



Gainesville Opportunity Center

GAZETTE

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You're Invited!

Saturday, April 11, 2026 (8:30 AM - 1 PM)
First Magnitude Brewery
1220 SE Veitch St, Gainesville, FL 32601



**Live music by
The Impostors!!**



The Gainesville Opportunity Center is buzzing with excitement as Members and staff prepare for our fifth annual Bike Day celebration. Helmets are being checked, tires pumped, and routes reviewed as everyone gets ready for a day that's about much more than just riding - it's about confidence, wellness, and community.



**SCAN TO REGISTER
for this fun event!**

Choose from four riding options that welcome every skill level, from beginners circling Depot Park to experienced cyclists taking on the advanced route. There will even be a live band performing, The Impostors! Bike Day has always been one of the GOC's favorite traditions because it promotes well-being and connection.

We can't wait to see everyone's smiling faces at the starting line and to share another memorable day that shows what the GOC community is all about: trying new things, staying healthy, and moving forward together.

Gainesville Opportunity Center: TE Program Opens Doors to Employment and Independence



Our Transitional Employment (TE) program is a highly structured, part-time vocational path. It offers:

- **Guaranteed Coverage:** GOC staff is trained on the job.
- **On-the-Job Support:** We assist with the learning curve to ensure the employer's needs are met.
- **A Bridge to Independence:** These 6-to-9-month placements build the "work stamina" and recent references needed to secure permanent, independent employment.

For years, David has been a technical anchor at the Gainesville Opportunity Center, troubleshooting our computers and maintaining our website. When he was unexpectedly let go from his job after eight years at a local movie theater, David turned to the community he has served for so long, and we jumped in to support him.

After years of showing his dependability, GOC placed him into a temporary Transitional Employment (TE) role with the Alachua County Commissioners. Supported by GOC staff and fellow Members through interview prep and logistics, David stepped into his new office job with the full weight of the GOC behind him.

David has become a vital asset to the County, proving that a setback is just a setup for a comeback. When this TE position concludes, the GOC will be right there to help David transition into a permanent, independent career. While he values the paycheck, his restored confidence is the true success. David now mentors other Members to "just do it," proving that at the GOC, no one walks the path to employment alone.

Partnership with Purpose

True wellness is a team effort. That's the driving force behind our new collaborative partnership with UF Health Psychiatry at Springhill. Several times a month, GOC Director of Business Development, Brett Buell, and Members, Reid Schreiber and Kayla Barrera, join Dr. George Teaford, Dr. Rubab Islam, and their resident doctors for an integrated outreach effort. This is a 50/50 mission – while the UF Health team provides vital clinical expertise, our GOC team provides the peer-led community and the "work-ordered day" that brings a sense of purpose.

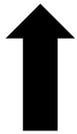
After completing specialized HIPAA training, our Members work alongside the doctors to show patients that there is a life of belonging waiting for them outside the clinic walls. The doctors recognize that clinical progress is often sustained by having a productive place to go, and our Members are there to prove that recovery is possible. By working together, we increase the odds of positive outcomes for everyone involved. When clinical care and community support meet, our Members don't just manage a diagnosis. They lead meaningful, fulfilling lives.



From left to right: Dr. Sahiti Gilela, Dr. Preston Celico, Dr. George Teaford, Brett Buell, Kayla Barrera, Dr. Rubab Islam, and Dr. Laura Brittenham. Working together, we can improve outcomes!

Month In Pictures

Covering the plants, veggies, and herbs because freezing temps are here!



While our new HVAC was being installed, we had a special lunch party at Bowie's Pizza.

We had a great Social Saturday and even ran into Commissioner, Ed Book (far right)

