

All About Ambassadors

This issue is all about our Ambassador program...

Contact Brett if you wish to be involved.



Brett Buell as Skipper and Francis Handley as Gilligan! We brought laughs and emotions to our crowd.

It was fun. If you weren't here, you missed out. Our first ever Ambassador Dinner was amazing.

On Tuesday January 28th Members and staff came together to create, prepare, and serve a gourmet dinner. We created fun and heartfelt videos. We performed a Gilligan's Island-style sketch showing how we come from all walks of life and work together at the GOC. We even sang. This was our first Ambassador Dinner. Ambassadors of the GOC are our friends, many of whom have donated money or contributed to the GOC in other ways. We are asking Ambassadors to bring their friends, colleagues, or community contacts

whom they think might want to learn about us and possibly support us. It could be the owner of your favorite restaurant or the manager of a boutique where you shop.

If we get 50 Ambassadors and they can help us bring in \$1,000 each, that could pay for a new minivan for our program. If that \$1,000 turns into \$2,000 or \$3,000 it could mean we are helping a lot more people.

We hope you might consider being an Ambassador. Your small contribution could mean a lot. **And did we mention it is fun?**

All About Ambassadors



Members Joel A., Reid S., Joanna B. worked along staff members Cristina Q. and Margie F. to put on an amazing event!



Attorney Rebecca Wood was here thanks to Ambassadors like Kathleen Ryan and Gail Childs.



Preparing for First Ambassador Dinner



Our Members helped in all aspects of the event, including budgeting and finding the costumes. The Members got to portray several of the characters for the video and on the night of the event.

We prepared for our first-ever Ambassador Dinner for over three months, starting the planning process shortly after the Fall Festival. The entire house was involved. We had a Gilligan's Island theme, and we transformed our house into GOC Island. Members and staff worked together in jobs both creative and fun. There was script writing, acting, singing, putting together slideshows, menu planning, and decorating. Francis Handley, playing Gilligan, came up with gags and jokes to use in the skit. Jacob Warshovsky and Karen Lovely helped Paul LeBlanc produce and edit several videos: a humorous skit as characters from Gilligan's Island, the group singing along to the Gilligan's theme, with lyrics custom written for the GOC, and Susan Thomas shared her recovery story as a GOC Member. All in all, we put the fun in fundraising.



Francis as Gilligan and Brett as Skipper wrote and practiced our scripts. Cari, who is a big fan of Gilligan's Island, could not stop laughing.

Preparing for First Ambassador Dinner



Members were involved in every aspect of putting our dinner together. They helped pick decorations that were priced within our budget and assisted in decorating the GOC for an island theme.



Gregory Stewart Visited from UF Health

UF Health Psychiatric Hospital Administrator Greg Stewart came to the GOC. We talked about getting directly involved with their caseworkers in order to make sure people know the GOC is here. We are strong partners now, and we hope to strengthen the way we work together to help those with mental illness lead more fulfilling lives. After individuals are discharged from a psychiatric hospital, they will need a place like the GOC to restore a sense of purpose in their lives.



Visit from LSF



It was great to see our friends from Lutheran Services Florida, who came for a visit. LSF is one of our funding sources and they provide tremendous help to GOC and other mental health services in our community. Nancy Baez and Lesley Hersey play a vital role in our community as they travel and evaluate community needs. This process helps make sure tax-payer dollars are distributed efficiently.

Members in Action



We can't put into words how hard our Members and staff worked to make sure we made a gourmet dinner. Everything was fresh. We had all of the right ingredients! Members and staff practiced over the course of a month for the event, learning techniques and picking ingredients. We prepared fondant potatoes, grilled chicken with a pineapple-ginger glaze and mango chutney, and pan-seared asparagus with lemon and soy.



Our Standards in Motion

Standard #16:

The work done in the Clubhouse is exclusively the work generated by the Clubhouse in the operation and enhancement of the Clubhouse community. No work for outside individuals or agencies, whether for pay or not, is acceptable work in the Clubhouse. Members are not paid for any Clubhouse work, nor are there any artificial reward systems.

You might be surprised at what our Members do at the GOC. We are here to help adults whose lives have been significantly interrupted by mental illness, so you might think that our Members would be limited in what they can do. But it really is *quite the opposite*. Members participate in anything and everything that runs our organization. This includes playing a major role in our donor fundraiser activities.

For the first time, the GOC came together to have its first true fundraiser event, and of course, Members helped lead the way. In the Media Unit, Members helped to write the script for the skit, acted in the skit, and helped with post-production and audio mixing. Some of the best moments of our skit were ideas that Members had while filming. Sometimes going off script is a good thing!

In Culinary, Members practiced for a month before the event to create a fine dining experience for our guests. They learned to make fondant potatoes, a fine dining staple. Potatoes were cut into a puck shape, pan-basted with tallow, oil, and herbs, and then roasted in the oven before being plated elegantly on a bed of mashed potatoes with a chive garnish.



Member Joel Andreasen helps serve our guests at the first Ambassador Dinner.

Clubhouse Standard #16 talks about work that is for “the operation and enhancement of the Clubhouse community”, and our Ambassador Dinner is the perfect example of important, engaging, dynamic work that helps our Members gain the confidence and stamina that they need to return to the community. Work like this isn’t designed to just keep our Members busy, it’s work that changes lives and sustains our Clubhouse for years to come.

Busy April - Upcoming Events at GOC

Gainesville Opportunity Center

BIKE DAY



Our next event is GOC Bike Day. It will be held **April 5th at 8am at First Magnitude Brewing Company.**

We will have routes for all levels of riders:

Option 1) Circle Depot Park (Beginner)

Option 2) First Magnitude to La Chua Trail (Intermediate)

Option 3) First Magnitude to Hawthorne (34 miles)

Option 4) Advanced road route for experienced riders (40+ miles)

One of the big changes for this year is the addition of a longer route and a partnering sponsor. The Gainesville Cycling Club will plan an advanced route for riders who wish to ride 40+ miles. When riders return, the local party band Chasing Rabbits will be playing classic pop, rock, blues and country music from 10 am-1 pm. There will be food trucks on site as well.

Ambassador Event

Our next fundraiser, which connects to the Amazing Give, will be held here at the GOC on April 25. Starting at 5 pm! We will have hor d'oeuvres and entertainment, with the program starting at 6 pm. We welcome all interested to contact Brett, whether you're an ambassador, want to find out more about becoming one, or want to attend the event and donate!



**Chasing Rabbits band
and food trucks
10a-1pm**