

our message out and also to explore more avenues for our TE Transitional Employment program with leads for more jobs at businesses in our community.

Crystal Byers

Web Site Update

If you haven't visited www.adventurehouse.org lately, we hope you will. The website is much easier to navigate and has quick links from the home page such as "Tour", "Newsletter", and "Advocacy". The "Tour" link takes the visitor to an updated tour of Adventure House. The new tour features updated information as well as new pictures. The

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"Newsletter" link forwards the visitor to the most current newsletter. It can be viewed with Adobe Reader, a free download if your computer doesn't already have it. The website also now features a "Contact Us" page. On that page visitors will find all staff email addresses as well as Clubhouse phone and fax numbers. There is a handy "Resources" guide that has links to such websites as the ICCD, Fountain House, NC Division of Mental health, NAMI, and much more. A photo gallery will soon be added to showcase the photography of members and staff.

Bryan Eaker



Adventure House

924 N. Lafayette St.
Shelby, NC 28150
(704) 482-3370

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Adventure House News

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Web Site Update

ADVENTURE HOUSE PLAYERS

Hurray for January! The new year is finally here and so was our first meeting of the Adventure House Players. My name is Stan Logan and I am honored to be the new director for the Adventure House Players. We had fourteen members show up for our meeting, they were excited about reviving the group once again. We talked about our goals, which include writing and performing skits and plays that tackle the issues of mental illness and the stigma that still is with us today. We discussed how to use not only drama, but also comedy to get our message across. We will be recasting the play, "Mental Mart", which was written here at adventure House four years ago and has been performed in Connecticut by the Second Step Players. That is quite an accomplishment for Adventure House. Mental Mart will be our first major production that we will perform in house as well as in the community at civic organizations, schools and community colleges, ect.. We will also, as a group which is very important to me as a director, be writing five to ten short skits ranging from two minutes to fifteen minutes. All members and staff can have input in the ideas and the writing process. We will throw out ideas to see what works and what we like best. The purpose of the short skits will be to perform them at the morning meetings, socials(holiday and weekly

socials) and out in the community. Our long range goals will be to write another major play, like Mental Mart, and hopefully produce a film, taking both to competitions. With that said, we have plenty of work cut out for us. There is plenty of work to do, but we believe in setting high goals and working towards achieving them. What is most important is that we all have fun while reaching our goals. By years end we want Adventure House to be better recognized in our community and the Clubhouse world. We also want people to realize what a safe haven we have here for people suffering with mental illness. I have learned so much in my short time here at Adventure House, not only from staff, but more importantly from members who call Adventure House a home away from home. I look forward to many years of working with the Adventure House Players and guarantee you will be hearing a lot from us in the upcoming months.

Stan Logan

Charles Road #2 Welcomes Teresa Woods

All Teresa Woods wanted for Christmas was a place to call home. On December 3, 2007, she received her Christmas wish. Teresa moved into her Charles Road Apartment with excitement and tears of joy. The blessing of being able to shop for all of the nice furniture and household

items was awesome, she had never experienced this before. Teresa stated, "Staff were very helpful and my apartment is a very nice place to live. The pleasure of having my own place is something I feel blessed to have. All and all, I'm deeply thankful for the housing program and for the fact that I have a place that I can call home!"

Elizabeth Ross and Teresa Woods

Charles Road Tenants Welcomes Dean Hensley

Charles Road # 2 tenants recently had the opportunity to welcome Dean Hensley to the apartment complex. Dean hasn't lived alone in fifteen years, and is really enthused about his new apartment. When Adventure House staff took Dean shopping at Wal-Mart to buy items for his apartment, he was a little nervous, and wasn't sure he would be able to shop. After shopping around the store for some home items, Dean relaxed and was able to pick the colors and items that he liked best.

Dean grew up in Marshall, North Carolina on a 168- Acre farm. He later joined Job Corp, where he began cooking for more than 400 people three times a day. Dean enjoys cooking, fishing and working on cars.

Dean is grateful to Adventure House for all their support. He says "Adventure House is a blessing to many, the members and staff are one big happy family, moving into my own apartment will be a lasting experience for me!"

Beverly Dawkins

Remembering Loretta Casorio

Loretta will be missed greatly. She truly was a friend to everyone at Adventure House. Her quiet but strong demeanor was well recognized by everyone who knew her. She was friendly to everyone, and was never afraid to speak her mind. Loretta was a strong advocate for herself and the members of Adventure House, always looking for ways to improve things.

Loretta worked in the kitchen unit and

was famous for her super salad bar. The salad bar she prepared everyday could compare favorably to any commercial restaurant. Her meatballs and other Italian dishes were also favorites around the Clubhouse.

Loretta loved her apartment and neighbors at Charles Road #1 apartments, she treasured her independence greatly and valued her friendships even more. Her family was always supportive of her accomplishments and they maintained a very close and loving relationship with Loretta which I know gave her great strength and inner peace.

Loretta was the original Adventure House Player, she and Tammy Gunn went to Connecticut for a workshop with the Second Step Players and upon returning from their trip formed the Adventure House Players. More important than what we did for her, was all of the things she did for everyone at Adventure House. Whether it was driving people to and from places in the Adventure House vans, or cooking for the crowds even when she didn't feel like it or was tired, she always had words of inspiration and encouragement for anyone who needed it. Her spirit inspired me and kept me going on many occasions. What was a day without a Loretta hug or her uplifting words? She will be greatly missed .Goodbye dear friend.

Paul P Pouchak and Diana Boswell

Friends and Family Night

Adventure House hosted an open house for friends and families. Members were encouraged to invite people close to us to share with them information about what we truly are about at Adventure House. Many people ride by the Clubhouse and say I have friend or family member who goes there, or just know that we are Adventure House but don't know what takes place once you step inside.

After being greeted at the door by Teresa Woods and Dexter Reed we had a panel constructed of members and staff to give brief explanations of what the Clubhouse model is all about. Tommy Gunn, Executive Director of

Adventure House gave a description of our Clubhouse being modeled after Fountain House in New York, founded in 1948. He touched on our funding and governance. Also, making others aware of the true rehabilitation that takes place through regaining self-confidence and job skills which help prepare one to gradually return to the workforce. Building relationships that once were shattered, after being told that you may not be able to live a normal life again. Adventure House has proven in over 20 years of successful rehabilitation and by restoring self-confidence through our program here at the Clubhouse.

Joyce Fox and Bryan Eaker spoke about TE Transitional Employment. It is exactly what it says transitioning one to rebuild the skills to return to working independently. Elizabeth Ross, Housing Specialist, and Betty Barnhart gave information on the Adventure House apartments. We offer 33 residential housing units to Adventure House members. Beverly Dawkins and Phyllis Chitwood described our continued Adult Basic Education classes. We have ranged completion from high school educations to college graduates at Adventure House. Following the panel we shared coffee, hot apple cider, a variety of desserts and pick-ups, and then we ended with our grand tour of the Clubhouse which was given by members and staff. Thanks for all your support in making our open house a success.

Paul Pouchak and Chastity Hector

Christmas Lunch

This past Christmas was one of the best we have had at Adventure House. Everyone worked together, not only the members and staff from the kitchen unit helped prepare the good meal but every unit did their part to serve the Christmas lunch. There was ham, roast beef, broccoli casserole, carrots, yeast rolls, pies and more. We served around 115 people, the lunch was liked, appreciated and enjoyed

by everyone. At Adventure House we are like a large family and it was nice to see members we have not seen in a while. Invitations were sent to members who had not been active lately. It was nice to have everyone together for such a great holiday gathering. Every part of Adventure House was festively decorated for the occasion. There were Christmas trees in every room and lots of lights and garlands hanging throughout the Clubhouse. In the dining room, the tables were decorated with red and gold table clothes and napkins for the occasion. The centerpieces on the tables followed the theme with red and gold balls. Everything was so festive and the Christmas spirit could be seen and felt throughout the Clubhouse. Following lunch, everyone enjoyed and participated in some holiday carols lead and preformed by a variety of members and staff. Thank You to Stan Logan, for playing the piano it really set the mood.

Following the lunch, everyone received a nice gift, which made us even happier. It is nice to know that we are cared for. I hope your Christmas was a good one and Happy New Year as well!

Elizabeth Grigg

Leadership Cleveland County Visits Adventure House

On Wednesday January 9th Adventure House was host for the January meeting of the Leadership Cleveland County, a program sponsored by the Cleveland County Chamber to develop progressive leadership for Cleveland County. They were welcomed with a breakfast reception before the morning house meeting. Following the meeting, they received a grand tour of the Clubhouse. Our guests were very interested in what we do at the Clubhouse and some even asked questions about volunteering time here. It was explained to them that we do not have volunteers but need as many advocates within our community as we can get to help us get