

G.O.C. GAZETTE

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE
GANINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

GOC Presentation Seeks Funding for Transitional Employment

Mike Demers and I attended the Alachua County Health Center to present to the Grant Review Committee our case for 15 placements and funding for \$75,000. We gave our presentation first and were given 15 minutes. Mike introduced us and gave a brief description about what we were about, then turning to me to read a brief account of how the clubhouse helps me. After I finished reading Mike went on to explain how the transitional employment works. The Board was thoroughly impressed in the dedication and unity and how concise the program actually is and the fact that Mike was solid with their every question as to the mechanics of the program. Despite whether we get the grant or not I think it went really well and it was definitely worth the effort. We should be hearing about the grant by the end of the month, We are anxious. Grants and donations are very important to us for our ef-

fort to continue with the clubhouse. There are other grants we have applied for and are applying for that are pending. As you know our main source of income is grants and donations. So please when you are thinking of making donations, please think about Gainesville Opportunity Center. We are a very important organization and can help many people who have mental illness become productive citizens in their community.

—Alexis Henderson

Clubhouse Standard of the Month: Category-Membership:
#6. Members have a right to immediate re-entry into the Clubhouse community after any length of absence, unless their return poses a threat to the Clubhouse community.

A CLUBHOUSE WITH TEMPORARY WALLS...
what we are doing while working on a permanent home..

- Publishing a newsletter
- Outreaching to other potential members.
- Speaking to community leaders and programs about the clubhouse.
- Visiting other clubhouses to get ideas and inspiration.
- Occupying a temporary space to have meetings to educate ourselves about clubhouse, support each other and work on projects to further develop the club.
- Setup a support system for each other.
- Help with fundraising
- Socialize
- Attend conferences and workshops



Gainesville Opportunity Center, Inc.



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August	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Clubhouse open (9-5)	2
	3	4 Clubhouse open (9-5)	5	6 Clubhouse open (9-5)	7	8 Clubhouse open (9-5)	9
	10	11 Movie night Clubhouse open (9-5)	12	12 Lighthouse Visits us 10-1 pm Clubhouse open (9-5)	14	15 Clubhouse open (9-5)	16
	17	18 Clubhouse open (9-5)	19	20 Clubhouse open (9-5)	21	22 Clubhouse open (9-5)	23
	24	25 Clubhouse open (9-5)	26	27 Clubhouse open (9-5) Skate Station 6 pm	28	29 Clubhouse open (9-5)	30
	31						



Welcome new Co-Editor of the GOC Gazette, David Stevens! David is also heading up the tracking of member attendance. What would we do without him!

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Wednesday Night, August 27th we are going to Skate Stations Fun works for Skating, Go-Carts, Batting Cages, Miniature Golf and more! Come join us!

On Friday September 19th we will be attending the Florida Clubhouse Coalition meeting in Orlando, Florida therefore we will not be open for regular business on that day.

September	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Clubhouse open (9-5)	2	3 Clubhouse open (9-5)	4	5 Clubhouse open (9-5)	6
	7	8 Board Meeting 6 pm Clubhouse open (9-5)	9	10 Clubhouse open (9-5)	11	12 Clubhouse open (9-5)	13
	14	15 Clubhouse open (9-5)	16	17 Clubhouse open (9-5)	18	19 F.C.C Meeting ORLANDO 10-2pm Clubhouse closed	20 CIRCUS JACKSONVILLE (8am-2pm)
	21	22 Clubhouse open (9-5)	23	24 Clubhouse open (9-5)	25	26 Clubhouse open (9-5)	27
	28	29 Clubhouse open (9-5)	30				

Member Highlight!



Michael Simmons is an active member of the Gainesville Opportunity Center. He has been a leader for GOC. Michael has shown to be caring by keeping in touch with other clubhouse members. He has given members rides in his car and has talked to members over the phone to reassure them as well as visiting people in the hospital to comfort them. He has started a walking club where members walk for about forty minutes five to six days a week.

His favorite movie is "7 Samurai". His favorite musical group is ABBA, and his favorite pastime is reading. If Michael could go anywhere, it would be Alaska. His favorite sports team is Miami Dolphins (football), and his favorite sports player is Ricky Williams.

Michael is compassionate and is truly a genuinely caring person.

- David Stevens, with contributions from Alexis Henderson, Sandy Callan and Mike Demers



Angel Food Ministries

Angel Food Ministries offers an outstanding menu of food for very inexpensive prices.

Some of the food items on the August 2008 Menu include 1.5 lb Rib eye steaks (4 X 6 oz.), 5 lb. chicken leg quarters, 1lb. rice, and 9 oz. instant potatoes (14 servings). There are also four August Specials available to purchase for those who purchase the August 2008 Menu.

The August 2008 Menu only costs \$30.00 and can be picked up at Gainesville Community Ministries (352-372-8125) 1108 N. Main St., as well as 1st Church of the Nazarene (352-372-4574) 5020 NW 23 Avenue. Food stamps are accepted. Orders are due September, 15 2008 and the distribution date is September, 27 2008. You can also visit Angel Food Ministries website, www.angelfoodministries.com.

- David Stevens

SEWING GROUP

Hey members, is anyone interested in a service project involving a sewing machine? We have 80 metal chairs that will be slightly uncomfortable so we were thinking to get together and make sew cushions. Knowing how to sew is not necessary because Molly volunteered to instruct and show is how. It could be fun if we made a night or day of it. Good music for good times required so we can sew to the beat. Refreshments provided. Call Alexis at 256-5382 to schedule.

-Alexis Henderson



From the Director...

The Gainesville Opportunity Center's "Clubhouse without Walls" project has been progressing right on schedule. After an initial surge in new members our membership has reached 40 registered clubhouse members. Currently, 13 members are consistently active. Our goal remains to have 75 registered members by the end of the January 2009, with a daily active membership of 10 members per day. The most important advancement is our clubhouse community is the recent securing of our "temporary" clubhouse walls. In June we negotiated with a local social service agency, Catholic Charities, to host us by providing us a large room and break room for a modest monthly fee. This gives us a physical identity and a base to work from where members can come to the club Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. At GOC members come to work on the next phase of their personal and the clubhouses development by establishing our Work-Ordered Day. In future months we hope that by having a day program we will be further increasing our membership. As you may know the Work-Ordered day program is crucial to building a foundation for members taking the next opportunity towards employment placement and support. At our new location we will be increasing our activities to include a social and weekend component so as to encourage more community development and support among members. The clubhouse has also just established it's first independent contract with the state of Florida's Department of Children and Families and looks forward to also doing so with the state's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Most recently our first founding member, Alexis Henderson and myself presented a grant application to the Alachua County Community Agency Partnership Program Advisory Board for funding an Employment Coordinator position. The Oral presentation went well but this funding is highly competitive. We are hoping for at least a financial stipend to show some support and investment by county government. In the last 3 months we conducted the following activities.....1.) Clubhouse development training in St. Petersburg to help with strategic planning towards establishing a clubhouse and best practices for determining what activities were most helpful to start a clubhouse and when clubhouses should phase them in. 2.) Visits continued to other clubhouses such as: Lighthouse in Crystal River, FL and Vincent House in Pinellas Park, FL. 3.) Weekly "Clubhouse without Walls" meetings turned into 3 times a week attending the "temporary club space" accomplishing our goal of having a clubhouse WITH (temporary) walls sooner than we ever hoped for. 4.) Public speaking by members and staff to local community groups to educate them about the clubhouse model, specifically Transitional Employment.

-Mike Demers

We're on the Web at:
www.GoClubhouse.org



- Meaningful opportunities in Gainesville community
- Important work
- Restorative environment emphasizing abilities and talents
- Help with education & college degree programs
- Access to services, supports, housing
- Friendship

The Gainesville place where people whose lives have been drastically disrupted by a mental illness come to rebuild their lives.

A World of Growing Opportunities
www.GoClubhouse.org



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