



Point  
of Hope

# Helping Hands of Hope

A publication of the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Clubhouse (New Castle) / November 2014



## CURRENT NEW CASTLE ABI CLUBHOUSE MEMBERS

- Alfredo (Irvin)
- Arielle
- Brian
- Carmela
- Eric
- Frank
- Isabella
- Jared
- Jesse
- Joe T.
- Joey E.
- Kenny
- Leroy
- Maylon
- Mike
- Regina
- Shawn
- Tina
- Tom
- Zane

New Castle's Point of Hope Acquired Brain Injury Clubhouse is located at 34 Blevins Drive, Suite 5, New Castle, DE 19720. For more information, call (302) 731-7676 ext 105.

## Who Will Step Up? by Regina Redden

In 2007, the State of Delaware was looking for at least one program that would step up and offer services for people with brain injury. Several companies were asked to take on this project and Point of Hope was the only one to offer a separate brain injury program. The name of the program is called Acquired Brain Injury (or ABI) Clubhouse.



Point of Hope is a family owned business that began providing day services for individuals with disabilities in 2006. The company has two locations, one started in Christiana (Peddler's Village) which later moved to New Castle and the new location in Smyrna. I had the privilege of speaking to the CEO/President Damian Robinson at the New Castle location which I attend. He explained how the company was founded. While out riding one day, Mrs. Robinson saw a Lighthouse. "WOW." That lighthouse inspired her with the name and the logo for a business. Mr. Damian shared with me that his mother wanted to start a program that would offer quality services. Mrs. Robinson used to work as a special needs teacher, case worker and an investigator for clients being abused. Mr. Damian helped his mother at her job and neither of them liked the way people were being treated. Later, more family joined the business; Mrs. Tiffany Stewart is the Program Director, and Mr. Damian's son Damian Jr. (DJ) helps at the ABI Clubhouse when not attending college. When they started the ABI Program they only had one consumer for the first four (4) months. Any other program would have dropped the programs, *but they hung in there!*

This is not just a business for their family, it is their passion. Mr. Damian left a Fortune 500 position to help realize his mother and family's dreams. He enjoys watching home improvement programs and going to the beach/ocean whenever possible. One of the greatest pleasures of overseeing this program is watching the consumer accomplish things that others said they would not.

Thank you, Mr. Damian and family for stepping up and seeing this as an opportunity to help me and others with brain injury. A place where the staff and others understand what we are going through. ★

## Getting to know us by Kenny Diehl with Terrill Bunkley

In this month's "Getting to know us" segment, we learn more about ABI Clubhouse Member, Kenny Diehl. Kenny is a 36-year-old father of one. A place he would like to revisit is Jamaica. His favorite food is steak. Some of his hobbies include walking, playing cards, watching television, and being with his daughter.



Because of his laid-back demeanor, Kenny was nicknamed “K-Cool.” One of the most important things to him is God, because he feels God saved his life. Kenny feels that God saved his life when he was driving and fell asleep behind the wheel. His car was wrapped around a telephone pole, and he had an intimately close encounter with death. Ken feels that his injury has allowed him to appreciate life and that he is making improvements all the time. Two things that he fears are bears and sharks. The main thing that K-Cool would like to see for his future is watching the love his life, his daughter, grow into a lady. ★

## Obtaining Independence

*by Joey Edwards with Terrill Bunkley*

Clubhouse member Joey Edwards joined us in July. During that time, Joey was living in his father and stepmother’s home. They have been an excellent source of support for their son, but he has had a difficult time adjusting to being so dependent, having been self-reliant before his last seizure. Not to be misconstrued, Joey says, he was and is extremely grateful for all the energy his parents dedicated to him, he just longed for the day to have his own place again. After three months of perseverance, the opportunity presented itself for Joey to regain his independence. Now, Joey happily resides in his own home in the Newark area. ★



*Joey Edwards*

## Maintenance Unit

*by Joey Edwards and Brian Schilling with Terrill Bunkley*

The staff of the ABI Clubhouse supports its members with their personal goals and promotes them getting back to independence. The maintenance unit helps people learn to function more independently by working on keeping their program area clean and tidy, and by encouraging them to take pride in their program area. The maintenance unit is led by Maylon, who has a tenacious tendency to be tidy, and monitors the activities of the maintenance group. The group meets weekly to appoint individuals to complete regular tasks. For example:

- Maylon supervises the maintenance unit, sweeps the Clubhouse area, and checks the bathrooms
- Shawn takes out the trash
- Joey updates the calendars
- Mike vacuums
- Kenny makes coffee and sweeps the lobby
- Joe organizes paperwork

Each week, the Maintenance Unit holds a meeting in the conference room. During these meetings, the members discuss their duties, ways they can improve, and if a duty needs to be substituted or traded. Many times, members of the Maintenance Unit are called upon to assist in various ways such as making copies, cleaning up spills, and/or running a program on the computer that cleans files. ★



*Brian cleans the coffee station.*



## In our next issue...

- We will feature Tom Murphy, Point of Hope’s one and only Vietnam veteran!
- Joe Tridente *will* have some Spanish for us to learn!