

GOC Builds Partnership with Gainesville Housing Authority



**Alana Grier with GHA staffers
Freddie Jones and Pam Grier,
and Gainesville City
Commissioner Ed Book**

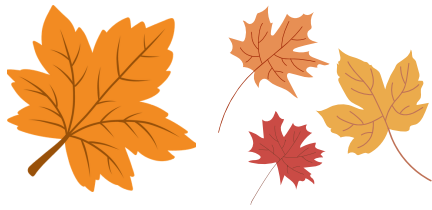
Executive Director Alana Grier met with a team from the Gainesville Housing Authority (GHA) on September 24 to discuss developing Transitional Employment programs. Since GHA already offers a similar program, the conversation pivoted into different but equally exciting territory.

The two organizations agreed to create a memorandum of understanding. Our goal is to establish special purpose vouchers for GOC Members. This may open up opportunities for our Members to gain expedited access to their own homes.

Clubhouse International considers housing a fundamental right, and yet housing access is a common roadblock for Clubhouse Members.

This partnership is part of a larger effort to diversify our housing supports. GOC is grateful to be the recipient of a multi-year grant from Meridian Healthcare which supports unhoused GOC Members. One Member recently moved into her own apartment thanks to this grant. Our goal is for Members to spend no more than 30% of their income on rent expenses.

We are also exploring how the GHA can help our Members access programming at the Santa Fe College ELITE Training Center. A tour was planned for October 2nd. See our November issue for details from that site visit!



GOC Fall Festival Returns November 6!

The Gainesville Opportunity Center is preparing for our 6th Annual Fall Festival on November 6, 2026 from 11AM to 5PM! This beloved GOC tradition brings Members, families, friends, staff, and community partners together for a day filled with food, fun, fellowship, and connection.

Members and staff are working side by side to prepare a festival that celebrates our Clubhouse community and the accomplishments of our Members. Guests will have the opportunity to explore our core Clubhouse units, learn more about the work we do, and enjoy interactive booths hosted by local community partners.



SIXTH ANNUAL

Fall festival

**NOV 6, 2026
11AM – 5 PM**

1210 NW 14TH AVE,
GAINESVILLE, FL 32601

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!
Food • Community • Fun • Connection

✉ info@goclubhouse.org

**Friday, November 6
11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**



COOKOUT - \$10

Hamburgers & hot dogs



RAFFLE PRIZES

Gourmet gift baskets

Gift card tree (\$20-25)

And more!

All proceeds benefit the
GOC.

The Power of Your Paycheck

Your next donation could be as easy as checking a box.

If you work for the University of Florida, you can support the Gainesville Opportunity Center through the 2026 UF Campaign for Charities.

Payroll giving allows you to choose a small amount to be donated from each paycheck throughout the year. A few dollars at a time may not seem like much, but together those gifts can make a meaningful difference for GOC Members.

Recurring donations give GOC dependable support we can count on throughout the year. They help us provide a welcoming community where adults living with serious mental illness can build friendships, develop skills, return to work or school, and work towards greater independence.

Imagine if hundreds of employees each gave just a few dollars from every paycheck. Those small gifts could add up to a tremendous impact.

Donate Today

Visit the 2026 UF Campaign for Charities website:

ufl.givepulse.com/event/900679-2026-uf-campaign-for-charities

and select Gainesville Opportunity Center as the organization you would like to support.

Not a UF employee? Check with your employer to see if payroll giving is available through United Way or another workplace campaign.



GOC Member Kayla Completes Transitional Job at Alachua County



For seven months, Kayla worked at the Alachua County Administration Building through the Gainesville Opportunity Center's Transitional Employment program.

Her job was delivering mail to County offices, including the Property Appraiser, Supervisor of Elections, County Attorney, Court Services and Environmental Protection. It was a straightforward job, but an important one that helped County government operate each day.



“What I liked about the job is that it was simple and low stress, but it was also very important,” Kayla said. “It helped me build confidence, knowing that I could work successfully. It is good for my resumé. It was great working for Alachua County.”



Transitional Employment is one of the foundations of the Clubhouse model. Members work in real, paid jobs while receiving support from GOC. For Members who may have been out of the workforce for years, TE provides a supported path back to employment and the chance to discover that they can succeed at work again.

The experience helps Members build confidence, develop work skills, and create a recent employment history that can help open the door to future opportunities.

Month In Pictures



A GOC team met with social workers at UF Health Psychiatric Hospital who serve our Members, as well as patients. We're proud to work with our partners at UF Health.



LaSheka cleans the dining room.



Tom and Dominic enjoy running the front desk.



The GOC community had a great time with art projects, games, and barbeque at the Labor Day party.

Month In Pictures



Harry loved our homemade carrot soup. We posted the recipe on Facebook.



Trey helps clean the dining room.



Jordan prepares watermelon to serve at the Labor Day party.



Alana and Brett met with Rotary District Governor Bo Norton and Governor Elect Ed Lombard.



Mark, Jason, Kyana and Caleb team up to make lunch: pork chops and egg drop soup.