

Riverside CARE Awards

Thomas Nelson *Crossroads Clubhouse*



Thomas Nelson first came to Crossroads Clubhouse in November of 2017, dependent upon rides as he was unable to drive himself from the rest home that was his new address, and using a walker at all times. But he had a positive and hopeful outlook on life and began to embrace as many new opportunities as he could. At first struggling to maintain his stamina throughout the Clubhouse work-ordered day, soon Tom was taking part in numerous activities and attending the weekly DRA, or Dual Recovery Anonymous, meetings.

Soon enough, Tom himself was facilitating those meetings. Striving to become a more active source of support for his peers in recovery, Tom attended seminars and conferences to expand his knowledge, and he was recently hired by the Massachusetts Clubhouse Coalition to help develop DRA meetings in Clubhouses across the state! He didn't stop there, working to get his driver's license back – and he now provides an important service as van driver for Clubhouse members.

Continuing his journey onward and upward, Tom was able to move out of the rest home that he had thought would be his final residence. He lives with his son in the community and is independent in all his daily living. He never forgets his friends though, and Tom checks in regularly and assists his friends who are still living there.

A military veteran, Tom supports and advocates for the Veterans Administration, where he attends seminars to share information and connect other veterans with the activities and opportunities at Crossroads Clubhouse. He is truly an ambassador, not only for Crossroads, but for all of the benefits that a positive, upbeat approach to living can bring!