

December 2019

GOC GAZETTE



Gainesville Opportunity Center

102 NE. 10th Ave., Gainesville, FL 32601 Vol. 1 Issue 12
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Clovis Watson: GOC Needs New Home

by Chris Pave and Nakeshia Hemingway



Rep. Watson (center) clearly understands the value of the GOC to our community. He will sponsor us for \$1.3-million to help us get a our own building. Keith Perry is our Senate sponsor for this local funding initiative.

Rep. Clovis Watson from the Florida House of Representatives visited the GOC and has offered significant statewide support. He has served 2 terms, with this being the end of his second term. He started his career with law enforcement. Through his experience, in law enforcement, he understands the need for mental health services and resources. He has been in government for over 40 years!

We asked Representative Watson to sponsor our Local Funding Request in order to acquire a new facility. He mentioned that he is a big advocate for mental health. We hoped that Rep. Watson would support the bill, and after seeing the GOC in action, he made his final decision to 100 percent sponsor our Local Funding Request. The request would provide a grant of \$1.3 million dollars that would help the GOC acquire a new facility.

Representative Watson agreed to not only support the bill, but also make key strategic partnerships within House of Representatives to help ensure that the bill will pass. The bill needs to pass both Senate and House. Keith Perry has already agreed to sponsor our request in the Senate.

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Member Spotlight: Amanda Suprenant

Amanda was born in Ft. Pierce, Florida, and raised in Massachusetts. She now lives in a group home in Alachua where she has lived for three or four years. Her favorite colors are green, black, red, and silver. Her favorite TV shows are Batman (the one from the 60's!), Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Adams Family, and Angel, and her favorite singers are Lady Gaga, and Ke\$ha. In her free time, Amanda likes to draw and paint.

Amanda heard about GOC from a friend, who is a GOC member, who told her about GOC. Amanda came to GOC and she told herself, "I want to join this program!", So she did!

Her favorite parts of GOC are answering the phone, rolling silverware and participating in art class.

She knows how to do several artistic endeavors: making pillows, painting, making jewelry boxes and carving things out of wood. Eventually, she would like to sell her art through GOC at the art market.

Amanda would like to get a job at a restaurant (like Applebee's, Perkins, Sonny's or Denny's), and GOC is going to help her get a job!

Member Spotlight: Valerie Sanders



Valerie Sanders has been with us at the GOC Since March of 2019. She is thinking about finding a job and has expressed her preferences about her employment. She would prefer not to work Retail and Restaurant positions and is looking for a quiet job.

Her experience at the GOC is a positive one in that she loves her computer experiences and the art class. Also, she likes to read about history and write short stories.

Valerie is a curious person and her favorite past time is online games that she gets from her family in the form of gift cards for special events like birthdays.

Valerie's past volunteer history has been as a substitute for Military service for her as she comes from a military family. Her community service includes: helping the homeless, working in the office at Habitat for Humanity on site, and with the Humane Society.

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Miami Clubhouse Summit

by Cristina Quiroga



All twelve Clubhouses in Florida and the Florida Department of Children and Families were represented at the 2nd Annual Florida Clubhouse Employment Conference.

On Friday November 8th, 6 of us went to The Key Clubhouse of South Florida in Miami, for a Florida Clubhouse Coalition Conference. This is the second annual meeting of this type. This conference was established as a cost effective way to obtain training. At the gathering, this year, the focus was on Transitional Employment, the unveiling of the coalition's website, our measured impact and our advocacy in Tallahassee.

The conference began with a tour of The Key Clubhouse. Then we all went upstairs to a meeting room and began talking about job development within Transitional Employment. They focused on the point that everyone associated with the Clubhouse needs to be honed in on finding jobs for Members.

Teresa Berdoll from DCF presented at the conference. She is working with Clubhouses statewide regarding meaningful data collection. The oldest Clubhouse in the state is only 16 years old. Most of the rules and regulations were written long before Clubhouses were prevalent in Florida.



Thanksgiving at GOC

Due to our funding increase and growing staff size, GOC is now open on every holiday. For the first time ever, we served Thanksgiving Dinner for our Members, on Thanksgiving Day.



GOC at NAMI Walk

NAMI President Art Stockwell, former City Commissioner Craig Carter, County Commissioner Hutch Hutchinson and State Senator Keith Perry with GOC Director Brett Buell. Perry is our Senate sponsor to help us purchase our own building.



Alexis Henderson, Cristina Quiroga and Tara Mitchell share a moment at the NAMI walk.



From left to right: Chris Poirier, Brett Buell, Cristina Quiroga and Lloyd Boulet at the GOC table, at the NAMI Walk.



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Unit Update: December 2019

Culinary Unit

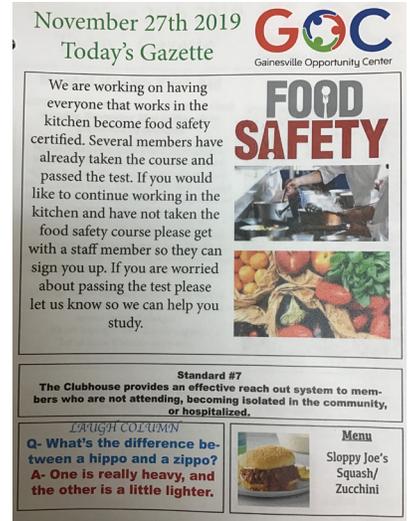
Certification for food handling and safety has been the current goal for members. Several of our members have completed their courses and have moved onto being certified. They are so pleased to have finished knowing that this is also a step in moving forward in their personal lives.



Office Unit

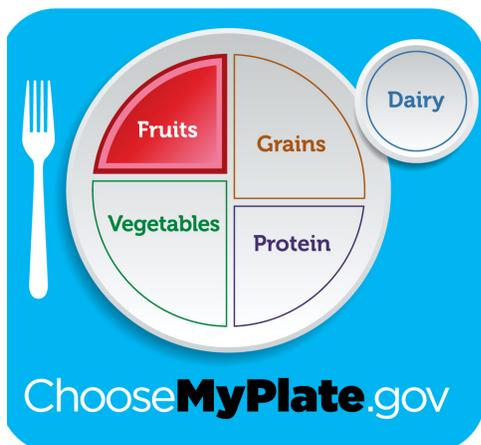
We are now using InDesign to make the Daily Newsletter.

This will help members learn how to use the program better, which graphic design artist use. We are also going to start trainings for answering the phones and giving tours.



Wellness Center

Now that the weather is cooler, for exercise, members have been going for walks around the Historic Duckpond Neighborhood area. We are also trying to make the meals we provide coincide with MyPlate, the nutrition guide published by the USDA. That way our meals will be healthful and well balanced. We are also trying to provide vegetarian options for our vegetarian members.



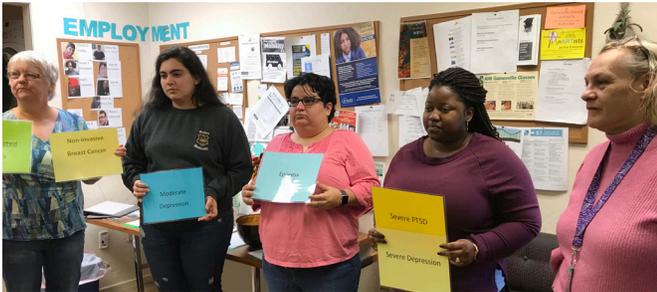
Gardening

The broccoli is starting to head. The kale that we have planted from seed will soon be moved into a bigger pot. Our cucumbers are done, and will be replaced with kale. Our spotted bee balm, which attracts bees, is ready to be transplanted into bigger pots, too. Our tomato plants will soon be re-potted, and will continue to produce more tomatoes until the first frost. Our green peppers are ready to be picked, and will also produce more peppers for us to pick as well.



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The Month in Pictures



Staff and Members went through Mental Health First Aid at the GOC this month.



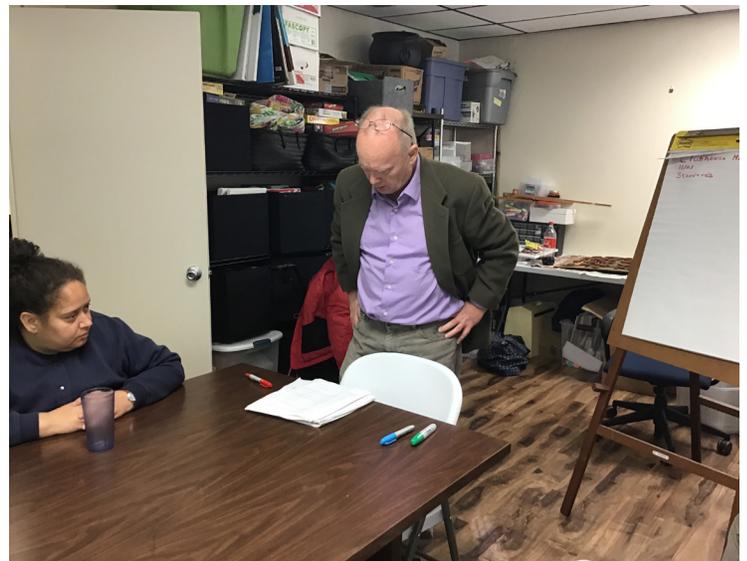
GOC staff Cristina Quiroga shares her story at the Employment Summit. Cristina was a founding Member of Key Clubhouse in Miami.



At our Halloween social, Karen, Phil, and Keyanna won prizes for their costumes.



We have a monthly Employment Dinner for those working or looking for work.



GOC Member Jim Sanders leads our monthly House meeting. Following International Clubhouse Standards, Members have a significant voice in rules and regulations of our Clubhouse.

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Monthly Calendar and Events

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 1pm - Art	5	6 1pm Media Unit	7
8	9	10	11 1pm - Art	12	13 Open House 3-6pm Judge Pena 11:30 am	14
15 Franklin S. 	16	17	18 1pm - Art	19 House Meeting 10 am	20 1pm Media Unit	21
22	23	24	25 1pm - Art	26	27 Valerie P.  1pm Media Unit	28
29	30	31				