

# Helping Hands of Hope

A publication of the Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Clubhouse (New Castle) / October 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.

### Knowledge is Power by Terrill Bunkley

During this age of information, statistical data on acquired brain injuries is not as vast as one may think, however, according to the Center for Head Injury Services: every five minutes someone becomes permanently disabled due to a head injury. Up 90,000 of those who survive will have a lifelong disability. They also report the cost of treatment for traumatic brain injuries is 48 billion dollars yearly in the United States alone, so needless to say, acquired brain injury is a significant issue. These statistics detail the relevance of traumatic brain injuries and also provides reasoning to why awareness of it is so important. ★

### Mall Outing by contributing authors Joey Edwards and Carmela Randall

On September 25th, members of the ABI Clubhouse went to the Concord Mall. It was cold and rainy outside which made it a perfect day to be inside comfy confines with a collection of consumers. Upon our arrival, we went to the food court, where every individual chose their favorite place to eat and then we probed through the mall. Brian stopped at every jewelry venue and looked intensely to find the right one for him, while Frank immediately purchased a set of earrings. He also bought a music cd and a hat that he caught on a sensational sale. Frank was not the only clubhouse member who was bit by the buying bug, Joe bought three shirts too. Mrs. Carmela was interviewed by her peer, Joey Edwards, about her experience. He asked, "what was her most memorable moment at the mall". She replied "I had a nice time walking around the mall and I enjoyed lunch". Even though she did not buy anything, she would recommend the mall to others. ★



### Juliann Congo by Regina Redden

Juliann Congo is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) for the State and Home Care Health Aide at Four Seasons Health Care. Juliann goes to peoples' homes to assist them in the things that they cannot do or cannot do by themselves. She does cooking for/with them so that they do not burn down their homes. Here are a few things that the home care assistant does so that the person's family and friends do not have to worry about them:

- Cook or help—have you had a few close calls in the kitchen, for example: forgetting you left food on the stove? I did, so now I don't have to worry about burning down my home.
- Do laundry—Do you have steps in your home and have a problem with your balance?
- Listening Ear—Are there times you need someone to go to the store with/or for you; maybe to the doctor's for support?
- ETC....



Juliann has been that and more to me. She is the mother of four adult children and 16 grandchildren. Thank you Juliann for everything. I really appreciate you! To find out more about Four Seasons Health Care go to their web site at <http://www.for-health.com>. ★

## Getting to know us

*By Mike Lovins with Terrill Bunkley*

In this month's "Getting to know us" segment, we learn more about ABI Clubhouse Member, Mike Lovins. Four words that he would use to describe himself are: honorable, brave, responsible and helpful. His favorite food is cheese steaks and place he would like to visit is Hawaii. Several of his hobbies are computers, working at the fire station and cleaning trucks. His mom has been his most important person in his life because she helped him out a lot. He acquired his brain injury when he was hit in the head with a rock. He is the youngest of three and most recently obtained a townhouse in Claymont. Mike volunteers at the fire station but would like become employed in the near future. ★

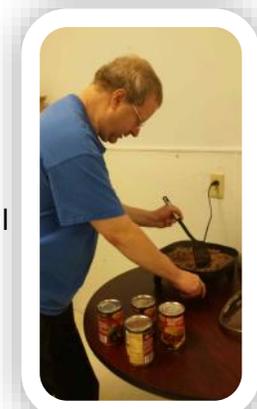


Mike Lovins

## Kitchen Unit

*By Regina Redden with Terrill Bunkley and Key Wise*

In October, staff and clubhouse members made funnel cakes for the Kitchen Unit Dessert. The ingredients used were funnel cake mix, oil water and confectioner's sugar. The funnel cakes were not difficult to prepare, however, obtaining the correct consistency was a "trial and error process", says staff member, Key. One also wants to make sure certain the oil is just hot enough to fry the funnel cake effectively. ABI Clubhouse Member Tina gave it her seal of approval when she said, "They tasted real good!" Irvin's actions also reflected that he enjoyed the Kitchen Unit Dessert by periodically going into the kitchen to see if the cakes were ready.

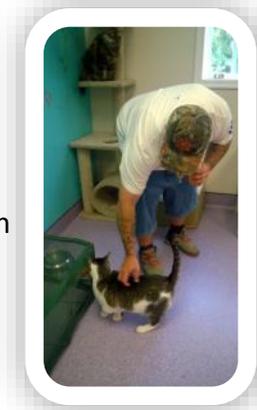


Zane cooks meat for sloppy joes.

## Community Re-Entry

*By Joey Edwards and Brian Schilling with Terrill Bunkley*

There are multiple stages that someone who has suffered a traumatic brain injury undergoes before getting to an outpatient day program service. A major part of the rehabilitation process is returning to the community. Volunteering helps to make the transition of getting back to the community an easier one. ABI Clubhouse Members Brian Schilling and Joey Edwards volunteer at the SPCA weekly. Joey is looking to become independent again and his willingness to volunteer only helps his cause. Brian's motivation to volunteer is simply because he loves the animals!



Another way the clubhouse contributed to the community is the food drive they participated in. Several two and three foot tall boxes were filled with dried food after ABI Clubhouse Members and staff handed out flyers. The perishable goods are to be donated to West End Neighborhood House, which is a charity located in Wilmington Delaware. The community belongs to everyone in it and clubhouse members are willing to do their part to make it better! ★

## Coming Soon: Spanish 101 *By Joe Tridente*

Joe Tridente, clubhouse member featured in September's newsletter, has retained much of the Spanish he learned in high school. The reason that this remarkable is because his brain injury has disabled a lot of his memory. Joe attributes much of his ability to retain the language is due to his family vacation they took to Brazil while he was still in high school. At around the same time, the Tridente family also allowed Pedro, a foreign exchange student, to live with them. In order to communicate with Pedro, Joe became bi-lingual. Joe is utilizing the Spanish language to teach his peers what he knows. ★