

February 2022

GOC GAZETTE



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Vol. 4. Issue 3

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Helping Rotary Help us

Serving to To Change Lives

For the past three Saturdays of February, GOC Staff, Board, and Members joined Rotarians from all over Gainesville preparing for the Wild Game Feast. What's at stake? A restaurant-style kitchen for the GOC. It will be named on behalf of the Rotary Club of Gainesville Foundation.

The Gainesville Opportunity Center is a non-profit that helps adults living with mental illness find meaningful work, and lead meaningful lives.

Work leads to accomplishments. Accomplishments lead to self-confidence and self worth. Supporting our Members so they can contribute builds them up to take significant steps forward in their lives. Many of our Members haven't had a paying job in five years... ten years... twenty years... or ever.

A restaurant style kitchen will allow us to prepare more meals for more Members, most of whom are living below the poverty level. It will also acclimate them into working in a commercial style kitchen.

It feels good to help. Rotarians help people throughout the year. GOC Members are helping Rotarians and helping themselves at the same time. Thank you, Rotary for the support. We are truly Serving To Change Lives.



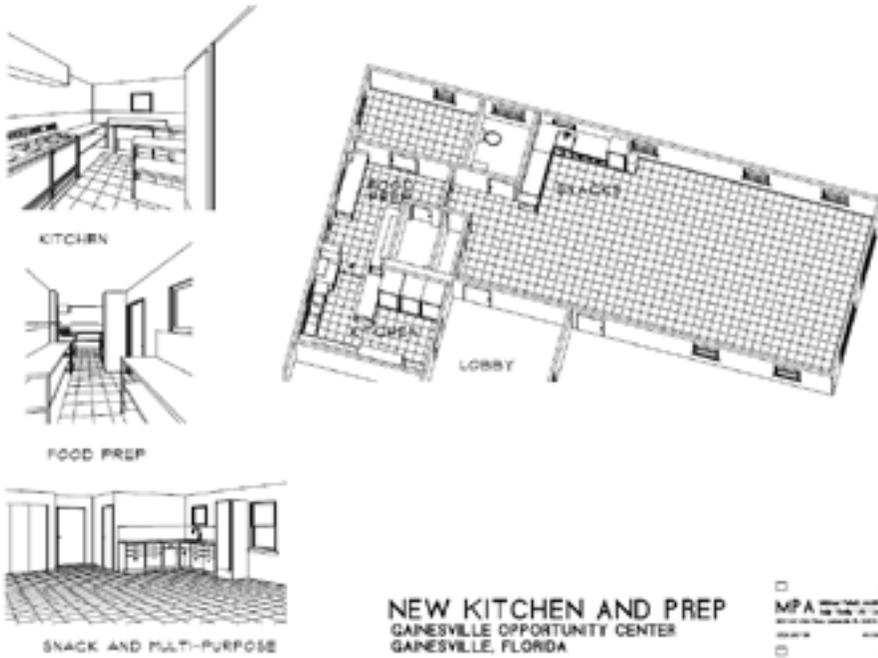
GOC Members Lloyd and Reid are with Feastmaster Jay Nordqvist.



<https://www.Facebook.com/Gainesville.Opportunity.Center>

GOC GAZETTE

Rotary Kitchen at GOC:



Beyond the official project, Rotarians are being generous with their time, energy and resources to design and build our restaurant style kitchen.

Architect Michael Pellett has measured and drawn up plans for our additions.

Construction Managers and General Contractors Dalton Baker and Mike Conroy will be advising us on the project. "We are going to stretch every dollar so the money you get goes a very long way," Mike Conroy said.



Rotarians Michael Pellett, Dalton Baker, and Mike Conroy are inside the GOC kitchen with GOC Board President Mike Conlon. This home-style kitchen will be upgraded with commercial-grade equipment.

GOC GAZETTE

Updates:

Bike Day



Gainesville Opportunity Center

The Gainesville Community will come together for a 4-mile bike ride from the Cade Museum to Boulware Springs Park. Registration is \$25 and includes a t-shirt. Family registration is \$35 and includes two t-shirts. We also have Bronze, Silver, and Gold Sponsorships available for \$100, \$250 and \$500.

<https://tinyurl.com/2v2tcnpg>

New Employees

The GOC proudly welcomes two new employees, Mia Chisolm (left photo) and Kaitlyn Roberts (right photo.) Mia previously worked in the State Corrections system, where she encountered many incarcerated adults living with mental illness. Kaitlyn will graduate UF this summer with a degree in psychology.



GOC Car Wash

We will have a Car Wash April 2 at the GOC from 10am-2pm. Come by and get a tour of our facility while you have your car washed.

We are located at 1210 NW 14th Avenue.

The event will be an in-person kick off The Amazing Give, a virtual giving day that will occur on April 21.



Community

Don't forget... the GOC is the Round Up For Charity partner with Satch Squared. Order a pizza, round up for charity, and the GOC gets the proceeds. Multiply this by thousands of transactions and the GOC could get a nice donation at the end of March.

Satch Squared is located at 405 SW 4th Ave and their website is <https://satch2.com/>.



GOC GAZETTE

GOC Proudly Supported by:



LUTHERAN
SERVICES
FLORIDA

The GOC will be the primary recipient of Rotary Wild Game feast Funds this year. We plan to use the money to upgrade our kitchen to commercial quality.



<https://www.rotarygainesville.org/wild-game-feast/>



Want to help? Below are various ways that you can help us help others.



United Way
of North Central Florida

<--- Click to go to the United Way Campaign Website

If you work for a business that's part of the United Way, you can donate pre-tax through your employer. The United Way has a sign up period near the end of the calendar year. Think GOC!!!!



When you shop on Amazon, think of GOC!

Any and all help is appreciated. Simply search for us on Amazon or click the images to the left and to the right.

(Wishlist-> <https://tinyurl.com/yum48cu3>)



Please use our email info@goclubhouse.org as the recipient.

Click here to donate with a bank card through the Philanthropy Hub

GOC GAZETTE

Month in Pictures



John is using our photography equipment to take pictures. They will be used in our many media formats.



Members went fishing one Social Saturday.



Volunteer, Rose McCaleb, is tutoring GOC Member Carrie.



GOC Members help each other with a smile.



Along with working in our garden, Maryann is taking gardening classes at Santa Fe College.

GOC GAZETTE

Member Spotlight: Michael Shea

by David Stevens

Meet Michael! There are many reasons why Michael started coming to the GOC. Michael wanted to go to a place that could give him resources, a place where he could meet new people, a place where he could work in a group environment, a place that could help him function better on a daily basis, and a place that could help him get a job, and prepare him for college learning.

Michael started coming to the GOC in late November of 2021. He was a regular Member around 2008, and now, he's back again!

The GOC has helped Michael by giving him a place to go to on a regular basis. Michael says that GOC understands "where he is" in recovery and helps him to learn how to work in an office environment with other people. The GOC is a place where Michael has met good friends, and Michael says that GOC is a place where care about him. He says that is one of the things that makes GOC special.

Michael has not had a job in many years, but the next important step will be employment. Among other goals, he would like to go back to school to either study accounting, IT and programming, music production and engineering, or programming computer games, and/or other software, and eventually find a career in it's respective field!

Michael says he keeps coming back to the GOC because, "It will give me an advantage when I start looking for a job." At the GOC, you will usually find him in the Media Room, learning Adobe software, working on the newsletter, working on the GOC website, doing data entry, and taking house pictures. Michael has recently purchased Adobe InDesign for himself at home and is working with Development Director Brett Buell to better his skills. Brett gives Michael InDesign files for him to work on at home, and gives Michael tips on how use the files (how to manipulate pictures, etc.). "I love working on the computer and using all of this great software."

Michael has overcome so much and is making better choices for himself. He is surrounding himself with others who are working to move forward in their lives. He has overcome obstacles by learning how his mind and body work, taking direction from his doctor, reaping the benefits of a good support team, and having the GOC. We are proud of Michael and look forward to seeing him grow in our program.

Goooooo Michael!



GOC GAZETTE

Monthly Calendar and Events

March 5- Social Saturday Games and Art
 March 5 - Wellness Group 2-3pm
 March 5 - Rotary Hatchet Creek Cleanup 8a-Noon
 March 19 - Social Saturday
 March 19 - Wellness Group 2-3pm
 March 30 - Employment Dinner
 April 2 - GOC Car Wash

Newsletter Credits:

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 Layout/Photos

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 Photographer

David Stevens
 Writer

Michael Shea
 Layout

John Smith
 Photographer

Maryann Zaatari
 Photographer

David Turull
 Layout/Consultant

Weekly Meetings

Monday 2:00 p.m.- Programming
 Tuesday 2:00 p.m.- Culinary, Wellness, Garden
 Wednesday 2:00 p.m.- Website
 Wednesday 3:00 p.m.- Newsletter
 Thursday 2:00 p.m- Adobe/Media

Daily Events and Meetings

8:30am Clubhouse Opens
 9:00am Breakfast starts
 9:30 am General Membership Meeting
 10:00 am Work Day commences in Office,
 Culinary, Media and Garden
 12:00 pm Lunch
 12:30 pm Wellness Walk
 1:00 pm
 1:30 pm Office Unit Meeting
 2:00pm Work Day Continues
 4:30 pm Clubhouse Closes

Birthdays

March 3 - Jacqui Dunbar
 March 12 - Amanda Castle
 March 23 - Jimbo McCook
 March 29 - Dominic Orsini
 March 30 - Terrica Nelson-Gent



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GOC and Rotary



Working Together.



Feastmaster Jay Norqvist coordinates our efforts.



Rotarian Ed Book shows GOC's Reid Schreiber how to mark the roads.



Lloyd Boulet was one of many who helped lay sod.



GOC Board Members Mike Conlon and Gail Childs are with Rotarian David Chadwick.



GOC Board Member Shoab Rana sharpens knives with Kirk Smith.