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Forty People in Recovery
Celebrate Enrichment Graduation

“This has been an overwhelming experience,” said Chantel, of East House’s Pinny Cooke House for women in recovery. “I loved every minute of it.”

Chantel was one of forty proud graduates of a unique East House Enrichment program. These graduates, who are all in recovery from chemical dependency or mental illness, completed two weeks of intense study at RIT. These forty people had the opportunity to take classes in computer skills, creative writing, Spanish, sign-language, public speaking, picture taking, and many more subjects. The program is designed to enhance other treatment programs and encourages clients to pursue education to achieve independence and self-sufficiency.

Officer Moses Robinson was the keynote speaker at the graduation, held June 12th at RIT’s Panara Theatre. Robinson reminded the graduates that we are each responsible for what we know. “We will never get a chance to go through this life again,” he said. “I admire you folks, because you are very strong. You have to be strong to beat addiction. You are already an example of success. Continue to do your best. God Bless you, and I wish you much success.” Hassan Lane, a 2006 graduate, also shared reflections on his experience and education, which led to his current employment at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Several graduates added their comments. “I’m thankful to East House for this great opportunity,” said Debra, also a resident of the Pinny Cooke House. “I have come a long way. I’ve found out that I am learn-able and teach-able. This is one of the most enjoyable things I have done in thirty years.”

Guests were also treated to a rich performance of “Amazing Grace,” by Reggie, one of the graduates, a member of the Crossroads Apartment Program. Although a fire drill disrupted the ceremony for several minutes, the incident could not thwart the feelings of enthusiasm and pride

felt by the graduates as well as the audience of 200, which included volunteer teachers, East House staff and Board members, graduates' family members, and guests.

“I’m honored to be part of this program,” said Shane, of the Crossroads Apartment Program. “This has been a great learning experience. I’m determined now to engage in further education and to succeed. I have three children, and I want to be an example for them.”

Following the ceremony, guests enjoyed a reception in the NTID atrium. The two-week program and graduation event were sponsored wholly by donations from: The First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford, The Fred and Floy Wilmott Foundation, The Kessler Group, The Marie C. and Joseph C. Wilson Foundation, Riverton Golf Course, Rochester Female Charitable Society, St. Mary’s Church Society, Inc., Time Warner Cable, Wegmans Food Market and Zweigle’s, Inc. Individual donors included: Mr. and Mrs. James Papero, Margy Cooke Taylor, and Dr. and Mrs. Edward Lewis. This is the twelfth year that East House has carried out this beneficial program.

East House is a private, non-profit rehabilitation agency. Founded in 1966, East House provides residential, rehabilitation and support services to individuals recovering from mental illness and/or chemical dependency. East House serves more than 1,300 clients and their families each year and is funded by New York State, Monroe County, United Way, client fees and donations. For more information, contact Anne Mc Kenna at 256-3800, ext. 213.

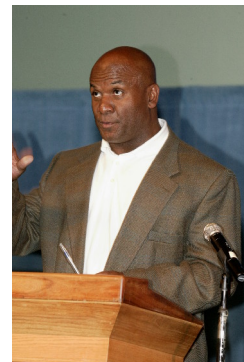


Debra and Chantel, of Pinny Cooke House, are proud of their graduation certificates.

Reggie, of CAP, sings “Amazing Grace” for the audience.



Shane, of CAP, shares his thoughts with graduates and guests.



Officer Moses Robinson

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