

Warwick Rotary Holds Million Dollar Meal at Hillsgrove House

May 21, 2015 – On May 21st, Rhode Island's first Clubhouse hosted the Warwick Rotary Club for its Million Dollar Meal. The meal generates funds for the Rotary Foundation and serves as an opportunity for Rotarians to develop alliances with community partners.

Hillsgrove House's Program Manager Jeff Legg discussed the merits of business owners providing employment opportunities for Hillsgrove Members. Josh M., last year's featured speaker, spoke about the benefits of Hillsgrove House and introduced Obe C., whose heartwarming tales of trials and tribulations brought many visitors to tears. Attendees were made aware of the diverse benefits of providing individuals suffering from mental illness with the opportunity to work.

Attendees included Ed McDonough, owner of McDonough Company, a Rhode Island-based corporation and nationally acknowledged leader in equipment solutions. President Elect of the Warwick Rotary Club, McDonough shared his deep satisfaction with Hillsgrove House's Temporary Employment Program. His family's restaurant, Delicious Deli in Cranston, has provided Temporary Employment Positions for three Hillsgrove Members. He described the experience as win-win, and encouraged his fellow Rotarians to participate in this unique and rewarding program.

Hillsgrove House strongly promotes the concept of membership, a sense of belonging, and the right to self-determination for its members. It is built on a work-ordered day model, which means members and staff work side-by-side in all areas of the clubhouse to run the program. Through this, work relationships are formed in which members reconnect with themselves, their talents, abilities, and strengths, as well as other members. Most importantly, the work-ordered day provides pre-vocational skills to members and helps to prepare them for work in the community.