

PERMANENT PAYCHECK: Valerie's New Life Changing Job

Thanks to a partnership between the GOC and Alachua County, GOC Member Valerie Sanders now has a permanent job. She receives benefits, a livable wage, and may one day earn a pension. Most importantly, it is a job she enjoys. Her new supported employment position at the Alachua County Animal Shelter didn't just open up by chance; it was structurally carved out specifically for GOC Members.

The seeds for this opportunity were planted during Valerie's previous Transitional Employment (TE) placement at the Alachua County Administration Building. Working in the same facility, County Chief of Staff Gina Peebles and other local leaders saw Valerie's work. Peebles collaborated closely with the GOC to establish permanent and dedicated roles at the animal shelter.

Today, Valerie is the first to step into one of these custom-created positions. Her day-to-day work is essential to shelter operations—she keeps the mountains of dog beds washed and fresh, and prepares treats for the dogs. The role was designed to leverage her strengths while allowing for a daily pace that does not trigger her anxiety.

By transitioning from a temporary training role into a permanent county position, Valerie has built a pathway to true long-term stability. Her success stands as a powerful example of what happens when local government and the GOC team up to create real and sustainable career opportunities.



Determination, Opportunity, and a Second Chance

Jason is also returning to full-time employment at the Alachua County Animal Shelter, where he is now working more than 40 hours each week. After spending the past two years out of the workforce, he is taking a powerful step forward in rebuilding his independence.

Pictured below with Jason are Gina Peebles and the new Executive Director of the GOC, Alana Grier. We are excited to welcome Alana into this leadership role as our Clubhouse community continues creating opportunities for Members to succeed.

Jason's journey has not been without challenges. He is currently working toward resolving fines and restoring his driver's license. Until then, he relies on Uber transportation to and from work each day.

We are deeply grateful to Alachua County and Gina Peebles for helping our Members return to the work force. Together, we are creating real change in our community and people's lives..

Leaders like Alachua County Chief of Staff Gina Peebles have taken an interest in our program. Maybe you would like to do the same. Everyone has something to contribute. With the right support, people can go back to work and lead meaningful lives.

Gina is pictured with newly employed GOC Member Jason Heintz and GOC Executive Director Alana Grier.



Pouring Into the Community: GOC Partners with The Good Pour

Big news for the GOC: we're excited to share that we've officially partnered with The Good Pour as one of their featured charities!

Every purchase made online or in-store gives back to a nonprofit you choose. By selecting the Gainesville Opportunity Center, your everyday purchases help support adults living with mental illness as they build confidence, meaningful relationships, and opportunities for independent living through the Clubhouse Model.

Here's how to support the GOC through The Good Pour:

- 1 Visit GoodPourApp.com or download the app
- 2 Choose Gainesville Opportunity Center as your nonprofit
- 3 Shop as usual — a portion of every purchase helps support our Members and the work of the Clubhouse community. We're grateful to partner with businesses that believe in community impact and creating opportunities for everyone to thrive.

PROUD PARTNER

Proud charity
partner of



When you shop for wine and spirits,
The Good Pour donates to your charity
of choice. **Cheers to that!**



GoodPour.com GoodPourApp.com   @goodpourgives



PIZZA WITH PURPOSE: Square House Pizza Rounds Up for GOC

The team that brought authentic Detroit-style pizza to Gainesville is serving up some serious support for the community. Square House Pizza has officially named the GOC as its current "Roundup for Charity" partner!

Square House has carved out a unique spot in the local food scene by pairing thick Detroit-style squares of pizza with fresh waffles. Now, they are giving local diners a seamless way to give back.

The charity drive officially launched in April and runs straight through the end of June. The next time you order, you can round up your bill to the nearest dollar.

Every single cent from the roundup goes directly toward funding the GOC's crucial community programs and employment resources.

The three-month campaign wraps up at the end of this June, and the GOC looks forward to receiving the final donation check soon after.

This is one of Square House's signature pizzas: The Motor City.

It is loaded with double pepperoni and drizzled with sweet-and-spicy hot honey. With the thick, Detroit-style crust, it is utterly delicious.



Month in Pictures



Members actively participate in 2 levels of our operations. At our Office and Media Unit Meeting, Members lead. They decide what needs to be done and what they will do for job specific tasks.

UF IFAS donated some pollinators. Butterflies soon to come!



Scott can tell you some tall tales about our tomatoes.



The towering twine-tied tomatoes triumphed.



Members lean on each other for support and shared experiences and lift each other up



Members, staff and the board president enjoyed a fun Social Saturday at the Harn Museum of Art, exploring art, connections, and community together.

Month in Pictures

Joel laid flags on Veterans' graves with the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville.



Connor Hogan earned his fundraising merit badge. He raised money for an iPhone for GOC. This act made him an Eagle Scout.



Rotary Club of Greater Gainesville donated \$1500 from their "Whistle Pig" fund.

Akeem graduated from Project SAINT at Santa Fe College.



New Board Member Bree Guiterman, new Executive Director Alana Grier, and Board Chair Mercy Quiroga at the GOC.

