



Gainesville Opportunity Center

GAZETTE

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A Vision for Growth: GOC Leaders Plan the Next Chapter



The Gainesville Opportunity Center (“GOC”) is charting a bold new course. At a recent Board of Directors retreat, guided by Dr. Theresa Beachy of the Center for Nonprofit Excellence, our leaders came together with one mission in mind: strengthen the GOC so we can reach more people in our community. The focus was on diversifying funding, raising awareness, and ensuring that no one facing serious mental illness has to go without the hope, help, and connection the GOC provides.

At the GOC, we provide hope and opportunity for adults whose lives have been interrupted by a diagnosed mental illness. We do this at no cost to our Members. This means our success depends on community partnerships, donors, and friends who believe in the power of recovery.

The retreat gave our Board the chance to reflect on what makes the GOC special—friendship, courage, resilience—and how to share that story more broadly. With exciting ideas in motion, from creative fundraising to stronger outreach, we are ready to let more people know that the GOC is here, available, and making a real difference in people’s lives.

University of Florida Gators Give: Maybe You Can Too

The GOC is proud to be a verified non-profit in the annual **University of Florida (“UF”) Campaign for Charities (“UFCC”) with open enrollment running through the end of November.** Being a vetted agency for UF payroll deduction is a powerful testament to our financial and programmatic integrity. It signifies that the university has reviewed GOC’s operations, ensuring that we are a legitimate, well-managed, and impactful organization worthy of your trust. For you, it means your donation is a secure, simple, and powerful way to make a difference.

Your donation to the Gainesville Opportunity Center directly supports our evidence-based Clubhouse Model of psychosocial rehabilitation. This model provides a work-ordered day for adults living with mental illness, helping them to build confidence, gain vocational skills, and reintegrate into the workforce and community. We are not a clinical program; we are a community where every member has a voice, a purpose, and a friend.

By donating to GOC through the UFCC, you are directly helping Members of our community rebuild their lives. Your support helps us empower individuals to achieve positive outcomes, reduce hospitalizations, and contribute meaningfully to society. We are grateful for every donation and for the opportunity to partner with the UF community.

Please consider designating your gift to the Gainesville Opportunity Center through the UFCC. If you know anyone who works at UF or the UF Alumni Association, please share this information with them. Your support helps us open doors to a brighter future.



ufcc.ufl.edu/for-donors

You're Invited!

GOC's Fifth Annual Fall Festival

Fri, Nov 7th from 11AM - 5PM

1210 NW 14th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

The GOC is excited about our upcoming fifth annual **Fall Festival on Friday, November 7th from 11AM-5PM**. The event is an open to the public. The GOC Fall Festival is a great opportunity to meet our Members and staff, as well as our community partners. It is a way to see in action the GOC's mission of empowering adults with mental illness through work and education. The event will feature a resource fair with local agencies. Attendees can also enjoy a delicious cookout and tours of the GOC facility.

Sponsorships and information tables are available for any interested organizations.

We have sponsorships available **starting at \$250**. If you would like to support our program, a sponsorship would be a great way to do this!

GOC Members, staff, and the Board of Directors are already in the planning stages for the festival, working together on various aspects so our yard and building will be beautiful. Recently, Members took initiative by tackling the organization of our shed as part of preparations for the festival.



Month In Pictures



As part of our community outreach to build up our Membership, Business Development Director, Brett Buell, and Members, Susan C. and Akeem J., gave a presentation about the GOC to staff at Meridian Healthcare.



Every day Members volunteer for important jobs at the GOC. James H. took on the responsibility of power washing our sidewalks and Lasheka R. likes to serve the lunch we make.