

**Congratulations to Kristian Mason on Her SE Job at Fatz Café !**



Kristain Mason started out working at Fatz Café on a TEP (Transitional Employment Position) She rolled silverware there as she completed her TE placement. Following her placement Kristain applied for employment with Fatz and followed up with the manager about her application

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until she was given the job that she is doing now. It is considered Supported Employment with the Clubhouse assisting her with her transportation to and from work on week days when the Clubhouse is operating.

Kristain works some week days and weekend shifts. She helps in the kitchen doing clean-up and prep. She is dedicated to her job and is always willing to do what it takes to complete her work. Kristain is an inspiration to everyone at Adventure House as someone who set goals for her self and didn't stop until she realized her dream of having a job. We are so proud of your accomplishments Kristain! Congratulations!

**By Diana Boswell**



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# Adventure House News

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**ADVENTURE HOUSE PLAYERS**



On May 7th, the Adventure House Players performed their original skit entitled **LET'S CHAT!!!** to a very receptive audience at the Clubhouse. Members, staff and guests from the community made up the audience and they were treated to both a comedy and drama, all wrapped up in one afternoon of quality theatre. The show was based on one individual's story, Ingrid Johannsen, played by Crystal Byers, from a young child to now being a talk show host in Los Angeles. She was discovered by a famous talk show host while vacationing in Sweden where she viewed Ingrid's show. She brought Ingrid to LA and the rest is history. She was always dealing with various degrees of mental illness. She was at times homeless and living on the streets, in shelters and at friend's apartments. She was befriended by organizations that tried to help her out and give her guidance to improve her situation. When she

finally got the correct combination of medications and therapy, lady luck smiled her way... by way of the talk show. She didn't forget all the people that had helped her along the way and she had them all as her guests for the first show. They included Elizabeth Rossinini, her great aunt, played by Antwon Wilkie, who raised her from a young child after her drug addicted parents abandoned her. Kathy, the homeless gal, played by Jodie Carroll, who had befriended Ingrid when they both were homeless on the streets years ago. Kathy now works in Myrtle Beach at a not so nice hotel and still smokes 2-3 packs a day while carrying her oxygen tank around with her. Sister Anne, Sister Mary Clarence, and Sister Cissy, played by Georgiana Wright, Jonathan Hopper and Shelia Wellmon, were nuns from the order of the Heavenly Peace, where Ingrid got guidance, food and help for her mental illness when she was homeless.

Then came a **THIS IS YOUR LIFE MOMENT** for Ingrid. Her third grade teacher, Mrs Oglethrope, played by Reva Eagle, came on stage and to surprise her

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and told the audience how Ingrid was as a little girl in her class. She told everyone how Ingrid was quiet and smart she knew that Ingrid would go far in life even though she knew she had issues at home to overcome; and told the audience how proud she was of her and how she wasn't surprised at all of her success.

Ventriloquist Sam Dunlop, played by Lewis Acree was next with his puppets Davida and Hank, played by Lisa Debreaux and Brian Scott. Sam told his story of courage dealing with loneliness and mental illness through his puppets.

Cameramen Stewie and Bernie, played by Danny Kiser and Johnny Walker, told their story of how they dealt with working in the entertainment business not known for accepting people with mental illness and how they decided to come forward on this show to discuss their struggle and success individually with the illness hoping that would help anyone watching.

Throughout the show we were introduced to Ingrid's cousin, Martha, played by Judy Bailey, who wanted a small part to play in Ingrid's success. Ingrid let her show off any talent that she wanted. That talent involved plants. Unfortunately Martha had not taken her medications for awhile and the result was hilarious. But it was live television and the show must go on!

Last but not least, Sherri Walkerm an award winning standup comedian, played by Shenika Massey. She brought the house down with her humor regarding the topic of mental illness. The audience loved it!

The show was brought together by the Director, played by Leslie Ramsey, Stage Manager, played by Byron Dorsey and Band members, played by Denzel

Robinson on the Kitchen Utensil Drums and Drew Stallings on the Electronic Craze Orchestra!! Of course this was the ever famous Tim Pistol Production, the biggest Hollywood Production Company around!!

The show was a huge hit! Last but certainly not least was Sven Larsen or as Ingrid refers to him as Sven Fabioliscious! Aka Ingrid's fiancé. He was her inspiration to get better and definitely left his mark on the show.... A picture is worth a thousand words!!! Just ask Sister Anne!!!

*By Stan Logan*  
*The Long Wait*

On Monday, May 11th, Bryan Eaker and I went to Social Security Administration to do the paper work to get my check started. On Wednesday, May 13th, I got my first check and I was very happy. It first went through Adventure House. I really did not know what to do at first, but I decided to first pay off my bills that I owe. My first order of business was to pay the emergency case management which was way over due for me to repay it. Second I paid my kitchen bill, and third was the snack bar bill. I also got a 20-day meal ticket so I wouldn't have to charge on my bill in the kitchen anymore. Next month my plan is to get new glasses and then save some money. I really hope that everything will work out for me and that I will spend my money wisely. I know that in six months when I get my next lump sum, it will go toward paying rent in the month of July. So this is my story and I know that others will do the same and learn that it pays off to get the things that you need and use money to help get things done and do things right.

*By Christopher George*

### *New Members at Adventure House*

The Clubhouse would love to welcome all of our new members to Adventure House. We hope that their days will be joyous and enlightened while spending their time here. Here is a little bit more about some of them:

*Holli Sprouse* - I learned about Adventure House through my therapist. Before coming to Adventure House, I went to the doctor and sat at home all day, since I didn't know anyone from Shelby because I had only been here for three months. Since starting at the Clubhouse, it's given me somewhere to go each day. At Adventure House I chose to work with the Administrative Unit, which has fewer people and is quieter; which is appealing to me. I am looking forward to working in transitional employment through Adventure House, and also getting into an Adventure House Supported Apartment.

*Penny Roseboro* - I learned about Adventure House from crisis recovery. Before starting, I was working in security, which I enjoyed. Adventure House has helped me to develop several skills, which will help me in the job market and in day to day life. I chose to work in the Administrative Unit, due to my skills in that area. I am very interested in finding a job through the Transitional Employment, as well as the prospect of getting an Adventure House apartment. I hope in the future to return to security work which is my passion.

*Jodie Carroll* - Before I started at Adventure House I sat at home all day

and didn't do much. When a friend told me about the Clubhouse I was skeptical, but I decided to give it a chance. Now I am so glad I did. Adventure House has really changed my life for the better. It has given me a place to go everyday instead of sitting at home. I have made many new friends and I finally feel like I have a place where I belong. I have a job as a member driver which I am grateful for and gain a lot of joy from. The Clubhouse is the best thing that has happened to me in a long time.

*By Jodie Carroll*

### *Update on the Greenhouse*

Since the addition of the greenhouse, it has been very productive in providing us seedlings to start our garden. The garden has had a very positive outcome. We were able to grow the plants from seedlings. It has given a lot of educational experience for members and staff. So far its produced items for the kitchen and snack bar.

Members have purchased very inexpensive plants to take home and plant in their own gardens. In preparation for the soil, Carroll Fortenberry, a friend of Adventure House helped us till up the soil. He also provided us with a specially treated compound soil. We built some more raised beds and worked on the sprinkler system, in our yard which enabled us to plant new grass. We also planted okra, squash, peanuts, strawberries and carrots in our raised beds. In the garden, we planted green beans, corn, tomatoes, watermelon, green peppers, cayenne peppers, banana peppers and it has been a great success.

*By James Linder and Leslie Ramey*