

**Jordan Adams**

Jordan was born in Rutherfordton N.C. He is 22 yrs old and has a full life ahead of him. He is always looking for something to do, something that would keep him out of his house and from being depressed all the time. He is a friendly person and easy to get along with. He loves to laugh. He wants to make friends with people having the same ideas as he does and people that he can relate to. He feels like Adventure House is a very positive place and a great influence on people's lives.

By Eddie Wellmon

**William Vinson**

I'm from Lawndale NC. I am 24 yrs old. Drugs brought me down to a low point in my life. Since I've been at Adventure House, I'm happier and I've met a lot of interesting people.

At one time my anxiety was so bad that I couldn't be around a lot of people or even leave the house. My concentration

wasn't at its best because of my ADHD. And my mood swings and anxiety attacks kept me in and out of hospitals. But since my life changed, I'm not so afraid any more, and I am much happier. What helps me is my desire of doing martial arts, music, and dancing, those things always keep me calm and motivated. So is being around new people; I believe attending Adventure House is a step up for me.

I feel like Adventure House is a place where I can cope with others. I can relate with everybody there. I am looking forward for the Clubhouse to help me find a job and a place to live. I am also planning to go to school and farther my education.

Last but not least, I believe that when I read my Bible it makes me feel ten times better, because I remember that God will protect me no matter what. I believe that the closer you get to God the better your life will

4 be.

By William Vinson



# Adventure House News

February-March 2013  
Volume 26 Issue 5



**A Warm Welcome**

During a recent Legislative breakfast sponsored by the Cleveland County Chamber of Commerce some of the Adventure House Board of Directors and our Executive Director Tommy Gunn invited Senator Warren Daniel to come visit Adventure House. The Senator represents Cleveland and Burke Counties.

Senator Warren was given a warm welcome by members and staff along with the Board of Directors. He arrived as we were beginning our work-ordered day activities. Senator Warren was given a tour of our Clubhouse and was able to gain knowledge of what our Clubhouse is all about. He had the opportunity to learn what the Clubhouse means to many of our members and staff and how it improves the quality of many of our lives.

By Crystal Byers

**Talk of The Town**

Adventure House members and staff were invited to be interviewed on the cable television show, "The Talk of The Town", in February at Cleveland Community College. Danny Kiser, Crystal Byers, and Stan Logan were interviewed on the broadcast by the emcee about the Adventure House program and what it offers the community and the members who attend.

I, Danny Kiser, talked about my experience dealing with my mental illness for most of my life and how I dealt with it before Adventure House and afterwards. I stated that I struggled greatly with my

illness for many years and nothing seemed to keep me on an even balance. When I started to attend Adventure House, they not only got me the help that I needed but also helped me turn my life around. They even saved my life if I am truly honest about it. Adventure House helped me get a job through their T.E. (Transitional Employment Program) that guaranteed me work which helped me regain my self-esteem. The program also provided me an apartment in their supported housing program which guarantees me a safe place to live. They have a 24 hour-on call service if I ever need any help. For example, last December, I knew I wasn't feeling well on a Saturday night. Things started to get really bad so I called the on-call phone and the staff took me to Urgent Care. It turned out that I had a serious infection and the doctor said I came in the nick of time. Without Adventure House and their service there is no telling what would have happened....I have never had that level of support and care before, NEVER, in my life....They also provide me with assistance with transportation when needed.

Adventure House is a place to work with other members and staff during the work-ordered day, gather to be with friends during socials and the Adventure House Players, in order to beat the isolation of depression that debilitates me, as I suffer from this condition. I highly recommend anyone to check out Adventure House if they are dealing with any type of mental illness. It was a GOD send to me and I'm sure it

1

## Table of Contents

Page 1

A Warm Welcome

Talk of the Town

Page 2

Adventure House Players

Page 3

A Star Among Us

Charles Road Apt.#2 Welcomes Frances Norman

New Members

Page 4

Jordan Adams

William Vinson



### Adventure House

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could be for others as well.

In closing, I consider Adventure House to be my family as much as my real family can be. I hope to be attending here for many years to come.

By Danny Kiser

### Adventure House Players



“Sanford and Son” made its debut at the Clubhouse on March 21st to an appreciative audience of members, staff, and their families.

Months of rehearsals went into this great performance and afterwards the cast and audience seemed to realize that they had witnessed something unique. It meant the world for the Players to hear laughter after coming up with the idea of the play, helping to write it with the help of Ms. Georgiana Wright, and rehearsing it for so long, since late spring 2012.

Antwon Wilkie played Fred Sanford and did a fantastic job! When he told everyone, “You big dummies”, you really believed that was Fred. What we found out the night of the performance was Antwon’s gift for ad-lib when fellow actor forgot her lines and needed to get off the stage, Antwon just said, “Why don’t you just take your money and leave.” It brought the house down. It was so funny that I am keeping that line in the play for our next performance in two weeks at the Life Enrichment Center in Shelby.

Sonya Nichols embodied the spirit of Esther down to the hat, Bible, and ugly old dress. She had the righteous anger with the following of her bible troupe consisting of Kimberly Reynolds, Francis Norman, and Jordan Adams. They all tried to scare Fred into selling his junkyard to supposedly clean up the neighborhood but Esther and the Mayor had other plans for that.

Speaking of the mayor, Lewis Acree,

once again, turned in another fine performance as the crooked politician who wants to buy Fred’s land cheap and sell it to Wal-Mart for a tidy profit and keep his job as Mayor, only richer! Good job, Lewis! ( If you ever want a job in politics I think you were made for it by this performance.)

Other fine performances were delivered by Danny Kiser as Grady... crusty old bird, who knew his lines and others, and Phyllis Chitwood as Donna, the love interest for Fred. The keystone cops were expertly played by James Cook and Johnny Walker. They were more like Abbott and Costello in their comic timing. The conniving American Pickers trying to buy Rollo’s Indian motorcycle were devilishly played by Tiffany Knowles and Richard Ingle. ( By the way, much thanks to Bob Blanton for allowing us to use his motorcycle for the play. It added so much to it.) The befuddled IRS agent was perfectly played by Shelia Wellman. Next time remember to stuff your shirt with piles of money. The audience will howl with laughter. I PROMISE YOU THAT!!

Byron Dorsey played Julio extremely well. I am so proud of him and how far he has come in our program. He is one of our most dedicated actors. James Ortiz jumped into his role with just two weeks remaining taking the place of an actor who dropped out and did a good job as Lamont. He sounded just like him and had the character down pat. Chris George played Rollo, the man who left the Indian motorcycle in the junkyard to hide it while he went to Mexico to check out “babes” for two weeks, and he is the one who started the whole mess to begin with. Chris played him with his usual obnoxious manner and it worked. Elizabeth, the deceased wife of Fred, was played angelically by Lisa Debreaux, who coaxed Fred on to do the right thing by cleaning up his junkyard to find his treasure that would solve all of his own financial woes. Last but certainly not least was the character of Woody, Esther’s husband, played by Donald Davis as only Donald could play him and anyone who knows Donald knows what I mean. He staggered out on stage and then forgot his two lines but still stole the show with his stage

presence. That is some power!

All in all, it was a good show. There were lines dropped and a few scenes got a little long due to that BUT this was the first time that the troupe tried to memorize their lines completely and most of them stayed in character. What I was very impressed with was their composure under pressure even with lines dropped. Some actors knew all their lines....and some actors knew their lines and others....and some still need to work on their lines. But that’s the nature of the beast. What was important was that they kept moving on....that is the mark of being a good actor. The audience enjoyed the show, mistakes and all, and that helped them to enjoy their characters and their performances. We have two more rehearsals to refine some parts of the play so we are better for our next audience but one invaluable lesson was learned that Thursday evening....THEY CAN DO IT!!!!

By Stan Logan

*A Very Proud Director*

P.S. We hope Carolyn Abrams will feel better soon so she can rejoin the troupe once again as BUBBA in “Sanford and Son”. Next performance is Tuesday, April 9th at the Life Enrichment Center in Shelby, N.C. We hope you can enjoy us there.

### A Star Among Us

I want to thank Adventure House for having a wonderful program and Clubhouse for those in need within the community. As a member, I was introduced to Stan Logan. He was involved in being an extra in a recent movie called “Hunger Games,” that was filmed in Shelby and Charlotte . Now, a new movie is being filmed here in North Carolina and because of Stan’s contacts, I was able to participate as an extra in this new movie called “An Evergreen Christmas” starring Naomi Judd. I played in two small parts. It was pretty exciting and I cannot wait until I see myself up on the silver screen!

By James Ortiz

### Charles Road Apt.#2 Welcomes Frances Norman

Frances recently moved to Charles Road apartments. She had lived in a family care home for several years. She attends the Clubhouse on a regular basis and participates in the Snack Bar Unit.

Frances was on the waiting list for an apartment for awhile and she was so excited when she was approved for an apartment. She has always wanted to live independently and desired to have her own space and privacy. Frances enjoyed selecting her furniture and other items for her new place. She was also honored with a house warming given by her mother and church family. She received many beautiful things.

Frances stated “she would like to thank Adventure House for giving her an opportunity to live in a supported apartment.” Adventure House provides twenty-four hour on call services to residents in their apartments, and grocery shopping twice a week. Congratulations Frances on your new home.

By Elizabeth Ross

### New Members

The Adventure House would like to welcome several new members to the Clubhouse. Travis Berryhill has attended for almost a month. He is glad to be here and has taken on a key role in the Administrative unit. Travis is happy to be at the Clubhouse and is looking forward to all of the opportunities he has available to him here. He is doing a great job in the Admin. Unit and we are grateful that he is willing to help us with attendance.

Michael Antwon Adams is new to the Clubhouse as well. He says that he loves to cook and has made himself at home in the Kitchen unit. He is very outgoing and his fun loving spirit is infectious. Mike is happy to have the opportunity to meet new friends here at the Clubhouse. He hopes to run his own business in the future with the support of the Clubhouse.

Lets welcome everyone as they become part of our Adventure House family.

By Diana Boswell