Name: Gregory the Computer Teacher

Position: Computer Instructor, APHP, CWC, South County Recovery and Drop-In Center

What do you do: I teach Microsoft and computer basics training, office skills, and I assist with resumes, job searches, and help with website development for RPSVA

What is your day like? I prepare for trainings at the specified locations prior to class, and we conduct our activities and then we take a break and return to the classes. Sometimes our classes are 2.5 hours, and we often go longer, but that's about the length of our classes. I teach two days a week at each location - Arlington Peers Helping Peers, Consumer Wellness Center, and South County Recovery Center.

Challenges on the job? Each computer room is different and all of them are small. Each student is different, and progresses at their own rate, individually. Some of students are not consistent in attendance due to various factors. It's a challenge when people are all on different levels, and some people are very advanced - the skill levels are so very different, and our classes are 8 weeks. Some people come the entire time, some join in on the 4th week, and some join in on the sixth week. We never turn anyone away, though. Some times people get a job and can't return, and that's great. Some people come in to brush up on their skills. We do have the time blocked off for our classes here, and so it works out well.

Greatest rewards on the job? I really enjoy the students, and being able to share my knowledge. I enjoy leading people through the basics, and helping them find their strengths to succeed with using the computer and the materials. Teachable moments are rewarding, and students help me find ways to help others, it's a great interchange going on in the classroom. It's easy to be patient and continue, because I've got the best students... Some are depending on what they learn here to find work, and go on with their lives. The groups are fun in a quiet way. When students are clicking away and saving files, and learning to send resumes and complete applications on line, I know I'm making changes happen in the lives of others.