

## GATEWAY CLUBHOUSE, COMMUNITY WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS IN RALEIGH, NC

Wow! What a long road it has been! The Gateway Clubhouse, Community Workforce Solutions' newest program, has been in development for the past three years, and finally opened its doors on December 6, 2010. After years of working in the rehabilitation field, it appeared there was a need for additional day programs for individuals with brain injuries. CWS worked closely with the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina (BIANC) to research current programming in our community, and discussed the idea of opening a brain injury clubhouse. Although this is a new concept in North Carolina, there are currently 6 brain injury club-houses in Virginia. We took the opportunity to visit the High Street Clubhouse in Charlottesville, VA; as well as Hinds' Feet Farm, a member driven day pro-gram in Huntersville, NC, and spent time learning about the programs, their members and the benefits.

We were impressed with the focus of a member driven program and the work ordered day. This type of program provides an opportunity for individuals to participate in structured and productive activities in order to promote inclusion, independence, self-esteem and empowerment.

The Gateway Clubhouse was developed as a non-residential day program for individuals with brain injuries and was implemented with the support of the North Carolina Division of MH/DD/SAS, Wake LME, and BIANC. Today the Gateway Clubhouse has been in operation for nine months and currently has eleven members who work with the guidance and support of Denise Johnson, Club-house Coordinator and Lauren Cox, clubhouse Specialist. Members are involved in the day-to-day aspects of the Clubhouse and participate in activities such as clerical tasks, maintenance tasks, operation of a daily snack bar, and tending a garden. In addition to these tasks members also have an opportunity to participate in volunteer jobs and a monthly social activity which is chosen by the members. So far members have participated in several outings such as: shopping, going out to lunch, going bowling, and visiting the farmers market.

The Gateway Clubhouse is open Monday-Friday 9:00 am- 3:00 pm. Please call to arrange a tour, (919) 231-3325 or visit our website for more information, [www.gatewayclubhouse.org](http://www.gatewayclubhouse.org).