

get new T.E. job placements for Club Horizon. While here Cory had tours of our Clubhouse, our job sites and our apartment complexes. He also attended a T. E. meeting. Cory stated “ I learned a lot about the Clubhouse Model.” He said “Thank You to all of the members and staff of Adventure House for making me feel welcome and at home here.”

*By Crystal Byers Shannon Potlow:*

I am communicating more and coming out of my shell. One of my hobbies is knitting, so I’m knitting a baby blanket for one of the staff members. I’m really enjoying my time spent here and I thank the Adventure House community for making me feel welcome here.”

**New Members**

***Lynda Vaughn:***

We here at Adventure House welcome Lynda. She became a member in January and she is very excited about being here. She said “Adventure House has definitely been an adventure. Some of the things I do here are participating in the member bank, answering the phones in the reception area, and participating in the social activities. I am usually a quiet person, however I am getting to know people through the different activities.

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“I was tired of sitting in the house doing nothing. I heard about Adventure House through Donna Miller who was my previous case worker. My first day was in January. I like working in the snack bar due to my earlier experience working at Hardee’s as a cashier. Coming to Adventure House not only allows me to work on job skills, it also helps me to gain social skills. Since coming here I have also connected with old and new friends. It feels good to be somewhere other than at home. I really enjoy coming here and being a part of the daily happenings.”

*By Glenda Woodson*



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**Adventure House News**

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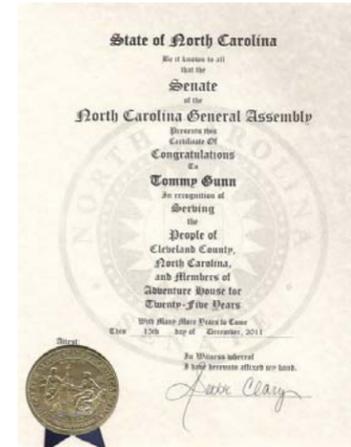
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**North Carolina Senate Congratulates Tommy Gunn**



On December 15th ,2011 Tommy Gunn, the Executive Director of Adventure House, was presented with a Certificate of Congratulations by the Senate of the North Carolina General Assembly. The certificate was in recognition of serving the people of Cleveland County and the members of Adventure House for twenty-five years. He was presented the certificate by Senator Debbie Clary.

Tommy Gunn founded and is the Executive Director of Adventure House which was started in the basement of a local church. Clients and staff from the Mental Health Center met and started what they originally called the Adventurers Club. In March of 1986 the rent for a small mill house was donated and the small group of about seven regular members moved into their new location. At this time they changed the day activity program into a Clubhouse Model Rehabilitation Program, based on Fountain House in

New York City. The name was changed at that time to Adventure House. All the while the membership continued to grow requiring another move to the current location on North Lafayette Street in October of 1987.

Adventure House began the first Employment Program in Cleveland County for persons with Mental Illness in February 1988. The Transitional Employment Program enables many members to work real jobs for real pay with local employers.

In May 1989, Adventure House opened the first Supported Housing Program in North Carolina which gave members the opportunity to live in their own individual apartments. The program was expanded upon and we currently have 33 apartments, all of which are occupied by Adventure House Members.

In 1991, Adventure House was the first Clubhouse operated by a Mental Health Center to become freestanding. Tommy has assisted many other Clubhouses around the country to become independent as well.

With help from the Board of Directors in fund raising, the location at North Lafayette Street has been expanded twice. We are now one of the largest Clubhouses per population in the world. Adventure House has a membership of over 100 active members and a daily attendance in the 60’s on a daily average.

Twenty–five years ago Tommy’s vision was to help adults

with mental illness to be able to regain the confidence and skills necessary to lead productive, satisfying lives and allow them to regain self-respect as contributing citizens. The goal set then was to create a program where adults with mental illness would have a place to come where they are needed and welcome. Tommy has strived to build a strong and prosperous Clubhouse Model program for adults with severe and persistent mental illness. Thanks to Tommy's leadership Adventure House continues to grow and remains committed to serving the members of the Clubhouse and people of Cleveland County.

Thank You ,Tommy for your dedication and commitment and for all of the hard work you have done in the past twenty-five years. Congratulations!!!

*By Diana Boswell*

### Open House Friends and Family Night

On December 15th ,2011.Friends and family of Adventure House came to see and find out what we do here. Tours were given to family members and friends every half hour, and refreshments were served throughout the evening.

The table was beautiful and the food was very good. My brother really enjoyed the food. "Couldn't believe they fed us that well," he told me. "That's why I'm not losing any weight." I said.

Crystal Byers and I gave my family the tour of our Clubhouse. They were very curious about what we do at Adventure House everyday. They were very surprise at what they learned. Now they know and understand why I enjoy coming here, and what I do while here at the Clubhouse.

My brother couldn't believe how nice the house is, and my daughter Crystal was very impressed with it as well. They wanted to know if any one could come here or volunteer at the Clubhouse. I told them no, that the staff and members work together to run the Clubhouse. I explained what we call a "work-ordered day." After visiting the Clubhouse they now understand how I spend my days at Adventure House.

In the end, my brother said they really feed us well, and my daughter fell in love with the house itself. They now know where to find me and call it my second home. They just don't know how true that is.

*By Teresa Woods*

### New Years Party

The New Years Party was a marvelous event with food and dancing. Members and Staff had lots of fun fellowshiping and bringing in 2012 together. The music was bumping and the dance floor was filled. The food was great. We ate Lasagna that would make your mouth water.

It was good to see everyone together and celebrating the going away of the old year and the coming in of the new. There were members and staff that had been with Adventure House for many years and then some have only been here for days, but the main thing was that we were all together and enjoying the party that members and staff alike worked hard to make happen. We wouldn't want to celebrate any other way than sipping on soda, blowing our party horns, wearing our party hats, and talking the night away about how amazing the year has been to us, here at Adventure House.

This past year at Adventure House has been wonderful and full of fun events and good times, and the way that things are going, the year of 2012 is going to be even better. So Happy New Year to all and may 2012 be great and adventurous.

*By Richard Ingle and Shenika Massey*

### What Adventure House Means to Me

Adventure House means a place to belong, a place where I can come to be around people like myself and interact with one another. It is a fun place where we do fun things for socials like playing bingo, price is right and we get to go different places like to the mountains, farms and shopping.

I am part of the Administration unit where we do a lot of things like entering daily attendance into the computer, entering apartment attendance into the computer, billing for the meal tickets and more.

I am also part of the Adventure House Players. We perform plays like "Dancing for Your Meds"

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and attend other plays and musicals.

Adventure House is the best thing that has happened to me! I feel special when I come to the Clubhouse. Everyone is nice to me. The members and staff are equal parts of the Clubhouse. God Bless Adventure House.!!!

*By Traci Backhaus*

### Adventure House Players Dancing For Your Meds



On Thursday, January 19th, 2012, at Adventure House, the Adventure House Players (AHP) performed their original play, "Dancing For Your Meds" in front of members, staff, and family. The object of the play was the couple that won first place won a supply of meds for 1 entire year, while the other remaining couples, to their surprise, won a 3 month supply of meds for participating.

We had a disco ball shining from the ceiling which enhanced one of the dance numbers. We had couples dancing to a variety of music and it was really fun watching them dance. There were 3 judges plus the audience that helped to choose the winner.

They were all good, but Carolyn Abrams and Antwon Wilkie won first place. They were each dressed in style. Carolyn wore a long lavender gown and Antwon wore a tuxedo.

About the 3 judges, Andrea Gjelhaug was very funny. She had a great sense of humor and she really made me laugh. What a fun time we had!!!

Stan Logan a staff member here at Adventure House, is a very good director. And staff member Bryan Eaker filmed the show for everyone. I can't wait to see the play again on film!

*By Elizabeth Grigg*

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### Christmas Dinner at Adventure House

There was a big turnout for the Christmas luncheon this year. The meal was delicious and was prepared by members and Staff. Everyone appreciated the gift of a denim shirt from the Clubhouse.

All members and staff in attendance posed for pictures on the front porch of the Clubhouse. Everyone was very excited to see the picture published in the Shelby Daily Star.



**Christmas at Adventure House 2011**

Even Santa made a special appearance on that day, celebrating Christmas by passing out the gifts during lunch and by spreading holiday cheer while waving at passersby from the sidewalk.

Another very special treat for everyone in attendance that day was the performance Dexter Reed gave us singing "O' Holy Night", you would have thought Luther Vandross was in the house.

The time spent together including members, staff and Board Members was a great way to kick off the Christmas Holiday with fun, friendship and fellowship at Adventure House.

*By Ruthie Mills*

### Clubhouse Orientation

Adventure House members and staff were excited to start the New Year off by hosting colleagues from Club Horizon in Knightdale N.C. We welcomed Cory to our Clubhouse. Each day Cory took part in a different unit of the Clubhouse. His main focus was on T.E. (Transitional Employment) since he is the T.E. coordinator at his Clubhouse. He is learning different ways to