

November 2020

# GOC GAZETTE



Gainesville Opportunity Center

(352) 224-5523

1210 NW 14th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601  
www.goclubhouse.org

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info@goclubhouse.org

## Home, Sweet Home

The Gainesville Opportunity Center has a new home. We officially moved in in late October and are unpacking and organizing. It is a landmark moment in our organization. There is more space which means we can accommodate more Members. Under COVID-19 conditions, we have more room to social distance.

Having our own building will also increase our ability to function as a program. As we get Members involved in meaningful work, there is now much more to do. The work of the Clubhouse empowers our Members. They discover they can do things they never thought they could. They build skills, confidence, and self-worth that follows them into the community.

Among our program expansion, we will soon be doing more in the media room. We will be filming and editing video presentations to educate the community about the valuable work we are doing here. We will have additional activities in our kitchen, garden and employment areas as well.

The purchase will help our long term sustainability as well. Mortgages, unlike rent, do not increase. Owning our own place means we are fixing some costs and building equity for the future.



Our new address is 1210  
NW 14th Avenue, . Please  
call us at 352-224-5523 if  
you wish to schedule a  
tour!

# GOC GAZETTE



**The GOC is proud to announce two new staff: Robert Ellis and Sandy Munson.**



## Staff Spotlight: Robert Ellis

By Mark Bielawa

Robert is our new generalist at the GOC. He has a Bachelor's Degree in digital media from Coker University in Hartsville, South Carolina. He was an event manager for a major hotel prior to the pandemic. He is also a photographer and still does freelance work as a wedding photographer. He knows a lot about food safety and can contribute to both the Culinary Unit and the media area of our Office Unit.

Robert's goal is to use his skills and expertise to help others. He will help us set up a green screen and virtual newsroom for Facebook and YouTube broadcasts. His unique skill set is something that led him to GOC and GOC to him. We have high hopes that the fit between him and us will be a fruitful and lasting one.



**On the left is Sandy with Ashley Spencer and on the right is Robert in our old kitchen unit**



## Staff Spotlight: Sandy Munson

By David Stevens

Meet Sandy, our second newest staff person working here at GOC! Sandy was working at Meridian, and took clients to GOC for tours starting in February of 2018. She herself tagged along and got the tour of GOC, and that is where she met Brett and Maggie. She liked the Clubhouse model of helping people with mental illness be engaged in the community, and starting in June of 2020 started working here at GOC. Sandy says "I love it here! I like all the members and staff and like working together as a team."

What Sandy enjoys about working at GOC so far is helping people learn how to use computers, helping them look for jobs, giving them support, and advocating for their needs. This is what Sandy says about what she can bring as a person to GOC. "I can share my work experience and knowledge to help others find a job, and use my mental health experience to have compassion and advocate for members and help them grow in their recovery."

Sandy's work background includes 20 yrs in the IT field, as a software analyst doing training and design for software applications, and 2 years working at Meridian as a counselor. Why did she change careers? Sandy says "I had my own experience in recovery, had mentored women in a rehab center, and wanted to help others in their recovery."

# GOC GAZETTE

## Fundraising Update



We are excited to be in our new home, but as you know there are costs associated with everything. We are trying to raise \$100,000 to pay for our down payment and moving costs. We are now over \$17,000. If you wish to donate please send check to:

PO Box 14684

Gainesville, FL 32604

[GOCLUBHOUSE.ORG/DONATE](http://GOCLUBHOUSE.ORG/DONATE)



# GOC GAZETTE

## Unit Update:

### Media

We will be building a media room which will include lighting and a green screen for videos.



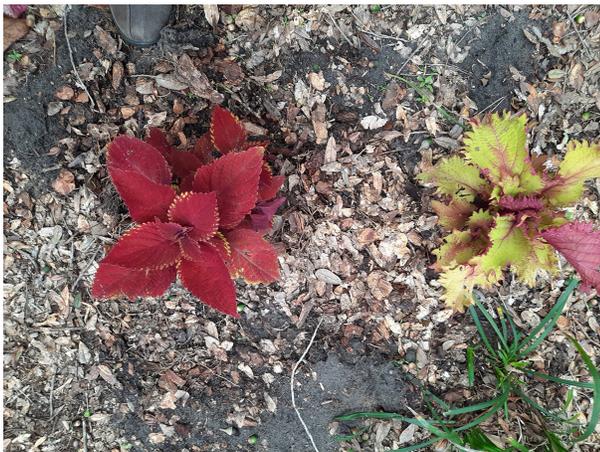
### Culinary

With a larger dining room, we can partition Members off and still eat together. Being part of something larger than oneself is integral to being at a Clubhouse.



### Garden

Owning our own yard allows us new opportunities. We are planting a butterfly garden full of colorful plants and flowers. Along with beautifying our facility, we hope to attract gorgeous butterflies!



### Office

As part of the move, we are updating all our files, including archiving old files, and organizing for greater efficiency. We have new computers for data entry with extra large screens which will make it easier for people with sight impairment.



# GOC GAZETTE

## The Month in Pictures

### Moving Together



**Jerry is carrying the trellis for our garden.**



**GOC Member Joel is helping our professional movers with their work.**

**Kyana and Susan are always willing to lend a hand.**



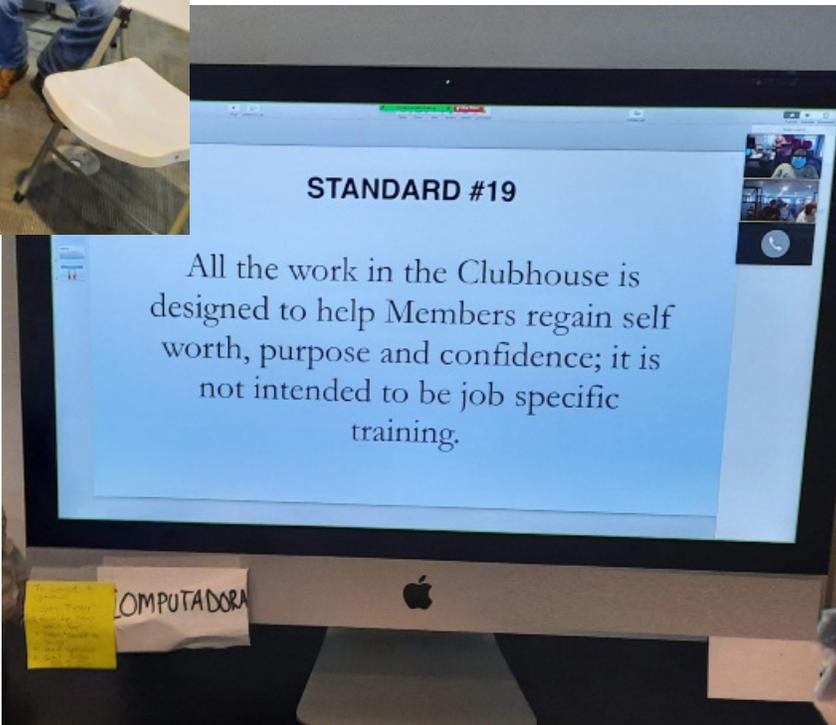
# GOC GAZETTE

## Meeting Together



Every day we discuss a "Standard" of the Clubhouse Model. On this day it was Standard 19.

Members and Staff have morning and afternoon meetings to discuss the work of the Club. To spread out, we have a group in the dining area and one in the office area. Other Members join from home via Zoom.



By participating in the work of the Club, Members gain confidence and a feeling of self-worth. They prove to themselves and to others that they CAN do the job at hand.

# GOC GAZETTE

## Working Together



Larry is sanitizing our tables using restaurant grade sanitizer. Brett and John are working together on the newsletter. Joevan and Joel are preparing lunch. Jimbo is vacuuming. We didn't have carpet at our old location.



# GOC GAZETTE

## Eating Together



In our new dining room we can distance while still being together. Isolation is a major obstacle for people living with chronic mental illness.



Andy is a founding Member of the GOC from 2007. We were “A Clubhouse Without Walls” and we didn’t even have an address. We now OWN our very own building and have more services for everyone.

Joanna and Kyana are enjoying each other’s company while on their lunch break.



# GOC GAZETTE

## Monthly Calendar and Events

### November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 Alexis Henderson 	7 	
8	9	10	11	12 Andy Bernard 	14	
15	16	17	18 Ribbon Cutting & GOC Tours	19	21	<p>Newsletter Credits:</p> <p>Brett Buell Producer / Writer/ Layout</p> <p>Rose Ann Walker: Writer</p> <p>Susan Thomas Layout</p> <p>David Stevens Feature writer</p> <p>Mark Bielawa Writer / Layout</p> <p>Tasha Cooney Layout Consultant</p> <p>Valerie Sanders Consultant</p> <p>John Smith Layout</p>
22	23	24	25	26 THANKS- GIVING AT GOC 10A -2P (Must sign up. Space is limited)	28	
29	30					