

HILLSGROVE HAPPENINGS

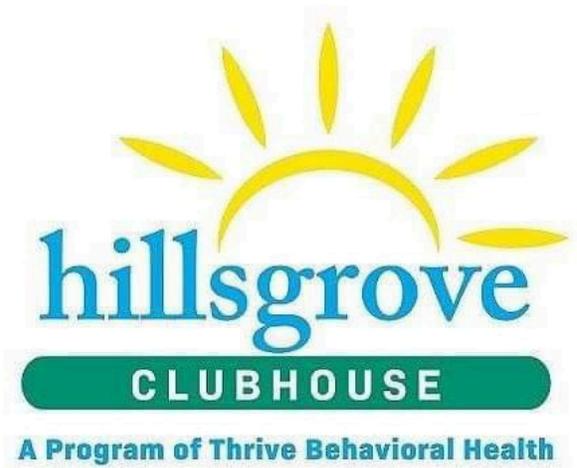


March 2026 Socials

- March 7 - Farmer's Market
- March 12 - Wellness Night
- March 20 - Spring Celebration
- March 25 - Employment Dinner
- March 31 - Movie & Pizza

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DIRECTORS CORNER

IT HAS BEEN QUITE A FEW YEARS SINCE WE STARTED MARCH WITH THIS MUCH SNOW ON THE GROUND. IN PREVIOUS MARCH ARTICLES, I HAVE WRITTEN ABOUT THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING AND THE IMPACT THAT HAS ON THE ENERGY OF HILLSGROVE CLUBHOUSE. TODAY, IF THERE ARE CROCUSES PUSHING UP, THEY ARE UNDER A FEW FEET OF SNOW. AS ALWAYS, THE CLUBHOUSE COMMUNITY SHIFTS GEARS IN OUR EFFORT TO ADJUST, ADAPT, AND OVERCOME.

LAST YEAR'S ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTED THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF OUR MEMBERSHIP TEAM ON GROWING THE CLUBHOUSE MEMBERSHIP. IN 2025 WE WERE UP TO 160 MEMBERS, 20 MORE THAN 2024. WE PEAKED IN SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 174 MEMBERS. TRULY AMAZING GROWTH AND MAKING US ONE OF THE LARGEST CLUBHOUSES IN NEW ENGLAND. EVEN THROUGH THIS CHALLENGING WINTER WITH SOME MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN THE CLUBHOUSE, RECORD LOW TEMPERATURES AND MORE RECENTLY, RECORD SNOWFALLS, WE REMAIN AT 164 ACTIVE MEMBERS.

WHAT STANDS OUT TO ME IS THE DEDICATION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMUNITY DURING DIFFICULT TIMES. WE WERE ABLE TO REOPEN JUST A COUPLE DAYS AFTER THE BLIZZARD AND WE WORKED TOGETHER TO GET THE CLUBHOUSE FULLY OPERATIONAL. IT WAS CLEAR THAT MANY OF US WERE TIRED OF BEING STUCK AT HOME AND WERE GRATEFUL FOR BEING BACK AND BUSY. THERE WAS BOTH GREAT ENERGY AND ALSO A RELAXED PACE WITH MEMBERS ARRIVING LATER THAN USUAL BECAUSE TRAVEL DELAYED.

INCLUDED IN OUR EFFORTS TO GET THE CLUBHOUSE OPEN, WAS OUR WORK TO HELP MEMBERS PREPARE FOR THE BLIZZARD AND RECOVER AFTERWARDS. MANY MEMBERS REPORTED BEING HELPED BY THE CLUBHOUSE AND APPRECIATED THE ACCURATE AND USEFUL INFORMATION THAT WE DISSEMINATED.

ALL OF THIS DID NOT FULLY DISTRACT FROM OUR EFFORTS TO SPOT THE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING. SOME OF THOSE SIGNS MAY BE INDOORS THIS YEAR, WITH THE START OF OUR GARDEN PLANNING AND SEEDLINGS, INSTALLING THE INDOOR PLANTERS, AND OUR SPRING CELEBRATION ON MARCH 20TH. IF YOU ARE READY TO HELP GET SPRING STARTED, COME BY ANYTIME.

SEE YOU SOON
MARK

EMPLOYMENT UNIT

Employment and Education Dinner: This month we ended up cancelling our dinner. The recent blizzard played a major factor in this decision. Fear not! We know the topic was one many were had expressed interest in and hoped would be re-scheduled.

Next Month's Dinner: The next dinner is **Wednesday March 25th 4-6:30pm**. We will be doing an interactive workshop on Stress Management and creating your toolkit. Dinner and catch-up/sharing will be from 4-5pm and then we will start the workshop at 5pm.

Employment: We make RI continues to have monthly job fairs, the next one is March 12th (<https://wemakeri.com/job-fair/>).

Speaking of Employment: The unit has been working hard on giving the Employment Boards a makeover. (see picture at bottom). A huge shoutout to Adam who was very involved in putting the visual in place. These boards not only highlight our working members but also offer more unit work opportunities to update and maintain them. There is a form that both staff and members can fill in when we have news or updates regarding employment status, then members will have the opportunity to take the forms and update the employment cards (now individual and dry erase). Just below the titles of each board is a brief description of what type of work is being showcased.

Education: Adam has been working with the unit on career exploration and looking into what steps he would need to take to make his goal a reality. He has realized that he wants to aid others in their mental health recovery. His goal is to become a certified peer recovery specialist (CPRS) and ultimately a generalist at a clubhouse. Adam learned this month that he has been accepted into the 46 hour education course component of this journey. This is the 1st step towards becoming a CPRS, and his course starts in April.

Shout outs: Ethan hit 1200 days on Duolingo this month. Karen received employee of the month in January. Kevin recently received Partner of the Month. Lastly, shout-out to Stephanie for obtaining her Certified Med Tech license this month.



BUSINESS UNIT



Laurie (left), and Barbara, getting down to business

ADMIN. TEAM: The team and entire Hillsgrove Clubhouse (HC) community would like to give Peter M. a huge welcome back after an almost two-month absence. He was incredibly missed during this absence because the team did not have a core member to take the lead in completing and updating Daily/Monthly Attendance, Billing and Birthday forms. Additionally, Peter does all the monthly calculations for CACFP claims data while assisting in submitting that monthly data to the Rhode Island Department of Education. He also provides information on the various community activities which the clubhouse will be attending during the month. Peter maintained phone communication with Hillsgrove Clubhouse during his absence. He would call HC several times a week to check in and get an update on clubhouse happenings. It is wonderful to have Peter back at the clubhouse as he was immensely missed by the entire community. Peter's sharp eye for detail and support of all front of the house tasks is a true gift and there is a huge void when he is not at HC. Fortunately, other members and staff picked up the slack of completing unit tasks. As the saying goes "many hands make easy work," so members and staff teamed up together to make Peter's absence easier. Thanks to all the members, both long term and new, who kept the unit running smoother in Pete's absence. We could not have done it without a coordinated team effort.

CAFE UNIT



Our cafe workers are warming up the frigid weather with fresh baked goods! This month Azalea, Beth, and Rayna served up a variety of homemade sweet treats including oatmeal cookies and chocolate chip brownies. They're always big sellers! One of our new members, Laurie, did a great job helping us out with cashiering and has really shown pride in her efforts. Thank you to Chris and Adam for their work stocking the chip stand and the soda fridge, as well as waiting on customers! Come see us at the cafe anytime to get a snack or volunteer!

-Michael Q.

KITCHEN UNIT



Hi i'm Laurie a new member. My experience in working in the kitchen unit is that I learned that any thing is possible when you show up and are willing to help. I was asked what I was doing, I asked, do you need help? Rosaria needed help, I was happy to help. Mom always taught me to give of yourself, she was right! The feeling when you give your hand to help is worth more than all the treasures in the world. When i answered the call. I felt so included.

The cafe is a cool place to get a coffee, talk, and meet people just like you with the same goals dreams that will come true. Helping makes you experience new talents that you never thought you had. Eating in our dining room is an experience for the palate. When you come to the cafe and lunch hall you feel you belong, like i was told by a little birdie you get out of it what you put in to it. So come in: eat, have a cup of coffee, grab an apron, wash your hands, learn new skills, and talk to the person next to you. They may be your next best friend, I'm glad I have come here. You're nervous when you first come, but once you are a part of the work, you get the hang of it and want to come in. As always the kitchen ended February with a fabulous French vanilla/ strawberry cake.

Laurie

MARCH SOCIALS

March, 7 - Saturday, 10:00-2:00

Farmer's Market

March 12, Thursday, 4:00-6:30

Wellness Night

March 20, Friday, 8-4

Come celebrate the first day of Spring with us!

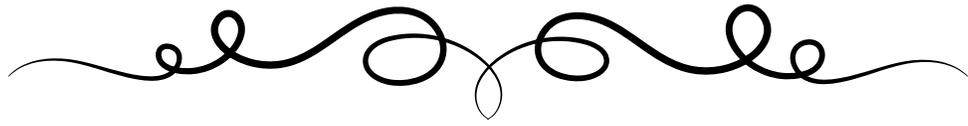
March 25, Wednesday, 4:00-6:30

Employment Dinner

March, 31 Tuesday 4:00-6:30

In-House Movie and Pizza





We had great fun and great food at our recent social where we made Spring Rolls, played Just Dance and Bowling on the Wii, and played Magic the Gathering. Photo credits to Valerie and Kristal.





In loving memory of Jen M.

An interview with her friend, David B.



HOW DID YOU MEET JEN?

I met Jen in Newport, we used to hang around each other and then we went our own ways. We would go for walks, talk, and then she left.

HOW OLD WERE YOU?

I was 60 when we first met.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THING ABOUT HER?

Her smile, she is very nice, and she is very smart.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE THE CLUBHOUSE REMEMBERS MOST ABOUT HER?

She always volunteers, like in the kitchen, helping with tables and chairs. She helped with the chairs out here (in the Business Unit) one time, and one time she helped in the cafe.

WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER THE MOST?

Well, I'm gonna remember she always gave me coloring books and we colored, she gave me a picture for Valentine's Day and she gave me a picture of an angel. She always gives me tea. We'd go outside, sit at the picnic table, and she always helps me through the door. We sat with each other in the cafeteria and she bought me a coffee, I bought her one too.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS THE MOST.

I miss her and when she did favors for me. I miss her when she would sit by me at lunch, she always helped me out.

Announcements

Don't forget...Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday,
March 8!

On Friday, March 20th, we will be celebrating the start of
Spring with an all-day social. Please join us for fun,
friendship, and food!.

If you would like to attend a social, please let the staff who
are working the social know so that they can order enough
food.

Dual Recovery Anonymous Group (DRA)

Anyone with dual diagnoses, including addiction and mental
health, are welcome to join our DRA meeting on Mondays
from 12:30-1:00 PM in the front conference room.

In case of inclement weather, call the Clubhouse at 401-
732-0970 to see if we're open. We will leave a message. If
no one answers the phone, do not come in. We will also
update our social media pages to give you much needed
info. If we are having bad weather, think about your
comfort level while making your decision. It is best to stay
home and be safe.

**We hope our readers have enjoyed reading our
March, 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.hillsgroveclubhouser.org



www.facebook.com/hillsgroveclubhouse