

**Letter of Thanks**  
**CIT Jackson, TN Program**  
**Meeting and Talking with People Living with Mental Illness**

It is imperative for CIT Officers (in training) to meet face-to-face in dialog discussion with individuals living with mental illness. There are no specific formulized structured dialogues that must take place. In fact, some of the most enriching experiences occur when everyone joins informally -- common interest and topics of concern. The CIT face-to-face training meetings (on-site locations) are learning experiences for both officers and people living with mental illness – this engagement is an excellent personal and human understanding experience.

Below is an actual letter written from a patient from a Tennessee State Hospital expressing appreciation for the new CIT officers meeting and talking with patients.

Permission was obtained to share this information with CIT Officers. Portions of this letter has been omitted to further protect confidentiality concerns. This letter has been transcribed from a handwritten letter to a typed format for reading purposes – the words and sentences are verbatim.

*Dear Dr. ...*

*I would like to thank you for selecting me to participate in today's CIT groups. Primarily, I'd like to report how awesome of a project that is by including real life patients here at \_\_\_\_\_. I just am really moved to be made more fully aware the scope of law enforcement, psychologist and mental health workers and their heartwarming community that exists for me and my fellow psychiatric patients in Tennessee.*

*Just to consider one aspect, the dietary department - they, it seems, go head over heels to provide a daily balance of nutrition while varying the menu daily.*

*Praise the Lord, and thank you!*

Signature omitted