

January 2021

# GOC GAZETTE



Gainesville Opportunity Center

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## Taking Notice: Local Leaders Look to Help

**Transportation is one of the greatest needs of the GOC going into 2021.**

Did you know that attending the GOC is free to Members?

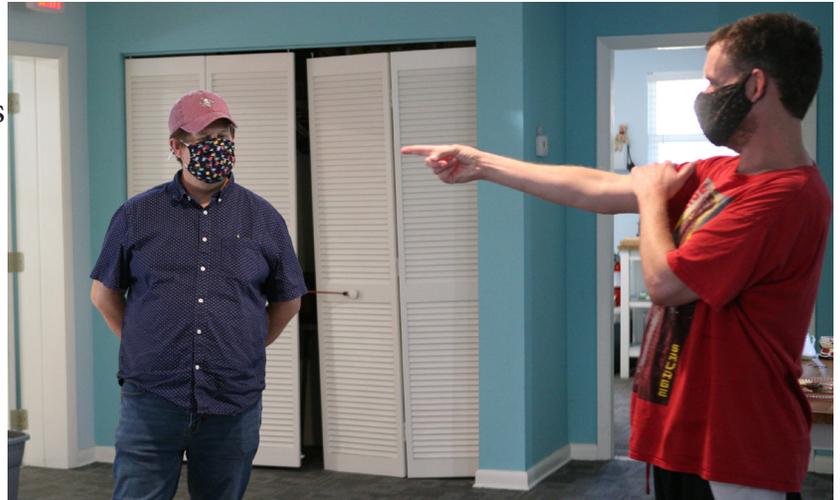
Did you know that most of our Members live at poverty level?

Did you know that many Members who live 5 miles away or more have to take 3 buses to get here? Did you know that people in the outlying parts of Alachua County don't have public transportation options to come?

That means waiting 15-20 minutes at each site for the bus to arrive. For someone living 5-10 miles from the GOC, a trip here can take one and a half to two hours each way.

Members who live in the outlying parts of Alachua County and in other counties often have no practical way to get here to receive our services.

That kind of time is one of the obstacles Members face towards using our services. It is also an obstacle for getting employment. For our next wave of growth, the GOC wants small transport vans to help Members get to key points in town and help Members working Transitional Employments. The vans can also be used for social events on evenings and weekends that will help our Members rejoin the Gainesville Community.



Mayor Lauren Poe visited the GOC. He recognizes the challenges our Members have with transportation and is looking to find solutions.



Newly elected State Rep. Yvonne Hayes Hinson is looking to Tallahassee to help the GOC with our needs. GOC Member Susan Thomas is leading her on a tour.

**Donate**

# GOC GAZETTE

## GOC NEW Video Asks for Van

By Reid Schreiber

At the GOC, Members can do anything.

Not only do Members participate in all jobs at the GOC, but they are not limited, either, while striving toward goals of education, employment, and overall recovery. In order to emphasize the value of its Members, GOC's media unit is creating new videos. Members like myself and Mark Bielawa have played a big role in our Media presentations. In the media unit, we are learning to write film scripts, set up video equipment, shoot videos, and then to edit them with the Adobe Premiere software.

In early 2020, I began learning the process for film production and editing. Through the completion of video projects for GOC, I hope to develop the skills required for editing videos professionally as employment. Personally, I'd love to turn skills learned at the GOC into a job. Someday, I'd like to work for myself.

This month, we created a video about why we need a van. Most GOC Members do not have their own vehicles, so up to 3 buses are needed in order to get to the GOC. For some Members, there are not bus services at all from their homes. If GOC can acquire vans, staff could provide rides to Members without the wear-and-tear on personal vehicles.

The GOC is helping me and other Members achieve our hopes and dreams. We need your help so we can help even more people in our community!

Link to GOC video:

<https://bit.ly/2X9V5k6>



**Reid is very active at the GOC. He is also the Secretary of our Board of Directors. Mark Bielawa comes to the GOC two days a week where he works primarily in the Media Unit.**

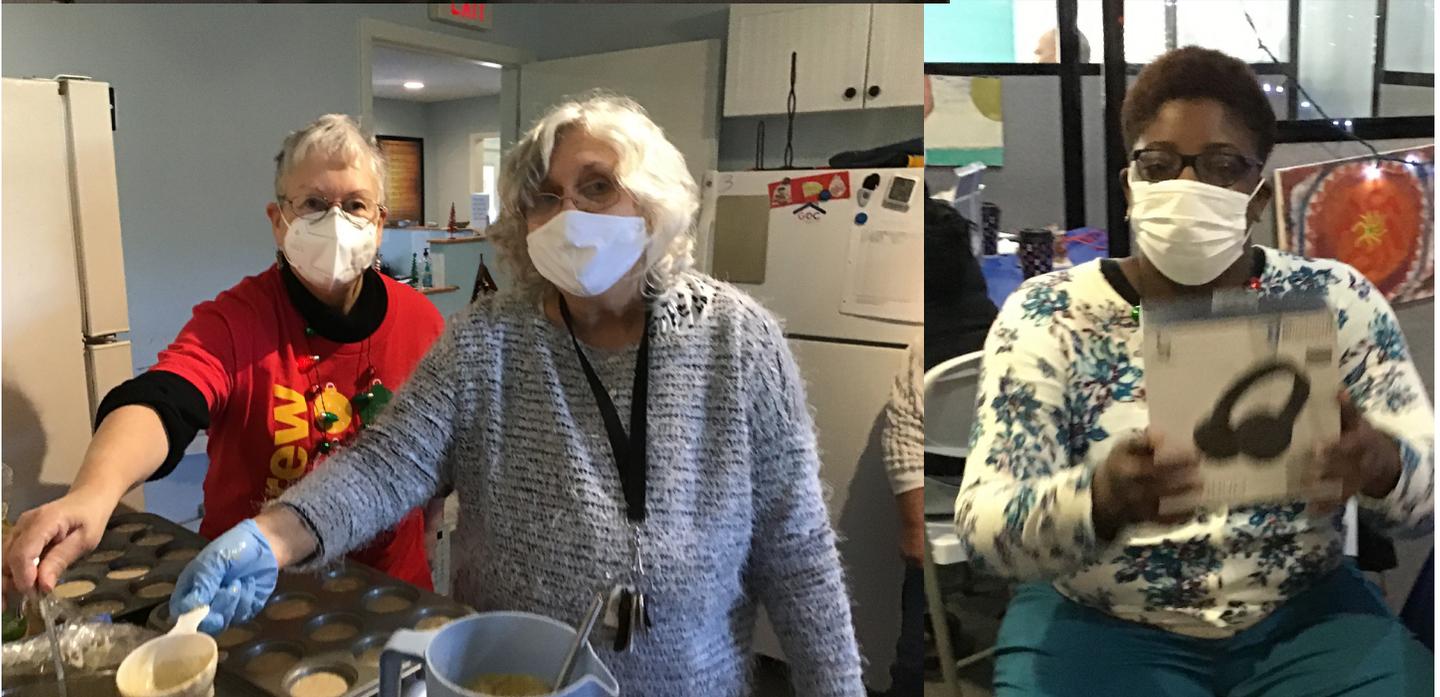
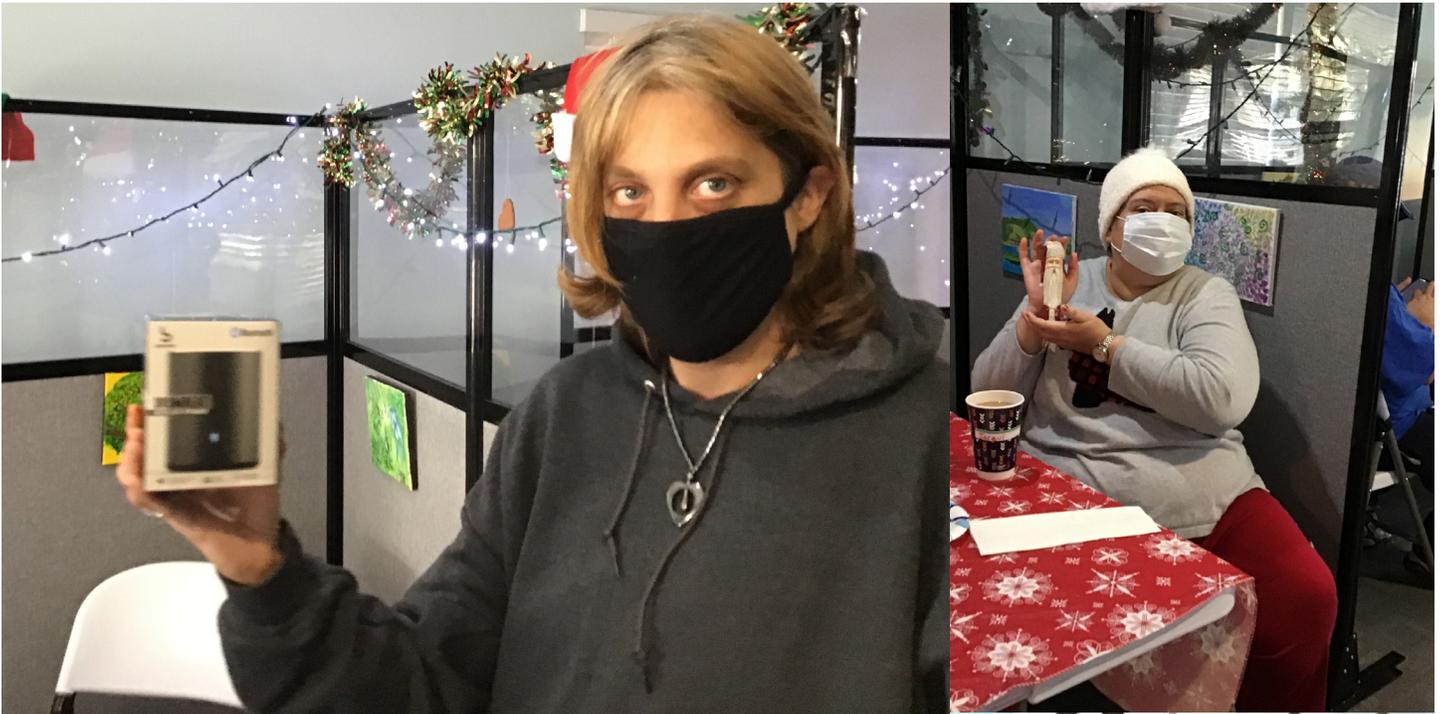


# GOC GAZETTE

## GOC Celebrates Christmas on Christmas

We Govern ourselves according to **International Clubhouse Standards**. That means the Clubhouse is open every holiday. Why? Because our Members need to connect with other people. So on Christmas Morning, with no buses running in Gainesville, staff picked Members up and brought them to GOC. At GOC we cooked a Christmas meal, drank fancy mocha coffee and opened presents. Best of all, we were together.

**Standard #32 : Holidays are celebrated on actual the day they are observed.**



# GOC GAZETTE

Unit Update:

## Employment

We will be starting a new TE with Alachua County this month. It will be a custodial position at the administrative building. We will be starting a temporary supported employment position with Liberty Tax Service on Tower Road. Please see Brett, Maggie, or Sandy if interested in either employment opportunities.



## Culinary

Breakfast is back! Oatmeal, bagels, toast, granola are on the menu. Breakfast costs will range from 15-cents to a dollar. Members will be coming in at 8:30 to get the breakfast ready. The breakfasts will not only fill a food need, but provide additional jobs.



## Garden

We are planning and installing a new garden this month complete with raised flower beds. The Rotary Club of Greater Gainesville will build our garden.



## Office

Program meetings/House Meetings. Clubhouse Standards empower Members to participate in all aspects of the Clubhouse, including its governance. At our weekly program meetings, Members and staff meet together to talk about rules and regulations, and implementing new programs.



# GOC GAZETTE

## Month in Pictures



Jerry and Brett are syphoning water out of the fish tank.

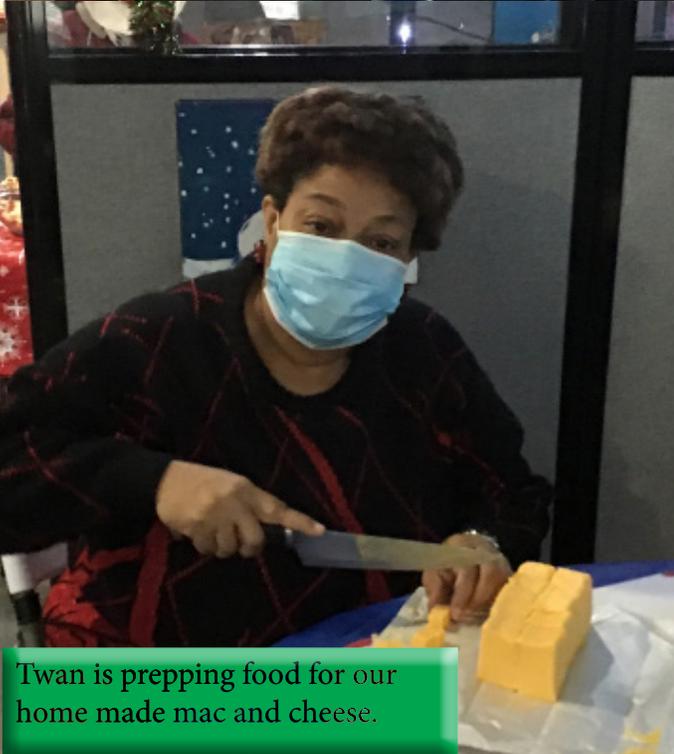


Leda Perez, the Director of Ora's Clubhouse in Ocala paid us a visit. Clubhouses operate by the same standards, but are mostly independent. They fit themselves well into each community's individual needs.



Daoud and Cameron enjoy a moment of relaxation in the GOC dining hall.

CJ is one of our newest Member. Even under his mask you can tell he is smiling. Welcome to the GOC, CJ!



Twan is prepping food for our home made mac and cheese.



# GOC GAZETTE



## Spotlight: Joel's Journal by Joel Ferguson

**Joel has had another busy month at the GOC. He describes what he has worked on in the latest installment of his journal.**

When I'm not in the kitchen, I help with the Gainesville Clubhouse fish tank. We clean, organize, and replace the filters. We change out the water and treat the system with our chemicals, so that the water is just right for the fish.

In the GOC's garden, we planted different types of flowers, vegetables, and fruit. Vegetables grown include different types of broccoli and squash. We planted different kinds of beautiful flowers that your heart may desire.

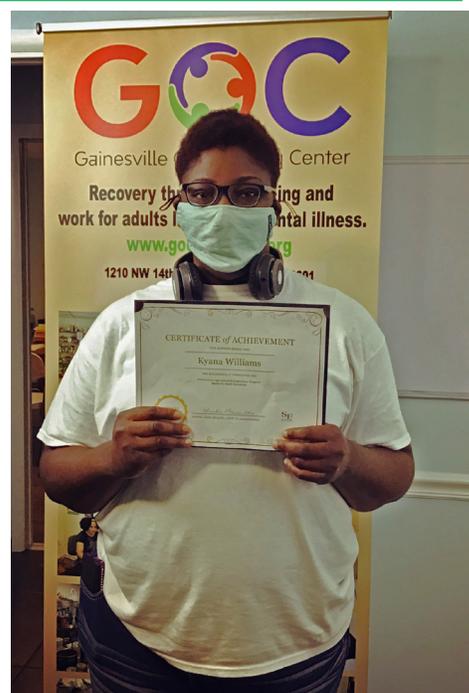
When going to the Clubhouse, we meet other Members. Members come here to regain meaning in their lives, get help finding a job, and meet other individuals with similar life experiences. GOC even can help you find permanent housing. We understand where you're coming from. Social activities also take place, such as going fishing, and we sometimes go see movies.



## Spotlight: Kyana Achieves by David Stevens

Meet Kyana, a recent graduate of the horticultural/agricultural program at Santa Fe College! In the classes, Kyana sold plants and learned how to grow them. GOC staff took Kyana to Santa Fe College after Kyana took the TABE, which is a placement test. Kyana enrolled in the program, and eventually she graduated from it. GOC assisted kyana by giving her rides to GrubHub where she had class in a physical building on Tuesdays, Thursdays and on Wednesdays. GOC gave Kyana access to GOCs computers and wifi in a private room for the online portion of her class through Zoom. GOC also gave Kyana technical support and helped communicate Kyana;s special needs to the teachers of the class.

Kyana says her life has been better since coming to the GOC. "I come to the GOC to see my friends, to hang out" Kyana answered when asked why she comes to the GOC. When asked what her favorite part of the program was how we got to grow vegetables." and Kyana would recommend the program to other people.



# GOC GAZETTE

## Monthly Calendar and Events

January 1 New Year's Day Open 12-4pm

January 16 Open Saturday 9-1pm for art project

January 18 MLK Day Open Limited Hours

January 23 Garden Landscaping Project 9a-1pm

### Newsletter Credits:

Brett Buell  
Producer / Writer/  
Layout

Joel Ferguson  
Writer

Roseann Walker  
Editor/ Layout

Reid Schreiber  
Writer/Editor

Mark Bielawa  
Layout

Valerie Sanders  
Editor/Layout

## Weekly Meetings

Monday 2:00 p.m.- Programming

Wednesday 2:00 p.m.- Culinary, Wellness, Garden

Thursday 2:00 p.m- Website

Thursday 3:00 p.m.- Newsletter

Friday 3:00 p.m.- Adobe/Media

## Daily Events and Meetings

8:30am Culinary Unit Arrives to start Breakfast

9:00am Clubhouse Opens, Breakfast is served.

10:00 am General Membership Meetings

10:30 am Work Day commences in Office, Culinary, Media, and Garden

12:45 pm Wellness Walk

1:30 pm Office Unit Meeting

5:00 pm Clubhouse Closes

## Birthdays

January 3 Sean Siegel

January 7 Susan Thomas

January 17 Pat Bateman

January 24 Maryann Zaatari

January 29 Celebration of January Member Birthdays, 1pm.



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Happy Holidays from GOC!



We had lots of people make sure we had a wonderful holiday season. Maggie and Jerry put the lights on the tree. Sandy and Larry made cookies from scratch. Maryann and Jacqui helped with the ornaments.



**Tw**as the day before Xmas at the GOC, and our presents are ready now under the tree.  
**Holiday gifts all wrapped with care, with hopes that on Christmas, our Members can share.**  
**We're open on holidays as you can see, because all human beings needs some place to be.**