



**'Accreditation: helping you get where you're going'**

**TRANSFORMING LIVES, TRANSFORMING CLUBHOUSES: THE POWER OF ACCREDITATION!**

**Rich Meyer, Elkhart County Clubhouse, Indiana**

**1. It's not really about Accreditation**

I want to repeat Andrew's last point: we want to provide the best possible resource for our members. We want to be a community of support that goes the distance. Accreditation is a tool that helps us do this. It re-focuses our attention on the Standards; it makes us all work harder; it reminds us of all the other Clubhouses that *want* to help us be the best we can be. In some cases, it helps an auspice agency understand Clubhouse better. There are many reasons to join the Accredited Clubhouses of Clubhouse International. Just remember your real goal – by being a strong Standards-based Clubhouse, you will be the best possible resource for your members.

**2. It starts long before Accreditation**

It really begins with your commitment to be a strong Standards-based Clubhouse. Why do you make that commitment? Again, not because the Standards are on tablets of stone. They were written and adopted by strong Clubhouses, and we decided to use them for our guide because we know this will help us serve our members well. Clubhouse training will also help you do this; the training will even help you develop an action plan to improve.

**3. Accreditation is a milestone along a path, not an isolated event or a piece of paper**

When you apply for Accreditation, you'll begin a self-study. Involve the whole Clubhouse in this – it is an energy boost for all. Preparing for the Accreditation visit, you'll involve training centers, your board, employer partners – you can also ask nearby Clubhouses to give you a practice visit, or to share their Accreditation reports or experiences.

Our experience was that the Accreditation process gave us an energy boost, stronger connections, and clarification of our goals and commitments.

I think there are some Clubhouses here that are ready to take this step. Is there a colleague here from \_\_\_\_\_?

Come on down, I have some questions for you!

"Do you commit yourself and your Clubhouse to offer the best possible resources for recovery to your community and your members?"

"Will you engage your Clubhouse colleagues in strengthening your relationships, your work-ordered day, and your shared understanding of the Clubhouse standards?"