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Alliance House

Salt Lake City, Utah

**Alliance House** is a long-standing partner with **Valley Mental Health** and **United Way** a non-profit agency

**W O R L D E D I T I**

*The Alliance House*  
8<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
QUEEN OF HEARTS  
Fundraiser



June 6<sup>th</sup> 2005 was a very rainy Monday morning, everything looked quiet outside the Greek Orthodox Church while inside the church was teeming with the energy and activity of the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Queen of Hearts Bridge Tournament and Luncheon.

Plenty of excitement and preparation had already taken place on the previous Sunday, that's when seventeen Alliance House members, volunteers, staff and board members gathered in the Clubhouse kitchen to begin preparations for the extraordinary lunch that was served on Monday.

This year we tried our best to lure some men bridge players to our tables, but alas, none were to be found. Approximately 140 women attended the event, who bought raffle tickets and tried to outbid each other on terrific silent auction items. A spectacular lunch and hours of bridge playing followed the social hour.

Our Queen of Hearts honoree this year was former board member Dodie Harrison, who has done so much for Alliance House. Board members Dee Ek and Kate Handley did a great job co-chairing the event and along with other members of the board, deserve a great deal of credit for its success.

Joanne Bloom was responsible for acquiring more than twenty different raffle and silent auction prizes and there are just not enough good things that can be said about the role Jeanne Christensen plays in this event! In fact, every member of the board contributed in one way or another doing everything from cooking chicken to selling raffle tickets and doing the dishes. More than twenty Clubhouse members helped out this year and their roles were diverse as well.

The official computer generated report is not in just yet, but it appears that this year's event topped last year's by 16% with gross receipts of more than \$16,000. The silent auction alone brought in more than \$4,500.

There were good lessons learned at this year's Queen of Hearts Luncheon, we are looking at changes that could make the event even more successful in 2006!

Karen Wildforester  
Alliance House  
Development Director



The Alliance House Class of 2005  
Amanda Allred, Tracy Bankhead, Preston Gilbert,  
Richard Jones, Cheryl Law and Trista Struhs.



The Alliance House Executive Director,  
Jon Paulding speaking at the ceremony.

The graduates' radiance did not need the solar enhancement and their hour in the sun might have remained figurative. Still, many in the audience relished the opportunity to watch the scholars, including Jack Yatsko, Director of Colleague Training for the International Center for Clubhouse Development, who was a surprise guest at the affair.

Jack and Linda [Runyon] had spent the week in Moab re-certifying Interact Clubhouse, Linda and I drove 80 or 90 miles an hour all the way from Moab to attend the ceremony.

The program opened with a DVD presentation by Gary Lansberry, a stirring tribute to Alliance House and the theme of the 2005 ceremony – *Platform to Fly*. Gary's professionalism and artistic sense set the tone for the ceremony. Miriam Hyde presented each graduate with a two-year membership in Aurora Mental Health's Advanced Directive program, which provides emergency advocacy in times of crisis.

Looking even lovelier than usual, Education Coordinator Carla Marjerison opened the program proper. Her poise, elegance and natural beauty belied her claim that she is not a polished speaker. Carla worked hard up to the end of the affair and beyond, putting months into getting the Class of 2005 ready for graduation and weeks into getting the ceremony ready.

John Adams, who graduated with Alliance House's Class of 1994 spoke next, recounting his experience as a graduate of the Clubhouse. Dennis Card followed John and delivered what was probably the wittiest and most moving speech of the evening. Dennis began by telling the audience and graduates that he had taken one speech class in junior high school and another in high school and that he "... failed one of them and can't remember the other." He also said that his mother advised him that imagining the audience naked would put him at ease, Dennis responded by stating, "That's more enjoyable with some of you than it is with others".

## Graduation – Class of 2005

by Rob Peden

For some members of the Alliance House, Thursday May 26, marked a high point of their lives. That evening, Amanda Allred, Tracy Bankhead, Preston Gilbert, Richard Jones, Cheryl Law, and Trista Struhs received their high school diplomas before a packed house of families and friends at the Wells Fargo Bank Building. Our Graduating Class of 2005 accepted the rewards for their years of hard work amid a universal atmosphere of good will and admiration.

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Dennis went on to tell the history of his bouts with mental illness, his father's tragic story, and the importance of education in dealing with his issues. Dennis has worked indefatigably as a tutor during this past year and probably contributed to the scholars' success as much as anyone but the scholars themselves.

Jon Paulding anchored the ceremony by giving a brief history of Alliance House's Education Program. We have a long-standing relationship with the Salt Lake City School District as a satellite program of Horizonte Instruction and Training Center (ITC). Horizonte ITC is the District's alternative high school and it is this arrangement that allows our scholars to earn actual high school diplomas rather than equivalencies. Since 1992 the Alliance House has graduated seventy-six students.

Jon also explained the necessity for such a program within the Clubhouse and how some members perform better in an environment they associate with support and success instead of one where they've have experienced threat and failure.

At last, we reached the high point of the evening, the actual commencement exercise. Doug Gregory – the only liaison with Horizonte ITC that Alliance House has ever had, needed, or wanted – presented the diplomas jointly with David Chavez, Assistant Principal at Horizonte ITC and an ardent supporter of its adult programs. David showed great warmth and grace in congratulating the students for their hard-earned achievement and Doug showed remarkable skill at working an audience. Doug and David both proved themselves equal in their interchange of banter.

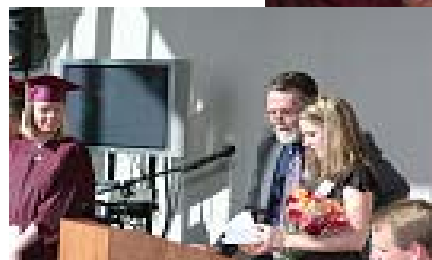
Following the awarding of diplomas and ceremonial moving of the tassels, Dru Watts provided a musical break with a stylish *a capella* rendition of "Someday". This song seemed to capture the theme of the ceremony perfectly.

Dennis then made a special presentation to Stephen Gomez for the strides he has made with his education, Trista and Cheryl surprised Dennis by presenting him with a certificate of appreciation for his help.

Finally, Carla Marjerison was presented with a bouquet of roses in recognition of her effort and the marvelous job she did with the Class of 2005. The roses were indeed beautiful.

Later, while wandering the reception area, enjoying the sandwiches and fruit plates, one overheard terms such as "perfect", "flawless", and "best ever" in conversations about the ceremony. Barbara DeBoer, who donated so much time and energy helping prepare the graduates (Barbara even contrived to make the dashing and virile young master of ceremonies – myself - more presentable) summed it up in her inimitably perceptive way stating, "You know, I've been coming to these things since forever, and they just keep getting better". Alliance House member Jan Buck added, "It was like a good *M\*A\*S\*H* episode. I laughed, I cried, I thoroughly enjoyed myself." One gathers from Jan's tone that she considers a *M\*A\*S\*H* episode a good thing.

Everyone associated with the Alliance House contributed to the event and deserve all our thanks and gratitude. For fear of missing someone, let's just say, "Thank you, one and all." But special thanks, as well as congratulations, must go to Doug Gregory, who made it possible; to Carla Marjerison, who made it inevitable; and to Richard Jones, Trista Struhs, Amanda Allred, Preston Gilbert, Tracy Bankhead, and Cheryl Law – our Graduating Class of 2005 – who made it happen.



Alliance House members and Board member Jan Nelson after the ceremony (above) and Carla Marjerison preparing to speak after accepting flowers for her dedication and achievements at the Alliance House (below).

## Mental Health Information Fair

by Miriam Hyde

On May 31, the 2005 Mental Health Information Fair, sponsored by Aurora Mental Health Project (founded by our own Miriam Hyde and her husband, Drew) was held at the City Library in Salt Lake City. More than 15 providers had booths offering consumers an opportunity to learn about services available in the Salt Lake City area.

Alliance House had a table showcasing our new, colorful brochure. The table was manned and “womaned” by Dixie Pond, Elizabeth Becar and Board member Ken Barrett. While everyone who participated and attended the fair had fun, the main focus was to reach consumers. Alliance House was proudly represented, telling a number of people about our fantastic and successful program.

Chief of Staff Sam Guevara presented a Mayoral proclamation and Dr. Meredith Alden was the featured speaker. Videos on mental health were played throughout the Fair and attendees were informed of Advance Directives, an important document for all consumers.

In all, the 2005 Mental Health Information Fair was a great success and we look forward to participating in 2006.

## United Way Compassionate Leaders Luncheon

by Tracy Park

On May 19<sup>th</sup> 2005 at 11:30 a.m., Jon Paulding and Tracy Park attended the United Way Luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Salt Lake City.

A wonderful lunch was served, the program started at 12:00 p.m. and we were welcomed by Tom Love, President of Love Communications and Chairman of the Marketing and Communications Division of United Way of Salt Lake City.

Many awards were given out to companies and businesses for their contributions and hard work in increasing donations to the United Way. A new incentive program for fundraising and awareness was also announced by Tom Love, to get more involvement in gift giving to the United Way.

Tom Love followed up the announcements with a story of hope that was very uplifting and then gave the closing remarks. I learned that determination, hard work and teamwork are lesson that we can all use and apply in our daily lives.

I enjoyed representing Alliance House as a member this United Way affair.

United Way of Salt Lake City is a sponsor of the Alliance House.



Alliance House Intern Jerry Sanchez

## Colleague Spotlight

By Janet Jamison

On May 23<sup>rd</sup> Jerry Sanchez began an internship at the Alliance House. A late bloomer with 3 adult children, Jerry is in his senior year at the University of Utah studying towards his undergraduate in Social Work. Jerry was born in Albuquerque, New Mexico grew up in Rome, New York and lived in Las Vegas, Nevada for 18 years before settling into Utah.

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Since starting the internship program Jerry has begun learning billing, the workings of the Career Development Unit and has been helping with special development events like the graduation ceremony and the Queen of Hearts fundraiser. Currently, Jerry is working on developing an in house training program for emergency “shut off” procedures, as assigned by Jon Paulding, the Clubhouse Executive Director.

Jerry says that he decided on the internship program at the Alliance House because he “is interested in learning more about the populations the Alliance House serves”. Stating “I consider it an honor to participate with the Alliance House, in a cause I think is very worthwhile”, Jerry’s goal is to increase his skills as a Social Worker while helping the Alliance House in anyway that he can.

Jerry Sanchez’s internship will end August 14<sup>th</sup> 2005, we appreciate all that Jerry has done since his participation in the Alliance House internship program.

## Clubhouse Update

by Betsy Ogden and Janet Jamison

On June 8<sup>th</sup> 2005 the Alliance House elected 2 new members to the Mediation Committee. Selection was based upon member’s participation in Clubhouse activities, objectivity and the ability to uphold confidentiality on matters concerning the Clubhouse. The Mediation Committee consists of 5 positions: 2 members, the Executive Director, the Assistant Director and a staff member. Clubhouse members Rob Peden and Duncan McDonald will hold 1year terms joining Executive Director Jon Paulding and Assistant Director Sue Hanson, the decision is pending on the staff member position, which will be filled on rotation.

Saturday July 9<sup>th</sup> Alliance House members will have a carwash fundraiser at the Clubhouse from 10:00 am until 1:00pm. Proceeds will go toward Clubhouse activities.

The Alliance House Clubhouse flag is currently in process, look for details in the upcoming issues of the Chronicle.

### Career Development Unit

We would like to welcome 3 new members to the career development unit: Paul J. Retz, Susan Holder and Elizabeth Hansen. We hope they continue to come and help.

Our thrift store, The Clubhouse Closet received a big donation from United Way. They gave us lots of clothing and lots of “Wish Bears”, large ones and packaged sets of 3 small (huggable) bears. Our members love volunteering to run the thrift store, it’s fun to learn how to organize clothing and ring up the cash register. We invite all members to try it out.

Thank you United Way and to the members who are keeping the Clubhouse Closet running.

The Career Development Unit will be having their Annual Employer’s Dinner for Transitional Employment (TE) sponsors and TE members. The dinner will be held at 6:00pm on August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005 at the Memorial House in Memory Grove. Invitations will be sent out soon.

### Culinary Unit

We would like to welcome Robert Magana to the Culinary Unit, let’s make him feel welcome working with us.

Our Culinary Unit is short staffed, we have been trying to get more members to help out in the mornings so lunch can be made faster. We need a lot of teamwork so we can make kitchen jobs simpler for everyone.

### Business Unit

We are still working on keeping up our reach out calls, and getting more members to volunteer for tours and orientation.

## July BIRTHDAYS

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael Vieweg
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christopher Stephenson
4 <sup>th</sup>	Laura Litnak
6 <sup>th</sup>	Brenda Robinson
6 <sup>th</sup>	Elizabeth Knutson
6 <sup>th</sup>	Susana Ventura
7 <sup>th</sup>	Jan Buck
9 <sup>th</sup>	Brett Coletti
13 <sup>th</sup>	Deborah Graves
16 <sup>th</sup>	Barbara Evans
21 <sup>st</sup>	Richard Jones
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Mike Davis
25 <sup>th</sup>	Trent Larson
28 <sup>th</sup>	David Owen
29 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis Card
31 <sup>st</sup>	Cecelia Morris

## Activities Schedule

### Thursday Activities

July 7 <sup>th</sup>	: Silver Lake @ Brighton
July 14 <sup>h</sup>	: Mtn Hike @ Secret Lake
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	: Heart & Soul Concert
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	: Coffee House

### Saturday Activities

July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	: Snowbasin Gondola Ride
July 9 <sup>th</sup>	: AH Car Wash
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	: Farmers Market
July 23 <sup>rd</sup>	: Picnic @ Big Cottonwood
July 30 <sup>th</sup>	: Sundance Chair Lift Ride

*Come participate in our fun activities!*

## Upcoming Extracurricular Events

The Junior League of Salt Lake City will be presenting a Care Fair at Horizonte Instruction and Training Center located at 1234 South Main Street in Salt Lake City. There will be free medical services and information on assistance from community agencies regarding legal and housing issues, food programs, employment services and more. No appointments necessary. The JLSLC Care Fair will be held:

August 11, 2005	4:00pm to 8:00pm
August 12, 2005	Noon to 8:00pm
August 13, 2005	10:00am to 5:00pm

The Sundance Institute summer outdoor filming will be showing "Napoleon Dynamite" on Monday July 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gallivan Center in Salt Lake City. Free admission, show starts at "approx. 9:00pm".



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## Director's Notes

As this edition of the Clubhouse Chronicle goes to press, the Alliance House members contingent to the 13<sup>th</sup> International Clubhouse Seminar has just arrived back from an exciting week. Kent Palmer, Rob Peden, Michele Gauthier, Carla Majerison and board member Jan Nelson all represented Alliance House at this semiannual gathering of the international clubhouse community.

From their initial accounts, the seminar was a tremendous success and a wonderful learning opportunity for everyone. We all look forward to learning from their experience and will hopefully be able to implement the new ideas and initiatives they brought back with them. Seminars are an incredible opportunity to reconnect with colleagues and friends and to step back from the day-to-day hubbub to think about ways to improve our individual clubhouses. I am confident that our group has made the most of this opportunity.

And, I am proud to say that the staff has all completed their Utah State Case Management Certifications. This will help us more accurately document services the clubhouse is already providing and to more accurately reflect the services we provide, which will increase our Medicaid billing revenues. So far this year, the billing revenues has trended in a positive direction, that gives us all hope for eventually gaining back the two staff positions the Clubhouse lost to Medicaid reductions.

The Alliance House would like to extend a special thanks to all of our supporters, volunteers and board members for their incredible generosity to our Clubhouse. A very special thanks goes to the Junior League of Salt Lake City, they have been a tremendous supporter of Alliance House over the years and the project of replanting the Clubhouse garden area was no exception. Thank you Junior League!!

**Jon Paulding**  
Executive Director



## Thank you to all our wonderful contributors:

Betsy Ogden  
Janet Jamison  
Karen Wildforester  
Miriam Hyde  
Rob Peden  
Tracy Park

### Editing Team

Janet Jamison  
Tess Lage  
AH Business Unit

### Photographers

Special thanks to Jay Hyer for the professional photographs of the graduation ceremony.

Janet Jamison

*And a special thanks to our board members, we appreciate all that they do for Alliance House.*

**Alliance House** is a certified member of the **International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD)**.

**Alliance House** is also a non-profit, **United Way** agency and gratefully accepts your contributions to ensure continuous support for those of us in recovery from mental illness.

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