

### What Thanksgiving Meant to Me

The Thanksgiving dinner this year was one great get together, Old members and new ones along with staff sat down to share a meal together and also took the time to talk with each other and share the things they have had to be thankful for during the past year. There were stories and testimonies that brought tears to some peoples eyes.

The delicious dinner was prepared by members and staff who enjoyed spending time together in both kitchens of the Clubhouse, Some of the preparation was completed the day before so it really was a two day effort to feed everyone.

It is great that we have the opportunity to do this each year. We especially look forward to Tommy Gunn sharing the story and history of Thanksgiving at Adventure House. We also eagerly anticipate Tommy opening the open mic time of our celebration. We are looking forward to next years dinner and stories.

By Richard Ingle



### Thankful

We gather together in a place filled with joy and hope!

We love with our hearts and believe with our minds!

We support each other during the hard times; We encourage each other during the good times!

I am thankful for the Adventure House!

To intercede means to behave;

To succeed means we shall flock together!

To live a healthy and happy life;

In a safe and peaceful place; filled with responsible people!

Who can face anything with our heads held high!

I am thankful for the Adventure House!

May God Bless Us in Everything We Do!

May others accept us with a smile upon their face!

This Day and Everyday,

I am thankful for the Adventure House!

By Kristian Mason



# Adventure House News

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### Adventure House's Day At The Fair

I enjoyed walking around the fair grounds. We saw artwork and exhibits from all of the local county schools. One vendor was giving out free popcorn to all the people who came to the fair. Since I love food, the popcorn was very good, I went back for more. I purchased a vanilla ice cream cone and hot dogs.

We saw a pirate show. One person had a picture taken with a pirate on their cell phone. People enjoyed riding rides and we took great pictures of that too.

We had a ball. The time went by so fast. The TACC vans came and hardly anyone was ready to go. We cannot wait to go back next year. We all look forward to going back again. We thank Adventure House and Cleveland County Fair for treating us to a very enjoyable day at the fair. We appreciate everything you do for us.

By Patricia Wiggs

### Halloween Party

The creatures came out. Spiders and webs hung in the room. The music was pumping and howling of delight filled the night. It was indeed the annual Adventure House Halloween party.

The food was great. Hamburgers and hotdogs with various desserts from pumpkin candy, cupcakes and cookies, and to juicy red and delicious candy apples.

There were door prizes. Baskets made from each unit given away to five lucky winners. The themes included "Spa" from the Administrative Unit, "Baking Goods" from the Kitchen Unit, "Movie

Night" from Housing, "Snacks" from the snack bar, and "Sports" from the Members Bank. There was also a contest for gift cards for different categories of costumes. The best overall was Richard Ingle as a possessed priest. He won a \$50 dollar gift card to Walmart. The others were Funniest, won by Fred Mead who was dressed as a zombie, Scariest was Rashon Archie as a Demon, and Cutest was Shenika Massey as a cartoon girl. All of them won a \$20 dollar gift card to Walmart.

The night ended with a play from Adventure House Players called, "Bubba's House of Séance." It was about some friends trying to communicate with a dead friend. It was hilarious and with a twist and surprise at the end. A head popped up from the table, giving us all a scare.

It was a fun night. Now, I shall put away my costume and finishing eating my candy and wait till next year. Have fun and be safe!

By Shenika Massey

### Thanksgiving Dinner

Our Annual Thanksgiving dinner began with an opening prayer and then everyone started to eat. Following lunch Executive Director, Tommy Gunn, started an open mic in which everyone stated what they were thankful for and what the Clubhouse means to them. Many people got emotional about what they were thankful for. The members and staff had a great time that afternoon.

This Thanksgiving dinner was like no other we have had in the past, this dinner marked the 26th year that Tommy Gunn has

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## Adventure House

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Shelby, NC 28150  
(704) 482-3370

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been the director of Adventure House.

I can say this much, I am very thankful for what Adventure House has done for me. If it wasn't for the Clubhouse, I would still be living in a homeless shelter. I now have an apartment, which I have lived in for almost two years.

I know that everyone was grateful for a wonderful dinner, and they had a great time sharing open mic time to express their feelings. They expressed how the Clubhouse was a great place to come and safe place to meet new people and old members that have been members of the Clubhouse.

I really look forward to another year and for another great Thanksgiving dinner. Lets hope that more people will come and express their feelings about the Clubhouse and what it means to them. Also that they can say that they enjoy coming to a Clubhouse that has people that care for each other. No matter what happens here, there will always be open mic to express those feelings about Adventure House. I hope that Adventure House is here for many more years to come, and I am thankful that it's here to support us now.

*By Christopher George*

### Dinner For A Cause

On November 8th, five members of Adventure House, one staff, and one supporter were recognized along with many other artists for their achievements in art at the annual Cleveland County Mental Health Dinner and a Movie at the Don Gibson Theatre reception hall in downtown Shelby, North Carolina. The artists who are members at Adventure House were Danny Kiser, Shenika Massey, Richard Ingle, Patricia Wiggs, and Mecos Lattimore. Each individual displayed their own distinctive artwork at the gallery showing, "Healing Through Art", at Cleveland Community College and were applauded for their success at the dinner and meeting on the 8th.

Also with the group from Adventure House that were honored were Fred Mead, who displayed his original glasswork and Georgiana Wright, who displayed a collection of ornamental balls. Fred Mead is a Program Coordinator at Adventure House while Georgiana Wright is a supporter of the Clubhouse by helping out with the Adventure House Players.

Many of the members were pleasantly surprised by the accolades that were showered upon them at the meeting by many in the community who had seen their work at the gallery and just wanted to

tell them how much they appreciated their art and the story it told.

Other's attending the dinner/meeting from Adventure House were Tommy Gunn, Donna Miller, Associate Director of Adventure House, Reva Eagle, Bryan Eaker, Stan Logan and Boardchair David Thompson.

Besides recognizing the artists, everyone was treated to a showing of the film, "Brushes with Life", by Philip Brubaker. The film was about five individuals who themselves are dealing with their own mental illness and how their art affected them in a positive way and helped them turn the corner. Each one of them state that without art, they feel that their lives would not be as fulfilling as it is now and in one case it brought two of them together as a couple. The movie was very powerful to watch when you found out the director had his own mental illness to deal with at the time and came through it with flying colors.

Much thanks to Stacy Costner, the Director of the Mental Health Association of Cleveland County, who came up with the idea of the art gallery after viewing this film years ago, and to Sally Jacobs, art instructor at the Cleveland Community College. These two ladies were the leaders in getting the project completed and all of us at Adventure House certainly appreciate all their work and talent. It especially made many of our members PROUD OF WHAT THEY COULD ACHIEVE and look forward to what the future brings.

*By Stan Logan*

*Richard Ingle*



*Shenika Massey*

*Mecos Lattimore*



### Artwork Sold

When I first heard that I sold one of my art pieces, I was so glad and happy. I love doing art, it is enjoyable and relaxing. I like to thank all those who have helped. I hope someone will see my artwork and hire me for movies to do makeup for science fiction and horror characters.

*By Richard Ingle*

### My Transitional Employment /Education

Many members are going to school where they are trying to get their G.E.D. I am very happy that this is what they are doing. As for Transitional Employment right now I am working a TEP (Transitional Employment Placement) at Adventure House Community Support Services.

I truly enjoy cleaning the office and doing the many tasks that need to be done. There have been some set backs with my health which has made it hard for me to keep my job. But I really hope to complete my placement.

I hope that many more members can follow me by working a TEP. And for others to continue working on getting their G.E.D., so that they can do something productive in their lives. I can say that many members and staff work hard at what they do for TEP. I hope people can look at what I have done and use this as an example, for many more members to do the same.

*By Christopher George*

### First Time Apartment Residents

Anthony Harrison recently moved to Park Avenue Terrace Apartments. Anthony has never lived alone and he was very excited about getting the opportunity to reside in his own apartment. Anthony enjoyed going shopping with staff for his apartment. He was eager to select his furniture and other household items. Anthony attends Adventure House on a regular basis. He participates in the Snack Bar Unit and has learned many household duties including cleaning, cooking, and money management. He enjoys playing X Box and other video games. He said, "It is great being in my own place and being closer to my Adventure House friends. I feel more independent." Adventure House staff reminded Anthony of the twenty-four hour on call services and

other opportunities provided.

Mona Culp recently moved to Charles Road I apartments. She moved from Florida three years ago and has been residing with family. She has been attending the Clubhouse for more than eight months. Mona comes to the Clubhouse daily and participates in the Snack Bar Unit. When Mona was approved for an apartment, she was grateful, excited and elated. Mona had lived with family and desired to have her own space and privacy. Staff and Mona went shopping for apartment furniture and other items. She selected dark brown furniture and chose a multi-colored comforter for her bedroom. Mona is a good decorator, and has many pictures, figurines, and rugs to accent her apartment.

*By Beverly Dawkins*

### Welcoming New Members To Adventure House

Rashon Archie, 24, joined Adventure House in October 2012. He enjoys listening to music. He loves helping out with the Administrative Unit and waiting on tables in the dining room at lunch time. He also enjoys going to socials and events at the Clubhouse. Rashon said, "The people here are very encouraging; I am thankful for the support and service the Clubhouse has shown me." He vows to come everyday, and by the grace of God, he will. He recommends Adventure House to others. He is now focusing on what he needs in order to better his life and is now taking classes to better his education. "I thank God through our hard times and good times; and I wish for peace and love to all."

*By Shenika Massey*

Adventure House welcomes new member Johnny Walker to the Clubhouse. He started at the beginning of October and has become comfortable participating in the Member Bank. He stated, "I like the fellowship around the Clubhouse, everyone treats me with respect and kindness." He enjoys the food in the snack bar and dining room. He also likes the friends he has made since he started the Clubhouse. He states he is glad he is able to take breaks when he needs to and doesn't feel pressured while here. He said, "I would rather be at Adventure House than sitting at home with nothing to do." At home he enjoys cooking and working on counted cross stitch projects. Give him a warm Adventure House welcome the next time you see him.

*By Lynda Vaughn*