

# Clubhouse Accreditation

by Reid Schreiber

Clubhouse International representatives visited the GOC for our reaccreditation. What does Clubhouse accreditation mean? Clubhouse International has 37 standards which all Clubhouses strive to meet, in order to provide rehabilitation for individuals living with chronic mental illness. Accreditation shows that we are running this model as intended.

Leasa Holton came from Michigan, and Paige Huff came from Utah to see us. The accreditation team is made up of a member and a staff from different Clubhouses. They worked side-by-side with us to evaluate us, which is the approach we take to work at Clubhouses. They viewed the GOC from perspective of a new Member. Following their observations, they sat down with Members, staff, and board members to share their findings. They evaluated us on how well our work-ordered day aligned with Clubhouse Standards and provided suggestions and recommendations.

Our visitors could see we are transforming the lives of our Members, and our successes were acknowledged. Leasa and Paige will submit their report to Clubhouse International. We should receive the decision in a few months.



# Standards in Motion

## Standard #30 The Clubhouse conducts an objective evaluation of its effectiveness, including Clubhouse International Accreditation.

At the GOC, our program isn't random. We didn't make it up. We follow standards set forth by a program that has been praised by the World Health Organizations and national entities that deal with best practices in psychiatrics. Therefore, we work towards maintaining our full accreditation under Clubhouse International - ICCD. We had visitors, one staff and one member from Clubhouses across the country come in to evaluate our program. Thank you to Paige Huff from Alliance House and Leasa Holton from Sheldon Clubhouse for their hard work and expertise to help keep us on the right track.

Even during our accreditation a Member and staff share responsibility for findings. Paige and Leasa did not know each other before this process. Leasa is a Member from a Clubhouse in Michigan and Paige is from a Clubhouse in Utah. Paige mentioned that while they did not know each other before this process, by working together on this very important issue (GOC Accreditation) for two days and two nights, she feels like she really knows Leasa well. She may not know Leasa's history or where she graduated high school, but she knows Leasa deeply. Through working together, Paige knows Leasa's core values. There is a bond that people form when they work together. Paige and Leasa clearly emulated that to the GOC.



*Joanna, Paige Huff and Cristina working at the reception desk.*

When we talk about things like meaningful relationships, some people may find that vague. To people who are part of the Clubhouse model, meaningful relationships come from working together on a common goal.

Leasa and Paige did this. Their evaluation ensures that we are following the standards and doing the same here. Thank you Leasa and Paige for your thorough and thoughtful evaluation of the GOC.



*Paige Huff, Gina Peebles, Member Karina, and Leasa Holton*

# \$30,000 Goal for GOC

**Financially things are changing.**

The Amazing Give is coming up on April 24. We will have a Celebration and Ambassador Event here at the GOC April 25. The GOC needs to raise \$30,000. Our program is largely funded with government contracts to work with people who have experienced severe and persistent mental illness.

While there is significant evidence of our program's effectiveness, under our current climate, we are unsure whether our funding will continue at the same rate.

The GOC also has additional significant needs. We need to update our bathrooms to accommodate accessibility. Our HVAC system is beyond its lifespan and needs to be replaced. Inflation has driven costs up. Look at the price of food. We have to pay our employees to work with our Members. Insurance has skyrocketed.

The GOC needs your donations.

**[Donate Here](#)**





# Social Saturday



*It was a beautiful day at the Ocala Equestrian Center.*



*Members Alina and Grenesia along with Cristina Quiroga and Margie Foster enjoyed the day out.*



*The sun was bright and it was hot! We found out firsthand why people wear hats to these events. (With Mercy, Cristina, and Manny Quiroga.)*



*We discovered many Members had never been to an esquestrian event.*



# Members Help Rotary



Many of you know the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville remodeled the GOC, resulting in a restaurant-style kitchen and dining room.

What you may not know is that GOC Members went out that year and helped Rotary set up the event site for the Wild Game Feast.

We have been doing this as a tradition ever since.



The Feast is set up in the woods near Hatchett Creek, 5 miles past the airport. By helping, GOC Members get to work side-by-side with local community leaders that make up the Rotary Clubs. Many of these leaders are business owners and employers. Others are lawmakers and government officials.



Our participation gives Members another social interaction through work. It also allows Rotarians to meet people whose lives have been affected by mental illness.





# Chamber Visits GOC



The Gainesville Chamber of Commerce had its monthly Diplomat meeting at the GOC. Diplomats are business leaders who are very active with the Chamber community, including ribbon cuttings and encouraging businesses to work together. These leaders have the potential to provide jobs to our Members, donations and sponsorships, and other community supports.



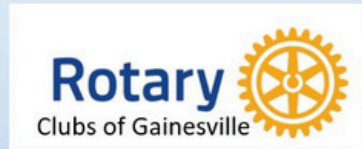
GOC Members came in as early as 7am. Some walked here from miles away. Others took buses starting at 6am to get here.

It is important to point out that our Members lives have been significantly interrupted by mental illness. They were proud to come in to volunteer to make a home-cooked meal and welcome these business leaders into our community.



Thank you, Chamber Diplomats, for coming to see us. Thank you, GOC Members for working hard to serve yourselves and others.

GOC Bike Day  
Sponsored By:



Family and Friends of  
Lori Russo



Thank you to all of these wonderful local companies and friends who sponsored our Bike Day. They definitely deserve recognition for their efforts to help make Gainesville a stronger community. Thank you for helping people whose lives have been significantly impacted by mental illness as they work to move forward.

**HCA Florida North Florida Hospital**  
**Crime Prevention Security Systems**  
**IQ Fiber**  
**Culver's of Gainesville**  
**Subaru of Gainesville**  
**First Federal Bank**  
**Chasing Rabbits (band)**  
**Rotary Clubs of Gainesville**  
**Gainesville Cycling Club**  
**Straw and Company Fine Woodwork**  
**Family and Friends of Lori Russo**