village Clubhouse since we opened our doors in 2018. She began her journey working side by side with members in the Food Services Unit, later bringing her talents and energy to our Business and Career Development Unit.

Throughout her time here, Rheanna's vibrant personality, compassion, and unwavering support made every member feel valued and heard. She leaves behind countless memories and smiles that will continue to brighten our community.

Here are just a few words from those who worked alongside her: "Rheanna was fun." – Amber

"I enjoyed working alongside Rheanna." – Alexus
"I'm gonna miss joking around with her." – Marcus
"She always knew what to say to make us laugh while reminding us that
work can be fun." – Kim

"Rhe always brought a calm demeanor and light to the clubhouse which I am sure will benefit all those she works with in her next role." - Judy Thank you, Rheanna, for everything you've brought to the Village Clubhouse. We'll miss you deeply—but we know this isn't goodbye, just see you later.



MEMBER QUOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

"Change can be scary yet beautiful so take a deep breath and keep moving forward" Aspen Anthony Braley has recently received an outstanding Supports DSP award from his job at Independence Association!

"If it is going to be, it's up to me because i am worth it."

"Rejection is redirection."
Nialania



MEMBERSHIP WELCOMES NEW COLLEAGUES!

We would like to welcome our growing membership and new staff team. Over the last quarter, we welcomed 1 new staff: Hal Allen.

Since July, we have 9 new members that have joined us, 4 being returning colleagues to our Clubhouse.

Clubhouse Standard #6 states "Members have a right to immediate re-entry into the Clubhouse community after any length of absence, unless their return poses a significant and current threat to the clubhouse community."

We have also recently welcomed a new intern; Amelia from CMCC.

We look forward to continuously

growing our Clubhouse community.

FOOD SERVICES UNIT

Grill and Thrill: Learning New Grilling Skills in a Fun Group Atmosphere

Summer's here, and that means it's time to fire up the grill! Whether you're a backyard barbecue master or a beginner who's still figuring out how to prevent flare-ups, there's always room to level up your grilling game. And what better way to learn new skills than in a fun, workplace environment with colleagues and fellow food lovers?

1. Why Learn Together? Grilling as a Group Activity

Grilling isn't just about cooking; it's about creating memorable moments. There's something special about sharing the grill with others—whether you're swapping tips with a seasoned griller or just enjoying the laughter as you try new recipes. Learning together in a group can make the whole process feel less intimidating and more exciting.

2. Shared Knowledge:

Every colleague has something to bring to the table. Maybe one person has a secret marinade recipe, while another has mastered the art of perfect grill marks. As you grill together, you can exchange tips, techniques, and even failures (they happen to the best of us!) in a fun skill building atmosphere.

3. Teamwork Makes the Dream Work:

Grilling is a lot of work, especially when you're preparing multiple items at once. With a group, you can divide and conquer—one person handles the veggies, another takes care of the proteins, and someone else can focus on sides or drinks. It's a true team effort that brings everyone together over delicious food.

4. Less Stress, More Fun:

Cooking for a crowd can be nerve-wracking, but when you're grilling in a group, there's less pressure. Every colleague is there to build skills and gain experience. Plus, a little friendly competition comparing recipes can make the whole event more enjoyable.

EXTENDED EVENING PROGRAM FUN

Yard game Olympics Water Wars Alumni BBQ

Mini Golf Comic Con Night Harry Potter Night







SUPPORTED EDUCATION

Cheyenne's Graduation!

Education has always been important to me. I struggled a lot in high school due to my learning disabilities and mental health. I struggled with maintaining my grades, my mental health, and my home life. I always knew I wanted to go to college, but I was told that I wouldn't succeed because of my disabilities. Well, on May 15th 2025 I graduated Central Maine Community College and got my associates degree in Criminal Justice. During my journey there I have received a nomination in the Society of Leadership & Success, received high honors, made the dean's list and graduated with honors.

My journey is not over yet, because in August I started University of Maine in Augusta and will be getting my bachelors in Mental health and Human services, Minor in Sociology and a Minor in Public Administration. My goal is to help at risk youth in the criminal justice system. -Cheyenne



ADVISORY BOARD & SPONSORS

Tanna Whitman - Attorney for the Law Offices of Joe Bornstein- Board Chair

Cheyenne Hutchins - Member colleague

Chris Gepford- Interim Clubhouse Director

Rick Pelton - 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

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

Goodwill

OLD NAVY











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