

# GOC GAZETTE

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE  
GAINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER



## G.O.C's trip to the Jacksonville Zoo



The Gainesville Opportunity Center went on a trip to The Jacksonville Zoo on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Twelve members and staff went on the trip.

It was an amazing zoo. They had monkeys, giraffes, different types of birds, a tiger, elephants, snakes, a huge frog, lizards, and my favorite exhibit: The Sting Rays. These Sting Rays must have had their stingers removed, or just really friendly. It amazes me how much they love attention and to be pet. I believe they are a much smarter animal than I had thought.

Another cool thing was feeding the giraffes. We fed them leaves with the stick attached to the leaves. I learned there was a pecking order among giraffes. The giraffes must have been 14 feet high.

The tiger or jaguar must have been hungry because it was roaming around his cage growling. It was a slight bit scary.

They had nice flowers, and Pam took pictures of those as well as some animals. They can all be seen on our Facebook page

*By Mike L.*

## What's new at GOC...the up's and downs of clubhouse

Hi everyone. Well our fiscal year just ended and...it has been an interesting year to say the least. Much like a rollercoaster we have experienced many ups and just as many downs.

The ups...we have rented our own space, have increased the number of members we work with and the number of hours each member comes in each month.

The downs...finances are always a concern at GOC. Recently the County Commission has turned us down for a request for additional funding. We are still a one staff operation (Pam) and we are looking for additional Board members who can bring additional funding to this much needed resource for us members.

More ups... many new members (including Marianne, mentioned later in this newsletter), have reconnected with some veteran members who have been missed (Greg U., Alexis H., and Rhyné B.)

Major downers...this past January the GOC lost two key staff. James Cook died and due to finances GOC was forced to lay off Mike Demers...the founding father of the Gainesville Opportunity Center.

The cuts were due to two things. First the lack of increased funding for GOC (which is happening a lot in this country during these hard economic times...but especially in mental health funding). Secondly, to the fact that we had to start paying rent this year after Catholic Charities completed their new building (they had been incubating us for the last 2 years...thank you so much Catholic Charities!)



Major uppers...GOC is still open. We still have a hot lunch each day, and members have a really nice place to come to where there is real work, real friends, and real jobs to be had. As Greg says "it is fun to belong to the GOC as my 'four walls' of my small apartment were closing in on me."

Everyone is welcomed and needed. We share laughs, talk trivia about the music and sports and work hard. We all also love Pam's selection of songs programmed on her phone. Come by to see, listen and if you want...to help out. We need you!

*Pam D. and Greg U.*



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*We have heard you complaints and we are responding! We are revamping our outreach so that we are not calling as much. If you like getting weekly calls let us know and we'll keep you on the list!*

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	

OUR CALENDAR

**September**

**Labor Day 5th  
Patriot Day 11th  
Autumn Begins 23rd  
Rosh Hashanah Begins 28th**

BIRTHDAYS

**September**

2nd Sara O.  
9th Ariel G.  
10th Regis G.  
16th Joel A.

Happy   
Birthday  
Everybody!!

**Ace Cartridge Exchange**

*Laser Printer Repair and Service*

*New and Recycled Printer Supplies*

Serving Gainesville, Florida and surrounding areas

*"You save when we recycle!"*

Call 352-335-1122

*A contributor to  
GOC and our  
Gazette!*

Save the date  
**NAMI Walk - Busting Stigma**

October 22, 2011

9-11am

Westside Park

**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
Santa Fe College	Psychology	Deb O.
BBN Bible Institute	Scripture Studies	Greg U.

**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 Andreason	Kitchen Asst./St. Francis High School	25
Lee B.	Self Employed/Entrepreneur	10
Francis S.	Peer Specialist/Meridian	20
Travis Hardenbrook	Parking Attendant/Healthcare Parking	40

**Employment quote  
of the month:**

There is no trade or employment but the young man following it may become a hero.

*-Walt Whitman*

*Recovery...is different for each of us.  
For some it's work, for others school,  
for others its just having someplace to be  
...to belong...to have GOC!!*

- *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!**

# SEPTEMBER 2011 LUNCH MENU

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <i>Fish</i>	3
4	5  Club Closed Labor Day	6	7 <i>Pork Chops</i>	8	9 <i>Stir Fry Chicken</i>	10
11	12 <i>BBQ Ribs</i>	13	14 <i>Pasta Alfredo</i>	15	16  Club Closed FCC meeting	17
18	19 <i>Chicken Nuggets</i>	20	21 <i>Sloppy Joes</i>	22	23 <i>Leftovers</i>	24  <i>Mini Golf at Skate Station</i>
25	26 <i>Chicken Soup</i>	27	28 <i>Chili</i>	29	30 <i>Leftovers</i>	



***Come join us for a fun afternoon of food and friendship...and most importantly FUN!***

When: **Saturday, September 24th**

Where: Skate Station (behind K-Mart off Newberry Rd) at 1pm.

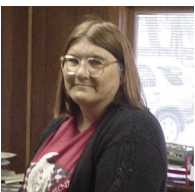
**We will meet at the Oaks Mall bus stop at 12:30**

RSVP to let us know your coming!

*Pssst...the Gators are away in Kentucky on this Saturday and the game isn't until 7pm!*



## Member In School Interview: Debbie Osborne



**Q** Where do you go to school?

**A** Santa Fe College.

**Q** How do you like being in school?

**A** I love it.

**Q** What class(s) are you taking?

**A** Computer and prep classes.

**Q** When did you start school?

**A** January.

**Q** What do you find the easiest part about going back to school?

**A** The Department of Disabilities Resource Center helps with scheduling classes, and setting things needed to use in classes.

**Q** What is the hardest part about going back to school?

**A** Getting Pell Grants, and appealing them.

**Q** How are you dealing with the hard parts?

**A** Go to the disability resource center or going to my councilors at Meridian.

**Q** What advice would you give to members that are thinking about going back to school?

**A** It is a great thing to do, and it is never to late to go back to school.

By David S

## Existing Member Interview: Greg U.



**Q How long have you been a member?** I have been a member since 2007, just after the GOC started,. I have recently reconnected with them again

**Q How did you find the clubhouse?** I met Mike Demers, former director, at a NAMI walk in 2007. I started coming before we had a building, and have been coming off and on since then.

**Q What things do you do here?** I write for the GOC Gazette, help with lunch clean up and dishes and have recently started helping with doing data-entry. I try to share or witness for the Lord, as well.

**Q What is your favorite part?** Writing and sharing stories, and talking to my friends while we work. As well as listening to the music.

**Q Do you work? If so, doing what? How did you get your job?** I have worked so much in my life that I am currently taking an early retirement and sharing my testimony to people, not only here at GOC, but at church and to whomever the Lord leads me to share it with.

**Q Have you ever been to any other clubhouses?** No, but this Friday, (September 16th, 2011) I am going to a clubhouse coalition meeting at Vincent House in Pinellas Park, FL.

**Q What kinds of things do you do when you're not at the clubhouse?** Listen to BBN and do my BBN Bible Institute on-line Bible study, play my guitar, write songs and jam with some friends too.

**Q How do you get to the clubhouse?** I take the bus. I never used to but now I love riding the bus. I used to be afraid of riding the bus but now I love meeting people on it and the bus drivers are really nice.

**Q Has coming to the clubhouse helped you? How?** Yes, it helps me be around people. It's a place to meet friends who can identify with my own illness. I don't have to hide here. I can just be me..

**Q Would you recommend coming to the clubhouse to other people?** Yes, absolutely! Every time I see a new face here it brightens my heart. The staff and members offer so much help, how can anyone lose by just coming in.

*By Pam D.*

## New member interview Marianne's Story



Marianne started coming to the GOC clubhouse in late July of 2011. She came one time a while back and after health and mental health issues, she decided to give it a try.

Her favorite things to do here are reception skills and computer work.

At home she loves her dog named Petunia who she found on Facebook. She loves all kinds of animals.

Marianne is highly educated as she received her A.S. degree in medical administration with billing and coding. She re-

ceived this degree in 2009 from attending classes at City College in Gainesville, FL.

This past year she just received her B.A. degree from City College in Project Management. She decided that she did not find that field appealing to her.

She is going to start working on her Master's degree in Medical Human Services in October from an on-line program being offered by Strayer University.

Something that Marianne finds enjoyment in her life, is going to St. Patrick's Catholic Church. She attends a prayer meeting before attending 11:00 AM mass on Sunday's.

She started attending St. Patrick's Church in the early 90's. She states that she loves her Pastor, Fr. Roland Julian who she says is a very good listener and she finds him full of compassion.

As the writer of this article, I would like to thank Marianne for being responsible for bringing me back to the GOC clubhouse.

She wrote me a very kind email, inviting me to come back as I have been away for a year. We carried on conversations through email and two weeks later I am back and very glad to be here. Thank you Marianne for all you do for us.

*By: Greg U.*

## Clubhouse Trivia

**What is the name of the first clubhouse in the world, and for a bonus point, what year did it begin?**