

Gainesville Opportunity Center

# BIKE DAY

## APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>

Register Here: <https://bit.ly/GOCBikeDay>

*GOC will be very busy in April! Come join us at two very fun upcoming events.*

The first event is GOC Bike Day on **April 5th. Registration starts at 8am at First Magnitude Brewing Company and the ride starts at 9am.**

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 (42 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.

## APRIL 24<sup>th</sup>

The second event is Gainesville’s online giving day, **The Amazing Give**, on April 24th!

This is your chance to donate from your phone or the comfort of your own home. On April 25th, we will be having a celebration at the GOC. Please contact [Brett@goclubhouse.org](mailto:Brett@goclubhouse.org) about of these events.

THE  
**AMAZING  
GIVE**  
April 24, 2025  
8 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
[www.TheAmazingGive.org](http://www.TheAmazingGive.org)



Jacob presented at our Employment Dinner for February. He shared a unique experience when he worked for the University of Florida Institute of Advanced Learning Technologies with Dr. Nigel Newbutt. Jacob worked a 3D camera and shot all of the video for an interactive lifelike project in the VERSE program.

As part of the Clubhouse Model, we have a monthly event outside of normal Clubhouse hours in order to celebrate employment accomplishments of our Members, as well as provide support to Members who are trying to stay in or re-enter the workforce.

Through our program, our Members are using technology, completing tasks and even developing public speaking skills. Our program is not designed to be job specific training but rather our goal is to build confidence and allow our Members to explore new skills.



# GOC Gives Back - Special Olympics

The GOC is dedicated to reunifying its Members with the community and preparing them for the workforce. One way we do this is our partnership with Special Olympics, where we participate in several sports during the year. Some of our Members have intellectual disabilities (ID), some do not. Those without ID volunteer to help make sure that athletes with ID have a space to shine.

Special Olympics events range from 100-500 participants at the regional and area levels, to over 5,000 at the state level. Participating in events of this size helps our Members gain the confidence and stamina necessary to get back into the workforce.

With the stamina she gained through Special Olympics, Lasheka has been able to successfully participate in our Transitional Employment program and has been employed since August.



In the photo above, GOC Members Lasheka R. and Akeem J. celebrate their medals with their competitor, Myles S. of Marion County at the Region 2 Championships. Special Olympics is very competitive, but also a unique place where competitors cheer each other on. Unified partners such as Scott H. and Karina B. (shown from the left below) volunteer their time to compete alongside athletes with ID.

As you can see, everyone has a great time!



# Our Standards in Motion

## Standard #20

***“Members have the opportunity to participate in all the work of the Clubhouse...”***

There are no jobs at Clubhouses that are staff-only, or Member-only. At the GOC, we have a team atmosphere, where both Members and staff work on jobs. These include administration, recruitment of new Members, orientation, reach out to Members we haven't seen in a while, hiring of staff, or advocacy. The work is both important and fun. Upcoming events in April include our next Ambassador Dinner and Bike Day. If you attended our previous ones, you know how much fun we have as we work together on our events!



*An essential part of work at the Clubhouse is advocacy. At Meridian Healthcare's "Miles for Meridian" event, GOC Member Rose Ann Walker shared about the GOC. Here, she greeted Gainesville Chamber President Eric Godet, a big fan of the GOC.*



*As part of our community advocacy, GOC Member Alina Harshbarger hung flyers at Shoppes at Thornebrook. Donna Hastings at Bead All About It donated a gift certificate for our upcoming Bike Day.*