

Countdown To Our Fifth Annual Fall Festival You're Invited!

Friday, November 7th (11AM-5PM)
1210 NW 14th Ave, Gainesville, FL 32601

The Gainesville Opportunity Center is buzzing with excitement as we prepare for our annual Fall Festival! Members and staff are working together to make sure every detail is perfect for the big day.

In the weeks leading up to the festival, our team has been hard at work—organizing tables for our community partners and bringing creative ideas to life. The air is filled with the smell of creativity (and maybe a little pumpkin spice) as we brainstorm fun activities and make sure everything from the raffle prizes to the music is ready to go.

The kitchen crew is planning delicious treats, and Members and staff are making sure the grounds look their best. Flyers are being shared around town, inviting friends, family, and supporters to come celebrate with us.

This event is more than just a festival—it's a reflection of the teamwork, spirit, and connection that make the GOC so special. We can't wait to open our doors on Friday, November 7th, to celebrate fall, friendship, and community together!



GOC Remembers: Kenny Winston



The Gainesville Opportunity Center family is deeply saddened by the passing of our dear Member, Kenny Winston, who joined GOC in 2015. Kenny's presence had a tremendous, positive impact on our community, reminding us daily that meaningful connection is the heart of the Clubhouse Model.

Kenny was truly defined by his love of people. He cherished the social programs at GOC, was always eager to welcome new faces, and enthusiastically worked the reception desk to greet everyone who walked through the door. His enthusiasm for fun inspired staff and Members alike, leading to many shared good times outside the Clubhouse. Through his enduring friendships, Kenny helped showcase the profound social rehabilitation the GOC provides.

We are so grateful for the years we shared with Kenny, and we are honored that he found a true sense of belonging here. Our thanks go out to Cathy Guy and Pamela Tishman for making generous donations in Kenny's name. His warm spirit will be greatly missed.



Outreach Updates



GOC staff and Members recently visited the inpatient psychiatric unit at HCA North Florida Hospital. Some of our Members have received care there in the past and spoke about their experiences receiving competent, compassionate treatment.



GOC's Executive Director, Margie Foster, visited Grace Marketplace for a tour and meeting with their case managers. Grace offers programs similar to the GOC, like gardening, culinary activities, and employment support. We're excited to collaborate!



GOC board member, Jacob Rush, recently donated his time to Helping Hands Clinic on behalf of the Bar Association. We're grateful for his commitment to serving our community!



It's always inspiring to be surrounded by people who care. We joined the Community Resource Paramedics (CRP) in bidding farewell to Leah Barnes as she prepares to move across the country. The CRPs play a vital role in helping individuals access routine care and often connect them with the GOC. We are so fortunate to have the CRP as a community partner!

Month In Pictures

Isolation is a significant contributing factor to mental health challenges. That's why here at the GOC, we are open every holiday to share food and fellowship. On Labor Day, we played games and had a fun cookout on a grill donated by a generous Member. A fun and meaningful Labor Day was enjoyed by all that attended!



We had the pleasure of having the Clubhouse Marketing Officer, Kelly Brockmeier, visit the GOC. She toured the center and met with Members and staff. The visit highlighted the importance of raising awareness about mental health issues through the Clubhouse Inter-national.

Employment Specialists from the Veterans Administration visited the GOC. We agreed that many Veterans might benefit from being referred to the GOC to engage in our simulated workplace activities and social events.



Chief Ed Book retired after 14 years at Santa Fe College's Police Department and 39 years in law enforcement. He has been a big supporter of GOC over the years.