

# PEBBLES & SAND

BLOOMINGTON LIFELONG LEARNING NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019



## THE VOTES ARE IN!

If you go out and ask your friends, family, and neighbors why they vote, you will find that people head out to the polls on Election Day for many different reasons.

Here at Stone Belt the same holds true. Mikaela went out to vote because she wanted specific policy to be implemented: she was worried about losing her disability benefits. Mikaela's classmate Julia--missed voting this year because she forgot to bring her photo I.D.-- has a broader view on voting, as she is mostly concerned about the presidential election. Sandy said she felt it was her duty to get out and vote.

Some may worry that Stone Belt participants might not have access to voting due to transportation issues or poll accessibility; however, Julia said Stone Belt makes sure to help her get to and from the polls safely and that the poll workers even cheered for her the last time she cast her ballot! Sandy explained that the polls have been easily navigated in her experience.

In fact, clients said that they had easy access throughout their voting experience. Although Mikaela did say she wished there would have been some music playing at the polls.

The voting experiences of the clients seems to have been affirming and empowering for them. For some at Stone Belt, government is so important that they have even entered the realm of lobbying. Grace, an employment consultant, explained that a participant named Jason gives public speeches in which he advocates for the rights of people with disabilities, but not all of the clients share the same excitement about voting. Some choose not to vote at all.

From finding motivations to vote, to getting to the polls, to casting the ballot, to advocating outside of voting, Stone Belt members can get very involved with our democracy. Luckily, they all have the freedom and opportunity to make it to the polls if they choose to.



# Fun Times in French Lick

Adam and Michael travel to the casino

It was August, says Michael, Day Aide for Deckard House, and "Adam had some vacation time from his job in the workshop."

"So I asked him what he wanted to do for his vacation," Michael continues. "He responds: 'Go to the French Lick Casino.'"

They made arrangements to make the trip in September. Michael cleared his calendar of appointments and they went. They stopped at Chicago's Pizza in French Lick. Once they entered the casino, Adam responded: "There it is," regarding the floor.

Adam went in with 50 dollars in cash, and they spent about an hour playing the slot machines with a stack of vouchers. After a half hour, the slot machine started "blowing up!" said Michael with Thunder 7s and bells and whistles, causing Michael and Adam to almost jump out of their seats.

Adam had won! Michael presented him with his options and Adam decided to cash in his winnings and call it a good day. In the end, Adam ended up with \$20 ahead of what he walked in with totaling \$70. A great day indeed.

## A New Job

Sabrina P was in Ivy Tech / Stone Belt's program Project Search, when her mom was getting frustrated that she still had yet to get a job, but "My job coach Karey B got me a job at McAllisters."

"I bus tables," Sabrina said, "and refill drinks, wipe down tables. It's a nice environment. The people are nice. My bosses joke around with me and tell me all the time that I don't need to worry about something."

Shane and Keaton, Sabina's supervisors, are really good with discussions, and getting her input. "Everyone chips in and helps with stuff."

Sabrina's favorite meal though? "Grilled cheese and nachos."



# A Celebration of the Holidays

## Room 3 Class Talks the Holiday Season

### My Holiday by Beth M.

I'm going to my brother's house in Ellettsville. I'm getting gift cards and money. My brother is picking me up on Christmas Eve, and my sister is bringing me back on Christmas Day.

### Celebration by Brittani P.

I usually go to my Mom's house for Thanksgiving. For Christmas, we usually put up our Christmas tree and watch The Christmas Story

My New Year's Resolution is to try to be less bossy. It involves my peers, and my staff, because for years the tone in my voice sounds a bit bossy. I'm going to achieve it by being less bossy and by saying please and thank you.

### Celebrating at 10th Street by Luke M.

I ate some Christmas dinner at 10th Street with Carl, Brittany, Faz, Jordan, Kevin, and Jacob. I had some ham, mashed potatoes with gravy, brownies, biscuits, and vegetables with carrots and broccoli and cauliflower with it too.

### Christmas and New Years Resolution by Jessica W.

My Christmas is magical. I want some hot cocoa, and lots of presents! I have a real tree at home and my mom's gonna make cinnamon rolls and have a sleepover on Christmas Eve.

My New Year's Resolution will be more independent. Independent for my family re-doing it when I'm done.

### My Ideal Holiday Celebration by Mikaela C.

My ideal holiday celebration starts with my family gathering at my uncle's house on Christmas Eve. We have a big family dinner and then the fun begins to happen. We play "dirty santa" and visit with each other.

On Christmas Day, we get up early and open up all our gifts from "Santa" and we play with our new gifts. Then a little later we go back to my Uncle's house and we finish up the food that we didn't eat the night before. Then after the New Year, my family and I do our family Christmas where my entire family gets together and we exchange gifts with each other and hang out.