

Summer 2009



Volume 2 Issue 4

G.O.C. *GAZETTE*

The NEWSPAPER FOR THE
GAINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER



HEY MY NAME IS PAMELA S. I SIGN UP FOR *GOC* IN 2007. BUT NEVER CAME. I THOUGHT IS WAS NOT GOING TO BE A PLACE FOR



ME. IT TOOK TWO YEARS FOR ME TO MAKE MY MIND UP THEN JUNE 24TH 2009. I SHOWED UP -AND EVER SINCE - I'VE BEEN COMING! *GOC* HELPS ME TO DEVELOP MY SKILLS. I FEEL LIKE EVERBODY UNDERSTANDS ME AND I CAN BE MYSELF. I AM LEARNING SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY I COME AND I AM GOING TO BUILD UP MY SKILLS AND SOON,I HOPE, I CAN GET A JOB. FROM NOW ON I WILL TELL PEOPLE IF U THINKING ABOUT COMIN—COME! IT'S A GOOD PLACE FOR US!

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Clubhouse Employment

Transitional Employment Placements				
Employer	Position	Schedule	Hours	Member
St. Francis High School	Kitchen Assistant	9-2 M-F	25	STARTS AUGUST 12th!

Supported and Independent Employment		
Member	Position/Employer	Hrs/Week
Andy B.	Dishwasher/Meridian	15
Shirley S.	File Clerk/Meridian	3
Sara O.	Clerical Assistant/DCF	40
Theresa M.	Office Clerk/Meridian	3
Sandy C.	Peer Specialist/Meridian	20
Greg U.	Crew Member/Burger King	15
Jane P.	Courtesy Clerk/Win-Dixie	20
Crystal A.	Dishwasher/Meridian	2.75
Frances S.	Substitute Teacher	16
Dave J.	Groundskeeper/Meridian	4
Lee B	Laborer/Able Body Labor	8
Angie M.	Peer Specialist/Meridian	16
Alexis H.	Housekeeper/Gainesville Health & Fitness	15
Joel A.	Maintenance/	40
Regis G.	Peer Specialist/Meridian	20

Clubhouse Education

Members in School	
Member	Program/School
Mike L.	Art/Santa Fe College
Joel A.	GED Prep Classes/Alachua County School Dept.
Safi	GED Program/Santa Fe Community College

Community Volunteers

Members Volunteering in the Community	
Member	Position/Location
Andy B.	Knights of Columbus/St. Patrick's Church
David S	Dog Walker/Gainesville Pet Rescue



Congratulations!

The following members have started new jobs (paid or volunteer) or school: Joel A. Maintenance at an area hotel. Congratulations Joel! Also congratulations to Sara O, who just completed a temporary job at the Department of Children and Families SAMH office. She worked 40 hours per week for 6 weeks and did a great job! They even gave her a Good-bye party! So if you see Sara congratulate her!

CLUBHOUSE HOURS DURING AUGUST:

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

9am to 5pm

New Members Highlight

New Member Highlight with Michael G.

How did you find the clubhouse? Through a job interview.

How long have you been here? Four or five months.

What do you hope the club can help you with? Getting a paying job.

What skills do you have that could be used here? Socializing with people.

What were you doing before you came to the club?

Taking college courses.

-David S.



I met Robert Lee S. on July 20, 2009 and I am glad I did. He has a good heart and LOVES everyone. His strength is a 100 percent in kitchen work. He hopes to achieve a G.O.C. placement transitional, and supportive by attending work-ordered day and meetings. He has three favorite sports teams: Gators, football and basketball (L.A. LAKERS). He is a good buddy and a new member and volunteer, we welcome and love him! (*picture unavailable*)

Sincerely, Edward 'Andy' B.

The Executive Director's Corner



TOUGH TIMES JUST MEANS...

It's time to be tough! Many times we can think that when someone, something or some time is too difficult, frustrating or testing our resolve we may get discouraged and feel that whatever it (or who) isn't worth it—challenging us to keep going on. Such may be the “tough times” we are experiencing.

Yet, right in the middle of such a time our clubhouse has received a wonderful, unexpected and very generous gift of funding from Patricia W. and Richard C. Berne! By far over the course of this past year they have been our special friends. Some far off day, when our clubhouse has grown from a young sapling to a strong oak, we as a clubhouse community will have many people to thank. Certainly the Berne's will be at the center of that list! Without them we never would have made it!



Hodge Podge

A plethora of articles or information

Faster than a speeding bus??

Tired of waiting for the bus, try riding your bike. Did you know that city busses have bike racks in the front so you can ride your bike to the clubhouse. Here's how, get your usual bus, when you go to get on the bus, let the driver know your putting a bike on the rack. Ride the bus as far as you want, then get off the bus. As your getting off the bus remind the driver that you have a bike on the rack, remove the bike, fold the rack back up and wave to the driver as you peddle past, while they are stuck in traffic! Get to the club faster and get healthier along the way!



Partnering Employment Opportunities...

May 11, 2009











DCF contacted Pam Demers, Gainesville Opportunity Center (GOC) Program Director, concerning the OPS Clerical Assistant temporary job. Pam sent them the names of three clubhouse members. DCF interviewed the two clubhouse members that were interested and had the required skills for the job, and finally hired clubhouse member Sara O., for DCF felt she was the person most skilled for the position.

So within a week she had started her OPS Clerical Assistant position with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) the job was temporary until the end of June, and her duties included filing, handling confidential information. Sara also preformed other various clerking tasks for DCF. The job was a temporary full-time job and was paid \$12.00 per hour.

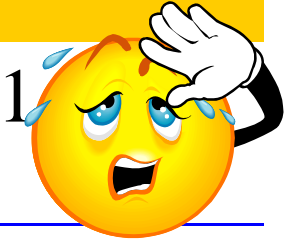
Sara was very thrilled to be awarded this job and it couldn't have happened at a better time! She was going to need the money because she just moved from a rent free apartment to one were she has to pay a security deposit, part of the rent, half of the utilities and cable, among other financial requirements. *Thank you to the staff at our local DCF/ Substance Abuse Mental Health Office for working with us on successful job opportunity for Sara!*

August 2009

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>We</i>
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2 	3 Board Meeting 6:30 pm 9 am to 5 pm 	4	5 Job C 9 am 
9	10 9 am to 5 pm 	11	12 9 ar 
16	17 9 am to 5 pm 	18	19 9 ar 
23	24 9 am to 5 pm 	25	26 9 ar 
30	31 9 am to 5 pm 		

<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
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Job Club 3 pm

6

9 am to 5 pm

7



9 am to 5 pm

8

13

9 am to 5 pm



14



9 am to 5 pm

15

20

9 am to 5 pm

21



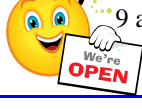
9 am to 5 pm

22

27

9 am to 5 pm

28



9 am to 5 pm

29



Member View

Member Highlight: Housing

I, David S., am here with Michael T. and Bruce “Tommy” A. to talk with them about where they are living now and their hopes and dreams they have about the future concerning their housing.

- David: Michael, where are you currently living?
Michael: Vanessa Thomas Group Home.
David: Do you like where you live now?
Michael: No.
David: Tommy, do you like where you are living now?
Tommy: It's OK for now.
David: Michael, what would you like to see change in your housing?
Michael: More privacy, and space to my self, and to go to places when I want to go.
David: What changes would you like to see in your housing?
Tommy: More privacy.
David: Michael, eventually, some day, do you see yourself living somewhere else?
Michael: Yes.
David: Do either of you see yourself living somewhere else in the future?
Tommy: Yes.
Michael: I see myself back home with my family in December 2009
David: Tommy, where do you see yourself living?
Tommy: In Williston.
David: Tommy, do you have any idea of when you see yourself living in Williston?
Tommy: Any day now.



"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."

- Thomas Edison

Things to do during the summer

- Go to the beach, (make sure you bring a lot of sunblock).
 - Go swimming in the pool.
 - Go run a few miles outside at the local track.
 - Go to some water parks and use the water slides.
 - Play tennis or baseball or basketball or any other outdoor sport.
 - A lot of good movies come out during the summer, see some of them.
 - Play games indoors, in the cool of the AC, such as pool, foosball, ping pong, etc.
- During the summer, it is always fun to participate in outdoor activities, especially in hot climates such as Florida.



Someone's in the kitchen with Tommy!

That someone is the Winn-Dixie Foundation! Tom has been the mainstay of our lunch program here at the club he enjoy's the work. If you are a member and want to keep busy, he invites you to

help him with all the “fixings”. Most recently we received a \$5,000 grant from Winn-Dixie. That money is helping us fund the lunch program with food, preparation and supplies. Thank you Winn-Dixie—without your help we just wouldn't be able to serve such great lunches!



The Life of Iron Man

July 4th is usually a day we celebrate the lives of Veterans in the Armed Forces They are American heroes. This year, many mourned the death of an American hero. Steve McNair was tragically murdered by an ex-girlfriend.

McNair was a country boy from Mississippi. His older brother was a great high school quarterback. He was Steve's hero. Steve McNair was an excellent high school quarterback. He attended Alcorn State for college. He was a great leader and one of the best athletes in the nation.

He was drafted by the Houston Oilers when they were still a franchise in 1995. The team turned into the Titans in 1997. McNair spent 11 years with the Titans, leading them to Super Bowl XXXIV; one of the closest Super Bowls ever. He was League co-MVP in 2003. They nicknamed

McNair Iron Man because he basically recovered from more injuries than any other Quarter Back in NFL history.

But stats and numbers and all that were never what Steve McNair was about. You rarely saw him without a smile on his face. And he was a great leader. He was a great person. He will be remembered fondly as a man who loved life and other people, and died at a young age and left behind a wife and four children.

His death was a huge loss to his family and friends, and everyone in the entire NFL.

I don't think that he wanted everyone to be sad and cry and mourn him for too long a time. I think he would have wanted people to celebrate his life. Always when I think of him I think of that smile. We will all miss you Steve, until we see you again.

-Mike L.



GOC Yard Sale

On the weekend of 5th and 6th of June, we (the GOC) had a 2 day yard sale from 9am to 5 pm . The yard sale helped us out because we are a non profitable club. We worked hard two weeks prior donating as much as possible and pricing items. The yard sale opened at 7 in the morning. I got there about 11:30. We had several different items like bikes, dresses, shoes, books, movies, CD players, a computer, foosball table, and more.

When I got there Saturday morning, we had already sold about two hundred dollars. It wasn't jam packed, but there was a steady flow of people, and the place was hardly ever empty. It rained on Saturday off and on for only about an hour and a half.

On Sunday, not many people came. Probably because of church.

Cheryl worked so hard getting ready for the sale. She was dedicated and driven. I cut my thumb on the Friday prior to the yard sale, but Mike (the director) bandaged it up and I was ready to go back to work.

We made \$700 + dollars overall. The goal of the yard sale was to meet end-of-year expenses. The garage sale really helped us come together as a clubhouse; with all the packing, counting money and pricing things. We are currently having an online sale on www.craigslist.com

Clubhouse Standard of the Month

Standard # 10:

Clubhouse staff have generalist roles. All staff share employment, housing, evening and weekend, holiday and unit responsibilities. Clubhouse staff do not divide their time between Clubhouse and other major work responsibilities.

Thriller

Michael Jackson was perhaps the most famous American ever. He thrilled crowds of thousands of people. He was a talented song writer, singer, and performer. It all started with the Jackson 5. The Jackson 5 were like American royalty. Pretty much all the baby boomers knew who he was. My generation (I'm 30) knew he was; and even some kids born in the 90's knew who he was. He was just a brilliant talent. I mean how did he do the moonwalk?

He started with the Jackson Five in 1964, with his four other brothers. His father was a driven father who wanted them to practice pretty much every day. Michael Jackson didn't have much of a childhood. That is probably why he had his "Neverland" Ranch built.

He began his solo career in 1971. His first solo album "Off the Wall" came out in 1979. His second album "Thriller", came out in 1982. "Bad" came out in 1987. "Dangerous" came out in 1991. He wore one white glove with Rhinestones' on it. It was a great fashion statement. He was married twice. Once in 1994, then again in 1996. He had 3 children.

Jackson died at age 50, June 25, 2009. When I heard the news, I was shocked, spell bounded, awestruck. I turned on the TV to see thousands of people gathering around the hospital where he was pronounced dead. I couldn't believe he was dead. It was sad news. Michael Jackson will be missed and loved forever.

-Mike L

Gainesville Opportunity Center, Inc.



A World of Growing Opportunities

www.GoClubhouse.org

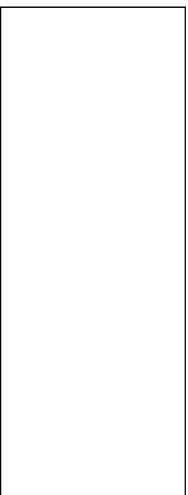
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A CLUBHOUSE WITH TEMPORARY WALLS

...what we are doing while working on a home..

- Outreach to potential members.
- Speak to community leaders and programs about the clubhouse.
- Develop employment opportunities in the community
- Have meetings to educate ourselves about clubhouse, support each other and help develop the club.
- Run a "Work Day" Program to help run the club.
- Help with fundraising
- Attend conferences and workshops



*Clubhouses from all over the world will be converging
on St. Pete Beach to attend its semi-annual international
conference this October 24-29, 2009!*