

How Adventure House Has Effected My Life

When asked to write down ways that Adventure House has effected my life these things come to my mind. I feel better about myself and I see others around me having the same results. Sometimes it is as simple as needing a little attention, being noticed or loved. It helps me everyday because I know when I get up in the morning that I have somewhere to go. Because of Adventure House, I have worked a TE (Transitional Employment), job. At other times, I enjoy cooking , learning computer skills or how to be a teller in the Member Bank, just to name a few of the many possibilities the Clubhouse gives me opportunity to do.

When I am active at the Clubhouse, I always feel like I am more stable and I am there to help myself. I have something to look forward to everyday and I love attending Adventure House. Period.

By Patricia Wiggs **4**

Welcome New Member Patricia Holland

Patricia Holland was born in Louisville Kentucky on July 13th. She has one sister and one brother. She attended Dupont High School. Patricia moved to North Carolina four years ago. She enjoys reading in her free time. She worked for twenty years for an HMO in Kentucky.

Her sister, whom she lives with, encouraged her to check out the Adventure House. Since her first day. She has loved coming to the Clubhouse. She says “ the members and staff are friendly to her.” Patricia can be found in the Member Services unit where she enjoys helping in the Members Bank. She has also started learning how to answer the telephones for the Clubhouse. Phyllis Chitwood states “ Mrs. Pat is a very hard working lady.”

We all welcome Patricia to Adventure House and we are glad she is here.

By Crystal Byers



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Adventure House News

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Adventure House Community Support Downsizes

With a lot of regret and sorrow, some of the case managers from Adventure House Community Support were laid off recently. They have always been a part of our Adventure House family and everyone will miss seeing them on a daily basis. Earlier last year the Para Professionals Phyllis Stafford and Elizabeth Ward were laid off due to changes in Medicaid.

As of June 30, 2010, Becky Edwards, Karen Hilley, Kimberly McDaniel , Nick Rizzo and Stacy Wright were laid off from Adventure House Community Support. We are already missing them and wish all of them the best in the future. The office space has been downsized to accommodate the remaining staff Donna Miller, Lynn Roseboro and David Walsh. They will be in the same building on the lower level.

There have been many rumors circulating about Adventure House closing in the future. Even though some of the case managers are gone, this does not mean that Adventure House will be closing. It just means that we need to all work together to accommodate everyone's needs.

The state closing Community Support Services before another service is approved to take its place, will be a huge problem for many of

our members. Adventure House tried to fill this gap by funding Community Support, but was not successful. The state's answer was for the Clubhouse to provide this service for free, while absorbing a cut in funding. Members and staff will do the best they can, but what will happen to the men and women with mental illness in our state who are not associated with a Clubhouse?

One Service that is still available is “Community Support Team” Adventure House has referred fifteen of our most vulnerable members for this service, However the state, seeing a rise in the use of this service, has slashed this reimbursement rate.

Attending the Clubhouse every day will insure that everyone has their needs and goals met. In the spirit of Clubhouse, Adventure House will continue to strive to remain the strong and vibrant Clubhouse that we have always been. The focus will continue to be on the well being of all of our members. By being here and supporting each other we will attempt to meet this challenge.

By Diana Boswell

David Rhodes Moves to Park Avenue Apartments

Park Avenue residents recently welcomed David Rhodes to the apartment complex. He was thrilled

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when he was approved for his apartment. He was eager to go shopping for his apartment furniture and household items. Shopping for furniture included a new bedroom suit and living room suit. David stated "he has enjoyed the comfort of being in a nice apartment and living close to his Adventure House friends." David has been a member of Adventure House since 2005 and has always had a desire to live in the Adventure House Apartments. Since moving into his apartment, he has enjoyed having a place to wash his clothes. He is happy that he has more channels on his television and is thankful that he has air conditioning, especially in this hot weather. He also likes that there is a church in his community that he has attended and is glad that he can walk there for services. David says, "It's a blessing to have a nice place, and he hopes to live there for a long time."

By Beverly Dawkins

Welcome New Member Brian Scott

Welcome to Brian Scott a new member at Adventure House. We are glad he is here. When his mother suggested that he check out Adventure House, he had no idea what Adventure House was about but thought it might be a good way to get out of the house. He stated "It is not what I thought it would be. I like hanging out and meeting people"

Brian is very interested in an Adventure House apartment in the future and intends to put his name on the list as soon as he can. He also said that he could be interested in a TEP (Transitional Employment Placement) at some point.

Brian choose the Administration unit to participate in and has been doing a great job there. He picked up the work on attendance really fast and enjoys entering the attendance into the computer. Brian says that he is also interested in learning how to cook so he might check out the kitchen unit at times. He says he hasn't stayed for a social activity yet but he is looking forward to staying for evening activities soon.

By Paul Pouchak

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International Center for Clubhouse Development Recertification Time

It is time for the ICCD (International Center for Clubhouse Development) re-certification. Standard number twenty-nine states that "the Clubhouse conducts an objective evaluation of it's effectiveness on a regular basis." Clubhouse members and staff have formed a committee to review and recognize the many achievements of the Clubhouse ; as well as look for areas that can be improved upon. One of the important components of the certification process has been our self-study. The self-study gives the Clubhouse community the chance to take time out of it's busy schedule to get together in an effort to take a closer look at how the Clubhouse is doing.

The entire Clubhouse is involved in this project. First, we review our International Standards for Clubhouse Programs, to see if we are meeting expectations. Secondly, each unit will perform a self report. Then we will look at recommendations made at the last certification and any new ones we make for ourselves.

By Chastity Hector

Colleague Visit

After a tour earlier in the month by several members and staff from Piedmont Pioneer House, we were honored to have Gene Turilli and Anthony Jones join us at Adventure House for a few days. Anthony was interested in the work-ordered day and in the TE (Transitional Employment) program. Gene enjoyed circulating throughout the Clubhouse and meeting new friends as well as reconnecting with old acquaintances. He was very interested in the Administrative unit and how the attendance work is done there. Both Gene and Anthony assisted in the filming of a promo for the Adventure House News. We hope to see you guys again soon!

By Bryan Eaker



Adventure House Players News

On June 22nd, the Adventure House Players debuted their original play, SAVING CLUBHOUSE PANDORA, for members and staff as the evening social activity. The play is about a fictional clubhouse that is trying to raise money to replenish their emergency fund. The clubhouse held a talent show where the members sang, played musical instruments, and acted in comedy sketches during a telethon to raise funds for Clubhouse Pandora. The evening started with the emcees, Phyllis Chitwood and Lewis Acree, introducing themselves and sharing about what the clubhouse meant to them. Shelia Wellmon and James Cook were the first act. They sang ROCKY TOP TENNESSE, which was a crowd pleaser. Next up was Chris George and Eddie Wellmon performing the classic Abbott and Costello comedy sketch WHO'S ON FIRST? The audience was in stitches. Our third act had the audience grooving to the soulful sound of Joyce Fox's rendition of MY GUY. Her back up singers were Phyllis Chitwood and Frankie Philbeck. Lewis Acree was up next playing DARK SIDE OF THE MOON on his guitar. He did a great job especially for someone who hadn't been playing very long. Georgiana Wright, our pianist, brought the next sketch, WRONG NUMBER, to my attention. It was first performed by Carol Burnett/Tim Conway. Eddie Wellmon and Phyllis Chitwood brought it to life on our stage and they brought the house down with laughter. After that Byron Dorsey chose to sing YOU ARE THE SUNSHINE OF

MY LIFE. Byron worked hard learning his song and gave a very touching rendition. Frankie Philbeck came back to the stage and sang from her heart the gospel song WHEN JOHN CAME PREACHING, with such a clear, pure voice. She moved everyone in the room. Now came the most interesting part of the evening's entertainment...THE WOMANLESS BEAUTY PAGEANT!!! It was the ugliest beauty pageant that this writer and the audience had ever seen. The volunteers for the pageant were Lewis Acree, Charles Foster and Eddie Wellmon. They were men dressed up as women vying for the crown. When they paraded onto the stage the crowd went wild. As the winner was announced and the ladies were leaving the stage one of them tried to hug someone in the audience. He ran across the room, hopped on and off the stage, and ran out of the room. The audience went wild with laughter. No one could have written a better ending to the pageant. Lisa Debreaux sang the next number JESUS LOVES ME. She sang the first verse and then asked the audience to sing with her. In the end, they announced the telethon had raised \$1500 dollars for the clubhouse when a business man from the community played by James White, presented a check for \$10,000 dollars because the clubhouse had helped him decades ago when no one else would help him. To close the show all of the actors came onstage and lead the audience in singing LEAN ON ME.

As a director, I am so proud of the Players for writing, especially Candace Bell, and performing this play. We will perform it again in August at the Life Enrichment Center in Kings Mountain. We will add another act with Rita Rohrer performing an original country song that she wrote. A special thank you to the Greater Shelby Community Theater, Georgiana Wright, John Gjelhaug, Drew Stallings and Bryan Eaker. We will continue to promote the message of how Clubhouse enriches the lives of people with mental illnesses with our future performances.

By Stan Logan

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