

Hillsgrove Happenings

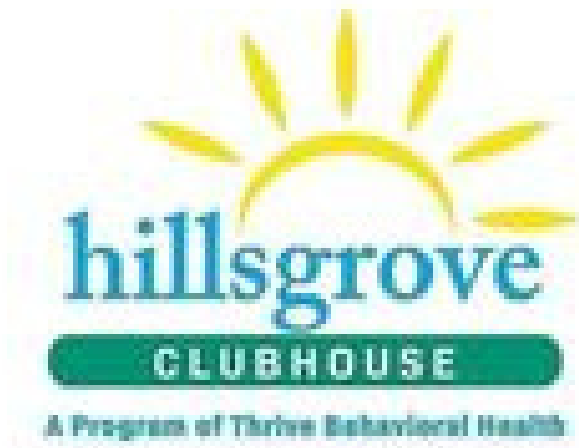


Upcoming Social Activities

- June 2, Celebration of Life
- June 11, Open Mic Night
- June 13, Museum and Planetarium
- June 19th, Juneteenth
- June 24, Employment Dinner

Table of Contents

- Page 2: Director's Corner
- Page 3: Business Unit
- Page 4: Cafe Unit
- Page 5: Kitchen/Garden
- Page 6: Employment & Education
- Page 7: Guest Article
- Page 8: Announcements
- Page 9: Social Events



Director's Corner

IT FEELS A BIT LIKE THANKSGIVING AROUND HILLSGROVE THESE DAYS WITH SO MANY THINGS TO BE THANKFUL FOR. OUR CLUBHOUSE GIVING DAY HAS BEEN A BIG SUCCESS WITH OUR FRIENDS DONATING OVER \$8250 TO SUPPORT HILLSGROVE CLUBHOUSE. WE WELCOMED MANY LOCAL AND STATE LEGISLATORS TO OUR OPEN HOUSE AND WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOW EVERYONE WHAT MAKES OUR CLUBHOUSE SUCH A CRITICAL PART OF THE MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY SYSTEM. IN ADDITION, WE CELEBRATED OUR WONDERFUL EMPLOYMENT PARTNER OLD NAVY, GIVING THANKS TO THE WONDERFUL RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH OUR LOCAL STORES IN WARWICK AND GARDEN CITY.

WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE OUR VERY EFFECTIVE EFFORT TO SUPPORT MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH WHILE TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE TESTIMONY TO THE RHODE ISLAND HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF AN APPROPRIATION BILL TO RESTORE FUNDING FOR HILLSGROVE CLUBHOUSE. WE ARE EXTREMELY THANKFUL TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS THAT SUBMITTED WRITTEN TESTIMONY, OUR THRIVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CEO DAWN ALLEN WHO GAVE STRONG VERBAL TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE CLUBHOUSE AND OUR MEMBERS, ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS, AND STAFF THAT ALSO GAVE HEARTFELT VERBAL TESTIMONY. I ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL OUR FRIENDS FROM CLUBHOUSE INTERNATIONAL AND THE MASSACHUSETTS CLUBHOUSE COALITION WHO ALSO HELPED TO SUPPORT THIS BILL.

ALL OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE HELPED TO BOTH PROMOTE THE IMPORTANCE OF CLUBHOUSE IN RHODE ISLAND. WE ARE PROUD TO SAY THAT WE ARE ACTIVELY WORKING WITH BHDDH ON A SHORT-TERM FUNDING SOLUTION AND THAT OUR APPROPRIATIONS BILL HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE DRAFT BUDGET PENDING LEGISLATIVE APPROVAL. WE ARE VERY THANKFUL TO HAVE ACCESS TO THIS TEMPORARY FUNDING WHILE WE CONTINUE TO SEEK THE REINSTATEMENT OF OUR SUSTAINED FUNDING. WE WILL CONTINUE TO UPDATE ALL OF OUR SUPPORTERS ON OUR ONGOING EFFORTS AND WELCOME YOU ALL TO JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS.

SEE YOU SOON,
MARK

BUSINESS UNIT

ADMIN. Team: It is hard to believe that May has come and gone already. Members have been busy advocating for Hillsgrove Clubhouse funding through the Rhode Island Legislature. Staff, members, Advisory Board members, and members' families advocated for RI State Bill H-8417 introduced by Rep. David Bennett, a longtime advocate and supporter of mental health services in the state. The staff, Advisory Board Members, members and members' families provided support for Bill H-8417 in a variety of ways. First through a letter writing campaign in support of the bill. As of the writing of this newsletter over 45 letters had been received in support of the legislation. Second through direct testimony on May 5th at the Finance Committee Meeting where four members Adam, Bob, Josh, and Karen shared their recovery journeys and what Hillsgrove Clubhouse meant to their recovery process. Additionally, four staff gave impassioned testimony of the necessity of the services the clubhouse provides to members, family members, and the entire Rhode Island community. Dawn Allen, Thrive Behavioral Health, CEO & President, set the tone for the evening by highlighting the cooperation TBH has shown and provided to outside auditors, while recognizing the social injustices experienced by members, members' families, and the financial burdens placed on Hillsgrove Clubhouse and TBH. Members continued their advocacy for the clubhouse during a tour of Hillsgrove Clubhouse given by Bob(member) and staff(Jeff) to Providence Journal/USA TODAY NETWORK reporter Jonny Williams. William's article appeared on the front page of the May 11th edition of the paper. Last but not least was our May 21st Open House which highlighted our ongoing relationship with Old Navy in the Cranston and Warwick stores. Bob was the master of ceremonies for the event while Adam, Lianah, and Vincent shared their recovery stories with all gathered. Their stories left a lasting impression to all in attendance. All the above while still needing to complete the tasks of the work-ordered-day which happened daily without skipping a beat. Thanks to everyone who made it happen.

CAFE UNIT



The café has been busy with baking projects, and I would like to thank Tom, Barbara, Melissa, Michael, Adam, Rick, Rayna, and Azalea for all of their hard work in helping run the café.

There is something special about being part of a well-run team. I once heard someone say that the purpose of a Clubhouse is to create a sense of belonging, and I would have to agree. Being part of a team where everyone contributes and supports one another makes the café a welcoming and enjoyable place to be.

There has been a lot going on this month! The kitchen team and the café team worked together for Giving Day and Open House. We prepared fruit cups, yogurt parfaits, and muffins—yum! It was wonderful to see everyone come together to make the event a success.

As we head into June, I look forward to continuing to work alongside my fellow members, building connections, and creating great experiences together.

– Melissa

Kitchen Unit Updates



The month of May was exciting for the kitchen unit to host Hillsgrove's Annual Open House. A special thank you to Melissa M., Scott A., Beth B., Alex P., Kristal S., Juana R., Richard G., Azalea Z., & Vincent C., who also spoke about his positive experience working at Old Navy. A shout out to Lianah, our dedicated kitchen crew member who also spoke about her experience working at Old Navy. The kitchen would also like to recognize a returning member, Phil M., (who has extensive experience working in restaurant field). The kitchen crew is excited to be able to collaborate new ideas in the daily operations of the kitchen & being creative with new recipes! Menu planning has been most fun. Come join us! As always, the kitchen ended May with a scrumptious black forest cake topped with fresh whipped cream. Rosaria P.

Garden Unit Update

The garden has been producing for about a month and a half now, mostly asparagus, a few herbs and some overwintered kale. The asparagus is definitely petering out till next year. However today we brought in our first lettuce of the year! Everyone who saw it agreed that it looked fresh and enticing. There is also a second wave of lettuce that if everything goes right will be in the kitchen in 3 weeks or so. And that brings us to "If Everything Goes Right" in heavy quotation marks. If our gentle readers remember, we had a critter last year named Chuck. He had the first name of wood. In other words-- Woodchuck. I had looked under our tool shed next to the gazebo...he wasn't there. I looked for the digging he'd done by the garden? Nothing! BUT last week I did spy the critter scurrying along to his new mansion. Underneath the large tool shed that was built this year in the fenced in parking lot. Mr. Woodchuck was VERY destructive last year, destroying nearly half of what we looked forward to in the kitchen. He is also a protected species under RI State Laws--so there's nothing we can do about him. That's Life!! Peace Out! Bob W.

Employment & Education

Employment and Education Dinner: This month we discussed what topics members would like to see presented at future Employment and Education Dinners. We like doing this from time to time so we can make sure that our topics are what the members need and/or want. We also spent time discussing where we should go for our annual celebratory out-to eat dinner.

Next Dinner: The next dinner will be **Wednesday June 24th from 4pm-6:30pm**. We will be going to Chelo's on Post Road for our annual out to celebrate those working, in school, volunteering, and/or actively in the process of seeking work or education. Please RSVP to Pauline by Thursday 6/18 so reservations can be made and transportation scheduled.

Employment: Congratulations to Kim S on her seasonal merchandiser position at Lowes, and to Richard G for his janitorial position at Chipotle. Best of luck to Stephanie who has finished her training for a pharm tech position at CVS Health.

TEP: We are anticipating the Brand Associate and Janitorial position at the Warwick Old Navy will be opening up later in June. If you are interested in either position, please sign up on the Transitional Board or reach out to Pauline or Rosaria.

Education: A big shout out to all our members who finished up their semester this month. Also to our GED students who are going on a summer break, enjoy your well deserved time off.

GUEST ARTICLE

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH THE CENTERPIECE TEAM
BY MOLLY ZELLEY

YOU MAY NOTICE RED-WHITE-AND BLUE PLANTS ON THE DINING ROOM TABLES THIS MONTH IN HONOR OF FLAG DAY, JUNE 14. THIS IS ALL THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF THE CENTERPIECE TEAM. TEAM MEMBERS FOR JUNE WERE LISA, PAT, VAUGHN, AZALEA, AND RAYNA. SOME WHIMSICAL DRAGONFLIES WERE ADDED (SPECIAL THANKS TO BARBARA) AND THEY MAKE IT SEEM LIKE SUMMER WILL GET HERE EVENTUALLY.

I FIRST DISCOVERED THE HILLSGROVE CLUBHOUSE LAST YEAR THROUGH AN AD PLACED BY BOB WALKER. HE WAS LOOKING FOR A VOLUNTEER FROM THE URI MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM TO HELP WITH THE MONTHLY CENTERPIECE TEAM. SINCE I HAD JUST COMPLETED THE URI PROGRAM AND BEING A RETIRED FLORIST, THIS SEEMED LIKE A GOOD FIT. IT HAS BEEN REALLY GREAT GETTING TO KNOW SO MANY OF YOU AND SEEING THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND DEDICATION AT HILLSGROVE.

THE CENTERPIECE TEAM MEETS AT 1 PM ON THE FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH AND WE NEED YOU! THERE ARE 12 CENTERPIECES TO BE MADE EVERY MONTH SO THERE IS PLENTY OF WORK TO BE DONE. WE BREAK DOWN THE OLD CENTERPIECES, CREATE SOMETHING NEW AND CLEAN UP THE AREA. BOB USUALLY MAKES SURE THAT THERE IS AN EDUCATIONAL COMPONENT SO WE CAN LEARN ABOUT THE PLANTS AND MATERIALS WE ARE USING AT EACH SESSION. THROUGHOUT THE MONTH, CENTERPIECES NEED TO BE WATERED & FRESHENED UP. ALSO, THERE IS AN ONGOING NEED FOR NEW CENTERPIECE IDEAS. THIS TIME OF YEAR THERE IS USUALLY SOME OPTIONAL OUTDOOR GARDEN WORK TOO, AFTER THE CENTERPIECES ARE COMPLETE.

IF ANY OF THIS SOUNDS INTERESTING AND YOU'D LIKE TO HELP WITH THIS WORK, PLEASE STOP IN....THE NEXT MEETING IS AT 1 PM JULY 6 FOR MAKING FRESH DAISY VASES TO BRIGHTEN UP THE CLUBHOUSE TABLES. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY, AND HOPE TO SEE YOU THEN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE JOIN US THURSDAY, JUNE 11TH FROM 4-7 FOR OUR ANNUAL OPEN MIC NIGHT. COME SHOW OFF YOUR TALENT AND ENJOY A NIGHT OF FUN!

PLEASE NOTE THE TIME CHANGE ON OUR SATURDAY, JUNE 13TH SOCIAL, IT IS 11-3 INSTEAD OF THE USUAL 10-2.

COME ON IN FOR CLUBHOUSE PLANNING DAY WHICH TAKES PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24TH FROM 8-4. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVISIT GOALS WE SET LAST YEAR AND ALSO TO MAKE NEW ONES FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

WE WILL BE OPEN JULY 4TH, SATURDAY, 10-2 FOR A SOCIAL. PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL BBQ!

DON'T FORGET...WE HAVE A WEEKLY DRA MEETING ON MONDAYS AT 12:30 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AND VIA ZOOM. THESE MEMBER-LED DUAL RECOVERY ANONYMOUS MEETINGS ARE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE AN ADDICTION IN ADDITION TO THEIR MENTAL HEALTH DIAGNOSIS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND A SOCIAL, PLEASE LET THE STAFF WHO ARE WORKING THE SOCIAL KNOW SO THEY CAN ORDER ENOUGH FOOD.

June Social Events

**June 2, Tuesday, 1:30
Celebration of Life**

**June 11, Thursday, 4-7
Open Mic Night**

**June 13, Saturday, 11-3 *please note time change*
Natural History Museum and Planetarium**

**June 19, Friday, 10-2
Juneteenth, Movie and Lunch**

**June 24, Wednesday, 2 events
8-4 - Clubhouse Planning Day
4-6:30 - Employment & Education Dinner**

**We hope our readers have enjoyed reading our
June, 2026 edition of our newsletter!**



**If you're interested in learning more about Hillsgrove
Clubhouse or would like to get in touch with us to schedule
a tour, please contact us at one of the links below:**



401-732-0970



hillsgroveclubhouse@gmail.com



www.hillsgroveclubhouseri.org



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