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Tours open to all!

Coalition Advocates for Indiana Clubhouses



What are Clubhouse Coalitions? They are comprised of all the Clubhouses within a state for the purpose of offering support to and strengthening those member Clubhouses. This includes new Clubhouses that are in the process of being

formed. The Indiana Clubhouse Coalition initially began in 2002, and ran through 2010 when Medicaid funding ended. At the time, there were 18 Clubhouses throughout IN, and within six months of funding being cancelled only four remained. When Elkhart County Clubhouse opened in 2012, we soon became involved with Clubhouses in Fort Wayne, Kendallville, Indianapolis, and Merrillville to start up an Indiana Clubhouse coalition again. One important decision made at the beginning of the rejuvenated Coalition was that to be a member, a Clubhouse had to be accredited by Clubhouse International. We also decided to contribute dues which would be used to help support new Clubhouses with their training and accreditation. In seven years, Indiana Clubhouses have increased from four to nine.

Clubhouse Indiana meets every other month, and colleagues from all of the Indiana Clubhouses are encouraged to attend and get involved. Each Clubhouse takes turns hosting the meeting in their city and usually lunch is provided. It's a good time to swap ideas about what works and what new ideas other Clubhouses are trying out to bring back to our own Clubhouses. Taking part in these meetings helps us remember we are all part of a large international Clubhouse community.



Trevor about to enjoy his Elephant Ear at the Maple Syrup Festival .

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Jacob with his first Transitional Employment paycheck.



Meeting with Michael Hamlin from our accreditation team.



Bruce washing his bowls for the Empty Bowl fundraiser.

Accreditation and the Clubhouse Standards

By the time you read this, our Clubhouse program will have been evaluated by two members of the Faculty for Clubhouse Development. They will measure our Clubhouse by the 37 International Standards for Clubhouse Programs. This will mark our third accreditation cycle. We are proud to be among the 250 Clubhouses around the world accredited by Clubhouse International. Four colleagues of our Clubhouse are also members of the faculty and visit other Clubhouses when they seek accreditation.

One of the Standards describes the Transitional Employment (TE) program. In the TE program, we promise our employer partner that the jobs we manage will be done every shift, with no absences and no retraining cost. Initially we have two of our staff train in the job and the member begins working alongside one of our staff. The member is hired directly by the employer. If for any reason our member can't be at work, our staff will cover the shift. We maintain this support and coverage for six to nine months.

We have four members now working with three employer partners, and we are working with another employer to begin a new TE soon. Thanks to GDC, Maple City Market, Springer Design, and Viewrail!

Standard 26 describes ways that Clubhouses help members with transportation. We are committed to helping members get to and from the Clubhouse, medical appointments, and work. Where the Trolley runs, we can provide Trolley passes. In addition, we have three donated minivans, and a number of our members with driver's licenses are insured to help with our transportation program.

The full set of Standards is on our website; we believe that operating in fidelity to these Standards helps us to offer the best support for recovery for our members. Stay tuned for a report on our accreditation visit!

- Rich M.

New Housing in Elkhart to Improve Quality of Life

The city of Elkhart is in the process of constructing new housing, in a neighborhood which will extend from the downtown east along Jackson Boulevard. It will be called the River District. In approximately five years a thousand new apartments will be constructed. However, many people with persistent mental illness and lower incomes will not have the resources to live in these new accommodations.

That said, there will be benefits for everyone, especially the near south side, the near west side, and those who reside at Waterfall Highrise, a public housing unit. A Martin's Supermarket will be demolished and completely rebuilt. With the construction of a new access road and sidewalks, residents of Waterfall High Rise will have an easy walk to buy groceries, quite different from the urban layout today. Additionally, encircling the River District neighborhood there will be a 1.5 mile loop for walking or jogging along the river. Also, in March of this year a new recreational center will open. The emphasis will be on swimming, but it will also include a fitness center and basketball courts. As part of the River District, numerous new stores and restaurants will be built. These

businesses will be easily accessible to people in Elkhart without a vehicle and will provide a variety of new options for shopping, entertainment, and employment.

Overall, the Elkhart River District will maintain a remarkable characteristic of the city of Elkhart: people of radically different incomes and cultures living and working together.

- Joel Arko

Elkhart's Two Tallest Buildings

The building at 500 S. Main is referred to as "Hotel Elkhart", while the building at 303 Waterfall Drive is referred to as "Waterfall High Rise." Hotel Elkhart was built in 1926 and Waterfall High Rise was completed in 1969. Both served as subsidized housing in recent times, but Hotel Elkhart is now returning to its original purpose as a hotel.

The two buildings are actually about the same height at 122 feet. Waterfall High Rise has 127 apartments while Hotel Elkhart will have 93 rooms available on floors three through eight. Both buildings are ten stories tall.

- Joel Arko



We filled Rich's car with balloons to celebrate accreditation.



Rich and Myron working on reconciling our petty cash drawer.

Clubhouse Partners with LaCasa

LaCasa is a community empowerment organization with a focus on providing affordable housing for everyone. They provide apartments and houses throughout the Goshen and Elkhart areas.

LaCasa finds distressed properties to rehabilitate into safe and affordable housing. Part of the terms of a grant that LaCasa received last year to rehabilitate a four-unit apartment on 7th street was that there would be a preference for a Clubhouse-nominated member for one of the apartments.

The Clubhouse posted this opening and a sign-up list for interested members. A small group of Clubhouse colleagues selected Tommy Pittman. He applied to La Casa and got the apartment and Clubhouse colleagues helped him move into his new place on April 3rd. Tommy is enjoying his new apartment and said that “the kitchen is bigger than



anyone would ever need.”

Tommy isn't alone. Currently, we have quite a number of members living in LaCasa apartments including one member in an apartment that was designated for a Clubhouse member: Richard Sidor has had one of these LaCasa apartments for almost three years. He is very



happy with his apartment as rent is reasonable and the upkeep is done well.

We are thankful to have this partnership with LaCasa as it affords Clubhouse members opportunities that may otherwise be unavailable. We look forward to continuing this partnership.

-David George and Kethayun Mehta

Get to Know our Members!

Paula Maddux

Shy: When did you become a member?

Paula: February 6th of 2013.

Shy: Why did you become a member?

Paula: A friend of mine saw an article in the newspaper about the



Clubhouse and suggested that I try it out. At first it was very awkward. However I kept coming and it became rewarding. I have been a member ever since then!

Shy: Tell me a few of your favorite memories.

Paula: My favorite memories are going to the UP mall and Thanksgiving Day. We had such wonderful times. Another really good memory was that I got to participate and be a part of the first open house. That was really fun, I had a good time. Something that was very humorous is that I can remember Rich saying that if we got accreditation he would shave his beard. Yes, we got the accreditation and yes, he shaved his beard. That was great! He looked so different without it!

Shy: What kind of work have you done as in positions and or volunteer work?

Paula: I am a driver for the Clubhouse and I help cook in the kitchen. One time I volunteered at the Salvation Army ringing the bell on behalf of the Clubhouse. I have also had three T.E. positions: I worked at Goshen College doing yard work, it was fun. It was springtime, it was magical! I worked at the Maple City Market in produce and on behalf of the Clubhouse. I worked at Springer Design cleaning silk screens as well.

I would like to say that I truly love being an active member of the Clubhouse and that I have so many wonderful memories of the holiday recs that I have enjoyed over my last six years as a member here!