

At Cornerstone Clubhouse, we all know that the Work-Ordered Day is one of the most important components to the Clubhouse. But the work is also balanced with a strong Evening/Weekend/Holiday Program. Many Clubhouses think *“We play as hard as we work together ... Like everything Clubhouse, it’s all about relationships.”*

Before I came to Cornerstone, I was searching for my purpose again. Eighteen months ago, I had a brain hemorrhage, three aneurysms, and four strokes. That was the end of my business. I was a freelance copywriter for other businesses which included creating newsletters, websites, and blogs. I came out of my coma with two words (“Owie” and “Yummy”). It’s been a struggle to speak and write again but I’m a very determined person.

Finally, I thought that I was healthy enough to be productive again. I found my place to belong at Cornerstone Clubhouse. I was excited to come because of the Music Education Group. I got a guitar for Christmas (It had been my dream for 30 years!) It’s been a fun and rewarding experience to belong to the group. We’ve been practicing playing “Hotel California” by the Eagles.

I realized last month that I wasn’t getting all of the benefits from being a Member, basically I was missing forming relationships. After all, it’s hard to make new friends when they only see you for three hours a week! For me, participating at Cornerstone meant being here for more hours than the three hours for the Music Group.

According to ICCD, *“In addition to work opportunities, Clubhouses provide evening, weekend, and holiday social and recreational programming. Members and staff together organize structured and non-structured social activities. These activities are scheduled outside of the work-ordered day. Holidays are celebrated on the day on which they fall. Activities are scheduled both at the Clubhouse and in the community.”*

Consequently, I attended the Victoria Day Celebration on May 21. We had a delicious breakfast of French toast, bacon, fruit salad, and juice. After brunch we played a rousing game of Monopoly. It was a relaxing and entertaining morning.

So now I’m connected to some new friends, I have a new purpose in editing the newsletter, and as always, there’s the music. Work hard, play hard. And make those relationships! ■