



The Starry Night Gazette

Vincent House, 4801 78th Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
Telephone 727-541-0321



Volume 7 Edition 3

www.vincenthouse.org

June-July 2009

Building Hope - Brick by Brick

Groundbreaking and Capital Campaign Kick-Off:

THURSDAY, JULY 16th
4:30 - 7:00 pm
Come and Join Us!

As of this writing, we have 31 days, 7 hours and 22 minutes to go until our official Groundbreaking and Capital Campaign Ceremony. The countdown has begun and Vincent House is buzzing with excitement. We are busy dealing with architects, city and county officials, contractor bids and floor plans.

We extend our invitation and sincerest hope that you will join us. **Together we have found the courage to believe in the power of hope!**

A formal invitation will be forthcoming.



While we eagerly await our official Groundbreaking, preliminary work has begun! Workers, above, remove asbestos from back building prior to its demolition.



The "Expansion of Hope" Capital Campaign will raise funds for a 4,800 sq ft building addition. This will dramatically increase the services we provide to persons living with mental illnesses.

The ABLE Trust Invests in Our Future

May 1st, 2009, was a day to remember! While many countries celebrated International Workers' Day, Vincent House celebrated new work and employment opportunities that The ABLE Trust will make available to our members. This contribution comes at the ideal moment, just as we begin our capital campaign. The \$54,000.00 grant is crucial to the implementation of a new commercial kitchen and expanded food service opportunities for our members. The Director of The ABLE Trust, Sue Homant, was joined by two Board Members, Richard Cole and James Spencer for the presentation of the check.



Susanne Homant, M.B.A., D.P.A., President and C.E.O., center, presents check to Vincent House members and staff. Board members Richard Cole, third from left and James Spencer, far right, also joined the presentation.

Vincent House Members Take Lead in Fundraising Campaign

"I've been a Vincent House member for 5 years now and I thought I would purchase an engraved brick as part of my legacy. Also, I wanted to financially help build an addition to the present building. This could be an example for others to purchase their own brick. I am able to afford to buy a brick because Vincent House helped me to get a good paying job."

-Angela Parker

"Vincent House will be all I have when my Dad dies. I live totally alone in the world. At age 42 and thanks to Vincent House, I have found my place in life. I have my own apartment, friends that

care about me, and my own permanent job. My brick says 'Vincent House Forever' because without Vincent House I wouldn't be where I am today."

-Lisa Sanders

"My name is Steve Scofield. I have been a member of Vincent House for 5 years. My brick is a memorial to God, as well as my deep appreciation to members and staff at Vincent House. My heart goes out to all the staff and members at Vincent House, may God continue to bless and help us all."

-Steve Scofield



Vincent House members Lisa Sanders, left Angela Parker, center and Steve Scofield, right, display their bricks.

Please see the enclosed "Walk of Hope" Brick Order Form. 4" x 8" Bricks, like the ones pictured above, cost: \$100 (text only) and \$125 (with Clipart).

You Just Never Know...

The following excerpt was reprinted from a recent letter from the Florida Senate, confirming the donation of computer equipment.

THE FLORIDA SENATE
 SENATOR JEFF ATWATER
President

June 4, 2009

Dear Dr. Steele:

Senator Dennis Jones recommended Vincent House receive surplus computer equipment from the Florida Senate. It is my pleasure to inform you that you will be receiving three (3) computers and monitors.

The Office of Legislative Information Technology Services will contact you to arrange delivery of this equipment.

On behalf of Senator Jones and the Florida Senate, thank you for your hard work and dedication, and for the many contributions your organization makes to your community and to the State of Florida.

Sincerely,

Jeff Atwater
 President

'Like a Million Bucks'

By Stephen Gregosky III and William McKeever

In a recent conversation with our interior designer, Michelle Early, owner of MLE Designs, we found ourselves in a bit of a dilemma. We were finalizing our plans for the interior of our new 4,800 sq. ft. addition and looking for ways to keep the construction budget as low as possible. Michelle, who is donating her services and expertise, helped us obtain high grade flooring at a fraction of the cost. We are indebted to Perry Hubbs, senior sales executive of ReSource Flooring, and Brandon Sweeney who supplied us with Amtico Flooring. Upon learning of our purchase, Perry commented, "With such beautiful flooring, your place will look like a million bucks." We cringed at the thought and worried that people would judge us on first impressions. We didn't want people to think that we were splurging in such difficult economic times.

We pride ourselves on having a clean, dignified place where people with mental illnesses can come and work on their rehabilitation. We have achieved this on an abundance of goodwill rather than an excess of money. Our current facility is well-equipped with computers, phones, photocopiers and kitchenware. Nearly all of this was donated. We will need even more contributions to complete our current building expansion. These are some of the ways you can help: buy an engraved brick, donate office furniture, participate in our naming rights campaign, make a financial donation, offer technical or logistical advice.

So yes, we want our new building to look and feel like a million bucks (besides, it's going to cost a million). For too long, our members have lived on the fringe of society, receiving minimal services at unwelcoming institutions. The splendor of the new Vincent House will inspire hope for a brighter future and the promise of dreams fulfilled.

Drawing and Door Prizes



We would like to thank the Sirata Beach Resort, the TradeWinds Island Grand Resort, the Hilton, the St. Petersburg Yacht Club and Macy's for contributing items to be used as door and drawing prizes at our upcoming Ground-breaking and Capital Campaign Kick-Off Ceremony on July 16, 2009.

With Design in Mind



Speaking of first impressions, it's easy to conclude that we are spending oodles of money on our beautiful graphics and designs. But like everything at Vincent House, we rely on the goodwill and resources of our family and friends. Elliott Steele, pictured above, goes over capital campaign layout with artist Jana McKeever, wife of Vincent House program coordinator, William McKeever.

IN LOVING MEMORY



Gerald Latherow

Gerry, we will forever remember you for your gentle, peaceful ways.

May you rest in peace.



Raymond Dunning

Ray, your keen sense of humor and kindness enriched our lives. Thank you.

May you rest in peace.

Join a Discovery Tour & Experience the Possibilities

A Vincent House Discovery Tour offers interested people in the community the opportunity to tour our Clubhouse, see the work of the units, and meet the founders, members and a representative of our Board of Directors.

A VISIT TO VINCENT HOUSE IS A LIFE CHANGING EVENT.

Choose from any of the following dates:

- Wed., June 24 @ 10-11am**
- Tues., July 14 @ 5:30-6:30 pm**
- Wed., July 22 @ 10-11am**
- Tues., Aug. 11 @ 5:30-6:30 pm**

Please RSVP: 727-541-0359
Ask for Elliott or Dianne



My Work at the Sirata

By Jason Michaud

I am a food runner at the Sirata Beach Resort, on St. Pete Beach. I take food from the kitchen to Harry's Bar. The bar is next to the pool and looks out on the beach. I like my boss, Bobbie. I have made a lot of friends and I get to be sociable and say hello to everyone I see. When I get back inside to the kitchen, I look on the computer to see the next order. If I have a few minutes to wait for an order to come in, I talk with the kitchen staff. They are all very nice people.

I get to see many of my co-workers who are also Vincent House members, people like Nancy Brown, Jackie Williams, Gary Hinkson, Mike Taddeo, Stephanie Freskos, and Anthony Patten. I can visit with them before my shift. I see Nancy and Stephanie at the towel hut next to the pools. I work closely with Tony in the bar area. He does the bussing. He likes to have fun, but only when he has the time. We get along because I like to have fun too. Sirata Beach Resort is a great and beautiful place to work. I am happy to have the opportunity to be there.



TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Nancy Brown
Stephanie Freskos
Gary Hinkson
Carol Jackson
Aloysia McPherson
Jason Michaud
Anthony Patten
Michael Taddeo
Mary Warner
Jackie Williams
Deborah Wilson
Sally Woodcock
Abraham Youssouf

Sirata Beach Resort
Sirata Beach Resort
Sirata Beach Resort
Senior Services
Suncoast Center
Sirata Beach Resort
Sirata Beach Resort
Sirata Beach Resort
Senior Services
Sirata Beach Resort
Suncoast Center
FACT Team
Suncoast Center

Continuing Education in 2009

Michael Ballenger	Steve Scofield
Bob Krehbiel	Justin Shea
Gayle Marchiniak	Jason Sulimay

Supported & Independent Employment

Michael Ballenger	Irrigation Specialist
William Champion	Medical Records
Tess Daniels	Housekeeping
Debra Gaide	Book Clerk
Eddie Gares	Recovery Coach
Larry Haines	Medical Records
Craig Hayden	Ground Maintenance
Dennis Hill	Theater Usher
Brian Howe	Prep Technician
Bonnie Lawniczak	Machine Operator
Brian Lutz	Food Preparation
Gayle Marchiniak	Kennel Assistant
Philip Noonan	Maintenance
Angela Parker	Transportation
Michael Ralston	Transportation
Shannon Riley	Recovery Coach
Heidi Rippen	Service Clerk
Ron Ritchie	Transportation
Lisa Sanders	Transportation
Chris Schaer	Telemarketer
Justin Shea	Recreation Leader
Terry Taggart	Pet Groomer
Ed Wohlford	Environ. Services

*"Work means being an independent, fully functioning adult and a productive member of society."
- Elizabeth Hoff*

Van Gogh's Palette, Inc.
 4801 78th Avenue
 Pinellas Park, FL 33781
 Address Correction Requested



NONPROFIT ORG
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ST. PETERSBURG, FL
 PERMIT # 2401



Generosity Begins at Home

It's not easy for us to ask for anything, it never is, and certainly not when it comes to donations. We're a community of doers. Our success is built on what we can do with our own hands, hearts and minds. So when it comes to the difficult task of raising money, especially in this economy, we realized that it needed to begin with us. Before opening our Capital Campaign to the general public, we searched our pockets and change jars. Generosity needed to begin at home, with each of us.

This is what our members and staff have raised so far:

\$624.88	Building Fund Coin Bottle
\$1,850.00	Member Purchases of Engraved Bricks
\$1,100.00	Staff Purchases of Engraved Bricks
<hr style="width: 10%; margin-left: 0;"/>	
\$3,574.88	Total in-house Contributions, to date

Surprised by Kindness: After reading last month's Gazette, a member whom we haven't seen for a long time, came in and slapped down a fifty dollar bill. We don't have permission to use his name, but we can tell you that he was obviously inspired to invest his hard earned money in the lives of our members.

Building Fund Coin Bottle



Six months ago, we decided to use an old water bottle to collect spare change from our members and staff toward the construction of our building addition. Well, all those nickels and dimes have added up! To date, the bottle has collected \$624.88.

Maureen Lavelle, far left, Doug Hamond, center, and Laia Longo, right, count a recent deposit from the Building Fund coin bottle.