

On The Road Again

There's no doubt about it – travel expands your mind and your horizons. Two Unity House consumers set out to prove that theory by taking big trips last year.



Oak Drive resident **David Greene** escaped the New York winter for a pre-holiday getaway to sunny Florida and Mexico. Tulip Travel of Liverpool, NY, which plans and organizes hundreds of trips and leisure activities for persons with developmental disabilities in Central New York, took care of all the arrangements and escorted the small group.

David and his new friends flew down to Tampa for a night, then boarded Royal Caribbean's Jewel of the Seas for a four-night cruise to Cozumel, Mexico. David says he'd never been to Mexico before, and "it was hot." He especially liked the huge green alligator cake they served after dinner one evening, and he soaked in the hot tub every chance he got.

The Jewel of the Seas features a rock-climbing wall, three pools and three hot whirlpools, a casino, a mini-golf course, several restaurants, and entertainment every night. David reports that the food was "really good" and that he liked his waiter, who wore funny wigs and strummed a guitar. David also took advantage of the great music onboard by hitting the dance floor.

David's been on other trips with Tulip Travel before – to Hawaii and Nashville – and hopes to head to Disney World with them this November.



Chuck Kellogg of Auburn visited his two brothers and their families in Fairbanks, Alaska last summer. He said just getting there was an experience: "I flew from Syracuse to Fairbanks, with two stops in Chicago and Seattle. It took 18 hours. It was scary but I did it!" His family greeted him at the airport with a big "Welcome to Alaska, Chuck!" sign that made it all worth it.

While in America's last frontier, Chuck's family took him on several sightseeing expeditions. He especially enjoyed China Hot Springs and Denali National Park, where he saw moose.

During his two weeks, Chuck also fondly remembered going to a local craft sale and Santa's workshop at the "North Pole."

"It was light all the time, and it was cold at night," he recalled. "The whole trip was quite an experience."

Chuck has taken other trips as well – one with Tulip Travel to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, and another to New York State Legislation Day in Albany with a Unity House staff member. The two traveled overnight to advocate for more funding for non-profits such as Unity House.