

new friends and socialize. Rita is also a good listener and likes to help others with their problems.

Rita has come a long way, she told me that she has suffered from agoraphobia, (*a fear of being in open places, like outdoors*) and had this problem for 15 years. She over came this disorder by going out little by little until she finally took back control of her life. She is now stable with therapy and medication.

We are looking forward to seeing Rita as an active member here at Adventure House.

By Eddie Beauregard

Spotlight on Lydia Moore

Lydia was born in Philadelphia, PA. On May 28th 1976. She also grew up in Philly and went to Elwin Davis High School where she graduated in 1994. She was quite active in sports, she ran track, long jump, jumped hurdles and ran relay. Lydia has 4 brothers and 4 sisters. After high school she worked at Chaish Shore playground as a grounds keeper. Her hobbies are basketball, jumping double

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Dutch with her friends. She also likes to cook and read cookbooks. Lydia's favorite food is pizza, fried chicken, spaghetti and hot dogs. Her favorite movies are "Waiting to Exhale" and "The Color Purple". Favorite music is rap and she likes Ricky Bobby and Usher. Her favorite colors are red, blue and black.

Lydia started Adventure House in June of 2005. She lives at Terry Gordon family care. One thing you notice about Lydia is her good taste in clothes and how well she dresses. She is also very friendly. Lydia tells me that what she likes at Adventure House is the relationships and friends she has made here. She gets along well with everyone, staff and members. She works up in the Administrative Unit. Lydia has also had several placements with Transitional Employment at UA Thrift.

I asked her where she would like to go on a dream vacation and she told me that she would love to go to Hawaii because of the volcanoes and beautiful beaches.

By Eddie Beauregard



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Adventure House News

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The Benefits of Working a T.E.P.

Transitional Employment placement (T.E.P.) is a large part of the Adventure House program that has made a difference in many people's lives. This program focuses on placing members on jobs in the community, training them and supporting their efforts to return to the work force. It encourages them to grow personally. The T.E.P. program emphasizes members talents and skills, disregarding any set backs, and encourages setting positive goals for the future.

The job placements are done at the place of employment, not at the Clubhouse. Placements are basically part time, (15-24 hours) allowing the members to still receive support from the Clubhouse by returning to the day program for the balance of the day. The members are employed by the businesses, not the Clubhouse. Members are paid at least minimum wage or the prevailing rate received by other employees. There are time limits set for the length of the positions to allow opportunities for others to share the T.E.P. experience, although there is no limit to the number of placements a person can work. The employer has the benefit of having a well trained employee, with the guarantee of job coverage. If a T.E. employee is unable to work for any reason, the program staff from Adventure House sees that the job is adequately covered.

Part of being a member of the Clubhouse is being offered the opportunity to work at a T.E. job placement. T.E. has had a great impact on many of the four hundred and twenty-eight members that Adventure House has served over the Twenty-two years it has been in Cleveland County.

For many members this placement might have been their first job experience. Members gain self-worth and a sense of accomplishment. After their initial placement members begin to feel comfortable and gain

confidence in their abilities. Members have grossed earnings to date of \$520,535.76 since March of 1988. The goal of T.E. is to gain the desire to work at an independent job in the community. Presently the Clubhouse has eleven members working at T.E. jobs and several working independent jobs.

There are many benefits to working a T.E.P. It impacts peoples lives and gives them the desire to set higher goals for themselves. There is a positive outcome not only on the member working a T.E.P., but also as an inspiration for anyone they encounter while working their placement.

Tracey Finney's recently started her first T.E.P. she is working at UA Thrift. She stated "I was excited to get my first check. I will use the money to buy extra things for myself like new clothes. My friends and caregiver are proud of me. It makes me feel good to have a job."

Spurgeon Woods has worked at many T. E.'s during his time at Adventure House. He is currently working at the Pleasant City Wood Grill. Spurgeon stated, "Working a T.E.P. helps me feel independent. I don't feel like I have to rely on anyone. Working keeps me busy and I enjoy my job and the people there. I like that it gives me extra money to spend and put towards the bills. I want to thank everyone at Adventure House for giving me the opportunity to work at my T.E.P."

For Danny Carroll ,T.E.P. means extra money, working with and helping people. What he likes most is working with his boss, the Chaplin for the Salvation Army and with the staff from Adventure House. He is thankful to Drew Stallings and Genia Patterson for their help in getting him his T. E. position and helping him to deal with his depression.

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• **Spotlight on Lydia Moore**

Danny received the person of the week award for the first week of June from Salvation Army. His last day was to be June the 5th, but his T.E.P. has been extended.

The T.E.P program is successful because of all of the members who have worked at the placements. There is always a need for the development of new jobs, which will continue to make the program grow. If you have any suggestions or job opportunities contact Bryan Eaker at Adventure House. If you are interested in working a T.E.P., put your name on the list and see where it may lead you, the possibilities are endless. Don't miss out on this great opportunity.

By Crystal Byers and Diana Boswell



Tracy Finney receiving her first paycheck from UA Thrift

Adventure House Players News



The Adventure House Players performed their new play, *(The Interview)*, on Thursday, May 21st, to a very appreciative audience of family and friends at Adventure House. The cast had worked on this play for over three months. The tedious rehearsals were rewarded with a standing ovation, which meant the world to them. The play is a combination of humor, with a message about a man who has successfully learned to manage his mental illness and goes for his first job interview. The story touches on the Transitional Employment Placement (T.E.P.) program at Adventure House and the need for jobs for our members. We hope to take this show on the road and perform it for many civic

organizations throughout our community to possibly get some new jobs for the T.E.P. program.

I am so proud of the Adventure House Players. They have worked hard, especially on this play, not only with acting and character development, but also because they hope to help the T.E.P. program at Adventure House develop some new placements. If their performances bring in even one job opportunity for the Clubhouse, it will make all of their hard work worth it.

By Stan Logan

Adventure House Says Goodbye to Two Members

The Adventure House family will miss two members who passed away this month. Charter member, Bertha Stone died May 19, 2009 in Cherryville NC, where she had been a resident of Century Care since 1996. While she was a member of Adventure House she was involved in the Kitchen Unit. Bertha taught school when she was younger and later enjoyed working puzzles and doing art projects.

On May 21, 2009 Gwendolyn Jackson passed away. She considered Adventure House her second family. Gwen participated in many of the units while at Adventure House. She enjoyed staying busy in the Member Service unit and helping in the Snack Bar when she could. Gwen participated in three week training at Gateway House in Greenville South Carolina. Gwen always had a smile for everyone. She had an infectious laugh that could only make you happy when you were around her.

Both Bertha and Gwen will be missed by their Adventure House family and our condolences go out to their families.

By Paul Pouchak

Adventure House Walking Group

If you have seen a group of people walking in green shirts after lunch, you might have witnessed part of the Adventure House Walkers. The group of members and staff have been walking following lunch for quite a while now. The group started walking in an effort to become more active and physically fit. With the emphasize on health and wellness these days, it seemed like an easy way to motivate people to live a healthier lifestyle. Eddie Beauregard designed a tee shirt for the Adventure House Walkers, which was chosen to be part of an incentive for members and staff

to walk three days a week.

Three groups from Adventure House are also participating in the "One Step Challenge", which is part of North Carolina Health Wellness Trust Fund being sponsored by the Cleveland County Health Department. They are walking and recording the steps that they make each day. We are proud of everyone who decided to participate in these programs and encourage everyone to keep up the good work.

By Diana Boswell

Breathe Easy Live Well

The Breath Easy Live Well class has been a part of our Wednesday afternoons at the Clubhouse for the past three months. The focus of the group is learning the effects of tobacco and learning to live a healthier life style without tobacco.

We have had a great amount of success with the members and staff quitting or reducing their tobacco use. Eight people have quit so far and many members and staff have been working on reducing their use. No one has to quit, reduce or even want to quit or reduce to be a part of the group. We hope that just by coming and listening, that the information will be of help to everyone.

We hope to continue to see progress and success from members and staff, as many of them take the journey from being a smoker to becoming a non-smoker. We applaud those who have successfully started that journey and wish them the best. Members and staff who have quit: Francis Norman, Judy Thurman, Bryan Eaker, Fred Mead, Candie Bell, Roy Bridges, Danny Carroll, John Gjelhaug and Tommy Gunn. Members and staff who have had a significant reduction: Teresa Woods, Frank Glenn, Anita Nottage, Eddie Wellmon, and Chris George.

Danny Carroll stated "I quit smoking on February 16th, 2009 the Breath Easy Live Well group really inspired me to quit and to stick with it. The support I received from my friends at Adventure House was a big help to me."

By: Candie Bell

Park Avenue Welcomes Jean Melton

May 1, 2009 was the day that Jean Melton had patiently waited for. This was the day that Jean moved out of a family care home after seven years and in to her own apartment. When Jean received word that her application had been approved, she was overwhelmed with joy. It was an exciting experience for her to shop for household furnishings and to decorate her home.

When asked what comments she would like to make concerning her apartment, these are her words. "I would like to thank Elizabeth Ross, and my case manager, Christie Clemmons, for giving me another chance. I have worked hard to reach my goals to be able to live on my own again. I have good neighbors that I love and trust. I have a cozy apartment that I love to clean. I would like to say thank you to everyone for their love and support."

Congratulations Jean and best wishes for the future.

By Elizabeth Ross

Adventure House Welcomes Rita Rohrer

All of us at Adventure House would like to welcome new member Rita Rohrer. She started on March 30th 2009, and went right into the Snack Bar Unit.

Rita was born in Shelby, N.C. on June, 14th 1956, she grew up in Casar, NC. She went to Casar Elementary, Polkville Elementary, and Central Cleveland in Lawndale. She played basketball. She has 5 brothers and 1 sister. She got married at 14 years old, and has 7 children, 6 girls and 1 boy. We all know one of her daughters, she is an Adventure House member, "Trina McSwain".

She learned cabinet making when she worked for five years making furniture. Rita has played guitar since she was seven years old. She likes to sing and plays bluegrass and country, and also writes lyrics.

Her favorite food is hamburgers and fries. Her favorite color is purple. Her favorite movie is "Forest Gump", she also likes comedies and horror movies. She likes all types of music. She would also love to drive to Myrtle Beach in a fully restored 1956 Chevy.

Rita first heard about Adventure House from her daughter Trina. She says how she looks forward to coming to the Clubhouse every morning and gives her a sense of purpose and loves to make