

GOC GAZETTE

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE
GAINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER



WHAT HAS BEEN GOING ON AT GOC



Hi everyone! Well it has been an interesting year...to say the least! Between spaces and places, coming and goings, and a lot of up in the air stuff...there has been a lot going on. I thought I would review what has been going on and what's on the horizon for the future.

First and foremost, we are staying where we always have been for at least a while longer, maybe as much as a year...but there are no guarantees. So we remain at 1717 NE 9th Street, Building A, Suite #140, **NO CHANGES!**

Secondly, we now have to pay rent, so with that we had to make some drastic changes in staffing. We receive \$75,000 a year from DCF, and with paying rent we could not keep both staff. Mike took the grenade for us all. He voluntarily took a layoff so that the club could stay in business.

I became the Interim Executive Director and Mike, is looking for other work. We also lost Jim Cook this year, and that was almost as big a

loss as Mike. I don't think too many of us realized how much he did here until he was gone.

GOC is actively involved in the Florida Clubhouse Coalition (FCC). Andy is the Treasurer and I am the President (how'd we get roped into that Andy?). We have to be at quarterly meetings held at various clubs in the state and have spent a week in Tallahassee trying to stop cuts. We weren't very successful, but the fight isn't over yet!

With me being the only staff anytime I have mandatory DCF meetings, or other required meetings (way more than I'd like by the way), I have to close the clubhouse. Sandy was helping by volunteering to run the club when I couldn't be here but now she is working part-time at Meridian and going to school. She's so busy now; we hardly ever get to see her.

So you think it's a one woman show...NOT! Members have been picking up the slack and without all of you, our doors would be closed! Members have worked together to plan activities, help people get jobs, make lunch, clean, help write and present for grants too! We still serve lunch daily, and the food is getting better

(is that because I'm not cooking hmm...maybe?).

The Board of Directors has been great as well. For example Markus Dietrich, who has been working with the marketing firm Trickey-Jennus to develop a marketing package for FREE! They have donated their time, work and the mailing list!

There is new stuff happening too. Members have gone back to school, a group of members is working on getting flowers in front of our building, and we are taking a trip to the beach. Of course we are looking for money EVERY day.

In the meantime, we will be closed at certain times so that we can take care of everything that we need to. I try to let everyone know as soon as possible; so check the calendar for updates to the schedule. We are still open 5 days/week but Tuesday and Thursday are meeting days, Food Bank trips, banking, contract meetings etc.

So please be patient, we aren't trying to confuse anyone. We are committed to staying open. Hang in there with me as we look for money and more staff., jobs and more members, fun and most of all RECOVERY!

-by Pam Demers

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We've got the word we are staying here for a while longer.

We hope to be here for maybe another year, but we'll see. In the meantime, we are here and we are accepting donations.

Feel free to give with our thanks.

The Gainesville Opportunity Center's Board of Directors
Bruce Stevens - President
Edward "Andy" Bernard - Vice President
Patricia Sokol -Treasurer
Barry Wagner -Secretary
Markus Dietrich
Sandy Callan
Mike Demers



We are going on a trip to the beach!
Check out page 3 for details!



OUR CALENDAR



May

Mother's Day 8th

Beach Trip 21st

Memorial Day 30th

Club Closed

BIRTHDAYS

April

Cheryl 3rd
 Florenda 12th
 David 13th
 Sharon 13th



May

Greg 8th
 Harold 8th
 Lee 16th
 Terry 17th
 Marcia 18th
 Pamela 20th
 Mike 24th
 Sandra 29th

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A contributor to
 GOC and our
 Gazette!

Clubhouse Employment, Education and Volunteerism - *Our Members at Work*

Education		
Location	Degree	Member
Santa Fe College	Gen. Studies	Mike Leyman
Argosy University	Psychology	Sandy Callan

Volunteer Work				
Place of Work	Position	Schedule	Hours	Member
Gainesville Pet Rescue	Dog Walker	Saturday	4	David Stevens

Supported and Independent Employment		
Member	Position/Employer	Hrs/Week
Andy Bernard	Dishwasher/Meridian	16
Dave Byrd	Peer Specialist/Meridian	20
Sara Olney	Peer Specialist/Meridian	16
Sandy Callan	Peer Specialist/Meridian	20
Jane Perez	Courtesy Clerk/Winn-Dixie	24
Dave Jefferies	Groundskeeper/Meridian	4
Joel Andersen	Kitchen Asst./St. Francis High School	25
Lee B.	Self Employed/Entrepreneur	10
Francis S.	Peer Specialist/Meridian	20
Greg U.	Substitute Teacher/SBAC	18

Employment quote of the month:

“Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same.”

-Francesca Reigler

When we work,
 we feel valued and important.
 We find our Recovery!
 More next month!

- *Need a job?*
- *Don't know what you should do?*
- *Submitted applications but haven't gotten a job?*
- *We can help!*

Stop by Monday through Friday to see Pam or call her at 224-5523

When further funding becomes available we will be able to increase our staff to cover our work-ordered day program, which will support a strong Transitional Employment (TE) Program!

MAY 2011 LUNCH MENU

Lunch is served daily from 12:00 to 1:30pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Turkey & Cheese Sandwiches</i>	3 Closed <i>Pam at a Grant Training</i>	4 <i>Spaghetti & Meatballs Salad</i>	5 <i>Leftovers</i>	6 <i>Meatloaf Mixed veggies Baked Potato</i>	7
8 <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 <i>Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Mac-n-Cheese</i>	10 <i>Leftovers</i>	11 <i>Baked Chicken Rice, Veggies</i>	12 <i>Leftovers</i>	13 <i>Grilled Cheese Chips</i>	14
15	16 <i>Baked Fish Sandwiches, Veggies Home Fries</i>	17 <i>Leftovers</i>	18 <i>Hamburgers Fries Green Beans</i>	19 <i>Leftovers</i>	20 <i>Ham & Cheese Sandwiches Potato Salad</i>	21
22	23 <i>Chili Cornbread</i>	24 <i>Leftovers</i>	25 <i>Turkey Sloppy Joe's Fries</i>	26 <i>Leftovers</i>	27 <i>Chicken Wings Carrots & Celery Chips</i>	28
29	30 Memorial Day Club Closed	31 <i>Leftovers</i>				



 GOC is going to the beach. It will be at Anastasia State Park in St. Augustine. Please be at the clubhouse at 9:30 am and we will leave at 10:00 am sharp. **If you want to go with us you MUST call the clubhouse at 224-5523 by Friday, May 13th. Space is limited and filling up fast!**



Member In School Interview: Mike Leyman



Q Where do you go to school?
A Santa Fe College.

Q How do you like being in school?
A Like it a lot, because I like making friends there, the teachers a good and I like the challenge it gives me.

Q What class are you taking?
A English, and it's harder than I thought it would be.

Q When did you start school?

A I went to school when I was younger at Penn State (fall '97), then moved here and took some classes when Santa Fe was a community college, and now I am taking the English class for 2011 Spring Semester

Q What do you find the easiest part about going back to school?
A The memory of when I first went to college. It reminds me of friends that I had.

Q What is the hardest part about going back to school?
A Being rusty because I had not been in college in ten years.

Q How are you dealing with the hard parts?

A If I need to take the class again, then I'll study the material so I'll be ready next time.

Q What advice would you give to members that are thinking about going back to school?
A It is worth while. You can get involved in many different things like student government, and sports, and making friends there.

By David Stevens

Mike L. is a Charter Member of our Clubhouse, having been involved since mid 2007. He has been hoping to go back to school for several years and now is living his dream. GO MIKE!

GOC Is Blossoming



We are the GOC, and we have several members making drastic improvements. David used to not come at all and stay inside his apartment. We celebrated his 30th birthday today. David is going to try to come 3 days a week, a beautiful turn around.

Henry has been coming to the club at a regular basis. He seems to be talking more than before.

I am on the borderline of passing my English Class. If I don't pass it I'm going to try it again. I'm also doing a fundraiser with

Jane and Andy. We are selling tickets from Belk.

I want to consider this month flower month. I'd like to thank all those people in history that were flowers and helped our Nation as well as other Nations.

The first person that comes to mind are the Kennedys', that being Jack and Bobby. Then I think of Martin Luther King. It was so sad in the sixties, especially the late sixties when Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. The 60's provided so much hope, and then all the flowers were killed.

So going into the seventies it was just bull. Nixon refused to pull the troops out of

Vietnam, Watergate. Students were killed at Kent state (with having any weapons.)

Then all of the presidents to me (except George Bush, Senior and Jimmy Carter) were not good Presidents. Not Flowers at least. Then along came Bill Clinton; a very cool flower. And now we have hope with Barack Obama. Michelle is (in my opinion) the most charming first lady ever. She is definitely a Flower.

So let's not dwell on past leaders, but go forward with Obama, with optimism, Hope, and Peace.

By Mike Leyman

A Picture is worth 1000 drums?



A picture of all the drums for the drum line from the 15th International Clubhouse Seminar in St. Pete Beach taken 2 years ago by Pam—our own Executive Director...cool huh...okay maybe not but we liked it!

Existing Member Interview - Catharine Kennedy



Q How long have you been a member?

A A couple of years.

Q How did you find the clubhouse?

A At Meridian, I saw a flier for GOC about getting a job.

Q What things do you do here?

A I work in the kitchen with Tommy and help do anything that doesn't require lifting or bending.

Q What is your favorite part?

A Being with people. There are good people here and it helps me forget about other things in my life and we laugh a lot. That is the best part.

Q Do you work?

A No.

Q Have you ever been to any other clubhouse?

A No.

Q What kinds of things do you like to do when you're not at the club?

A Cook, make things beautiful, paint, read books, visit grandchildren, and go to library.

Q How do you get to the club?

A Drive, or take the MV.

Q Has coming to the club helped you? If so, how?

A Yes, it helps me laugh more and feel better about myself. The people here are wonderful too. I have a warm place in my heart for the GOC people.

Q Would you recommend coming to the club to other people?

A Yes. Anything that makes you feel good about yourself is helpful.

By David Stevens