

GOC GAZETTE

THE NEWSPAPER FOR THE
GANINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Gainesville Opportunity Center, Inc.



A World of Growing Opportunities
www.GoClubhouse.org

Jim Cook, a former employee, a volunteer and a friend died in January. This issue of our newsletter is dedicated to him. Jim was a wonderful person, whose dedication and passion for the clubhouse inspired many of us. We will miss his dry sense of humor, his great cooking and his wonderful smile, but most of all we will miss the man. Rest in Peace.

GOC Has Helped Me



When we had our board meeting last night, I was talking about when G.O.C. first started and how energetic and how much hope and feeling we had for G.O.C. I stared thinking where I was when I started on the board and then met Mike (new Executive Director) and how far I have come as my own person because of being a member of G.O.C.

When I first started all I did was stay home, watch T.V. and sleep when I was able to. The only time I was out was to go to the doctor's appointments, or get groceries. My only enjoyment was spending time with my granddaughter, Trinity. One day Debbie O. told me about the clubhouse starting up and would I be interested in it. For some reason I said yes. That was the best thing I could have done.

When Mike finally came on board and we started working together and my confidence and enthusiasm built up, I began to feel so much better. I had never thought that I would ever want to work again but I started to get more confidence, and the more confidence I got in myself, the more I wanted to do.

By the time we started the Clubhouse "without walls" I was totally sold with G.O.C. and knew one day I would be out in the community more not as a mentally ill person, but as a person. I also knew that one day I may possibly be able to work only a part time job.

When I was offered the position at Meridian as Peer Specialist I was ecstatic. I was able to work there for over 2 years except for about 3 months when I was extremely ill and almost died and I finally had to leave the job because of a seizure disorder, not a mental illness.

Since I haven't been work-

ing I have been coming to G.O.C. every day and working. I have enjoyed every minute of it. I have learned so many things here and have gained the respect of my peers at G.O.C. I do a lot of the functions of the G.O.C.'s everyday activities and as I learn when I do decide it's time for me to return to another part time job I will have many, many more skills than I had when I started in the beginning. I have seen many others go through the same process here and are now in the community and employed and have very full lives.

The Gainesville Opportunity Center was a life saver for me and I have seen it be so for others. Please let us continue having the support of G.O.C. by helping us with funding and the encouragement to continue doing the good works that are being done by the program.

By Sandy Callan

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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

OUR CALENDAR

March

March

March

March

March

3/14 - 3/18 GOC Closed- Pam in Tallahassee
17th - St. Patrick's Day
23rd GOC's St. Patrick's Day Luncheon



March

March

March


March

BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY & MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**Debra O., James R., Crystal A.,
Mark H., Joshua D., Pete O.
and William T.**

Happy Birthday everyone!



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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

Volunteer Work				
Place of Work	Position	Schedule	Hours	Member
Gainesville Pet Rescue	Dog Walker	Saturday	4	David Stevens
St. Augustine's Catholic Church	Custodian	3 days/wk	12	Greg U

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

Employment quote of the month:

As a member of Congress, I believe it is the responsibility of those elected to represent the people at every level of government to ensure that our government works to ensure that every person who wants gainful employment has it.

-Leonard Boswell Quotes

Work Works!!
 It helps us feel better!
 When we are doing more,
 we feel better.
 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!

March Lunch Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Leftovers	2 Pork Chops, rice and veggies	3 Leftovers	4 BBQ Pulled Pork (also know as left- overs)	5
6	7 Meatballs with pasta	8 Chicken soup	9 Mac n cheese	10 Sandwiches	11 Leftovers	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
CLUB CLOSED all week						
20	21 Turkey and Cheese subs	22 Leftovers	23 Come join us for our Irish Luncheon! 12-2pm	24 Sandwiches	25 Leftovers	26
27	28 Stir fry					



Interview with Travis Hardenbrook



Q: What are your hobbies?

A: Drumming and reading

Q: Do you like sports, and which ones?

A: Yes, road cycling. I used to race.

Q: What do you wish to accomplish in this lifetime?

A: Have a family, go back to school and maybe transfer to UF.

Q: How many states have you visited?

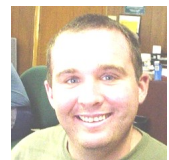
A: 6

By Mike Leyman

Existing Member Interview: Mike Gimson

Mike has been a member since late 2008/early 2009. His mother found the club for him. What he does here is vacuum, wipe down tables, and does the newsletter. His favorite part is the people. He does not work yet. He has never been to any other clubhouses. What he likes to do when he's not at the club is to be on Facebook, the computer, and run miles

at the track. People drive him to the club. Coming to the club has helped by expanding with work. He would recommend coming to the club to other people.



By David Stevens

The Passing of James Cook

We were all shocked in learning that Jim had died in early January. He was a very nice person, who was not only an employee, but became a member later.

James worked harder than probably most of us. He made lunch, helped us look for space and even got some great donations for us/ He was even funny at times, telling witty jokes.

Although he didn't show it on the outside, James had chronic depression and was in severe mental pain.

We will miss James, the guy who just started getting his life back together. We are grateful for the times we had with him.

By Mike Leyman

Memories of Jim Cook

One memory I have of Jim is at the end of the day one day we were talking about what I might want to do for a career. He had some good ideas, and was a nice person. -David Stevens

He was nice. He was social for the most part. -Mike Gimson

He believed in the clubhouse and what we were working towards. He was a great man, a great person and a good friend. I will miss him. -Pam Demers

I remember him learning to use the computer, and working with Pam and Mike too -Andy Bernard

Jim and I would sit and talk in the mornings before the members would come in. We would talk about everything and he would have coffee and I would have Pepsi. I am really going to miss those mornings. -Sandy Callan

Jim was a sincerely kind, generous man who was soft spoken and smart. I will miss him Dearly. -Justin

I greatly appreciate all the hard work and effort Jim put into the Clubhouse. He really made this a better place and will definitely be missed. -Alexis Henderson

Jim Cook was a really good friend who would do anything for anybody. But he thought he was alone that's what the clubhouse is all about. We need to get the word out to people somehow that we are here for anybody. -Love Cheryl



The Jim you may not have known

Many of us knew Jim as an advocate, or a sales man or a creative cook. We may have even known that Jim didn't know how to use the computer well. But did you know that he was an artist and a really good one as well.

For over 40 years Jim worked and played as a potter, making some beautiful pots. He won many awards all over the country even at the Gainesville Fall Art Festival.

His pieces were one of a kind and really unique, selling for thousands of dollars. He found a process that made clay look like bronze. His technique involved heating his pieces repeatedly, then placing the red-hot vases into special wood chips that combusted. He then would cool it quickly. The process gave them the unique bronze coloring. The results were astounding. He had pieces that were in private and corporate collections internationally. He was one of the best. So what happened?

As part of the process of getting the bronze color Jim used some materials that were recently banned by the EPA. Once that happened, according to Jim, the results were not the same. He never found anything else that got the same results.

Though Jim is no longer with us physically, he remains with all those he touched here at GOC though his life, and from what I was able to research, he touched many other people as well through his art, people he probably never even met. We will miss you Jim, and you did make a difference.

By Pam Demers



This is a picture of a piece Jim made and an article highlighting that piece which he donated for a fundraiser in his hometown of Apopka, FL. From the Apopka Chief, June 16, 2006.

Local artists' work will be displayed at museum

The American Cancer Society's... (The article text is partially obscured and difficult to read in full, but it discusses local artists' work being displayed at a museum.)