

INDEPENDENT DISPATCH

Independent Living Newsletter May 2017

May Class

We are changing things up this month. Instead of a couple classes throughout the month on the 2nd and/or 4th Saturday, we will be having one class. This class will take place on **Saturday, May 20th from 9am – 12pm** at Hosanna Industries in Rochester, PA. Each of you will get to take part in learning basic home repairs, skilled trades, build picnic tables and benches that you can enjoy at our IL location during session breaks. Yes you will all get the chance to use power tools! Picnic lunch will be provided.

YAB Upcoming Dates

- Butler local YAB meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 5th from 5:30 – 7pm** at the Butler IL office.
- YAB Leadership Summit will be held on **Thursday, June 15th – Friday June 16th**
- Regional YAB meeting will be held on **Tuesday, June 20th at 10am**. This meeting will take place in Carnegie, PA where the Southwest Region YAB will be picking up trash for Adopt-a-Highway.

‘Love Is My Weapon’

With all the hatred in this messed up world,
Everyone fighting, hating each other.
I choose to keep myself in my dream world.
Sometimes I wish this life I could alter.
We all want a revolution,
Yet we only speak of the change we want.
But all we do is fill with pollution.
To change ourselves, we need the love to
flaunt.
While everyone is in the hell on earth,
I will be dreaming of peace on a cloud.
Awaiting I will be for the rebirth.
The prophetic dreams I spread aloud.
So let's put down our guns and fire with doves.
And I will choose my weapon to be love.

~Anonymous

A poem written by an IL youth

May is National Foster Care Month

Empowering Caregivers, Strengthening Families

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children & Families
Children's Bureau
Child Welfare Information Gateway

May is National Foster Care Month, a month set aside to acknowledge foster parents, family members, volunteers, mentors, policymakers, child welfare professionals, other members of the community who help children and youth in foster care find permanent homes and connections, and ultimately YOU. During National Foster Care Month, child welfare professionals renew their commitment to ensure bright futures to more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care.

Educating yourself about the foster care system and process will help you understand your choices as well as know what to expect while in care. Child Welfare professionals outline three areas and resources to assist, guide, and support you:

- What to expect when entering foster care
- Staying involved in your permanency plan
- Finding support

You can find and read more information about these three areas at the link below.

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/fostercaremonth/resources/foryouth/>

10 Facts Every Foster Youth Should Know

- Go to Your Court Hearings
- Health Insurance Until 21
- Money Available for Emancipated Foster Youth
- See Your Case Plan and Your Court Report
- Get Your Driver's License
- Participate in IL
- Get Involved...YAB
- Free Money for School...Chafee Grant
- Foster Youth Have Rights, Know Your Rights
- Over 18 Agreement...talk to your caseworker and GAL

Youth Employed

We want to acknowledge each youth, 20 in total, in the IL program who is currently employed and recognize all the hard-work you have put in. For those of you who are actively seeking employment and close to landing that summer job, keep gritting it out. Continue your job search, talk to employers, obtain applications, and utilize your IL worker to brush up on those interview skills. As a reminder, we are still taking names of those interested in the summer employment internship at Career T.R.A.C.K. Check out the list below of employers where your fellow IL peers are employed!

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| -Walmart | -Capstone Logistics |
| -JcPenny's | -Goodwill |
| -Friedman's | -Westminster College |
| -Vogel | -A Gleason Landscaping
Supply & Services |
| -Butler Library | -Menchie's |
| -Ice Connection | -McDonald's |
| -Perkins | -KFC |
| -Rock Ann Haven | -Wendy's |
| -Saxony Health Center | |
| -Giant Eagle | |

Older Youth Retreat

SAVE the DATE! August 7th – 11th is the 2017 Older Youth Retreat at the University of Pitt Johnstown Campus. This is for those of you who are Chafee eligible. Here is a link to a video from last year's retreat:

<https://vimeo.com/182436232>

Talk to your IL worker if this is something you may be interested in or have any questions about eligibility. You can also get more information at www.independentlivingpa.org

Pick and Roll

That's right...you asked for a basketball team so we're starting one. We will be playing against our neighbors at the Salvation Army in their gym. Games will take place on Saturdays at 11am. You all are welcome to attend open gyms on Wednesdays as well at 4:30pm at the Salvation Army in Butler, **313 W. Cunningham Street Butler, PA 16001**. Let your IL worker know ASAP if you are interested and available to play Saturdays at 11am.

Job Interview...World's Toughest Job

Sometimes we disregard to appreciate the little things. Enjoy!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWcJZ210AaM>



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