



# The Starry Night Gazette

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My name is Art Hallman and I am a computer nerd and 58 years old. I first heard of Vincent House when I attended a job fair at Suncoast Mental Health Center. I like Vincent House because it's a social environment and I have a hard time socializing. I primarily came to Vincent House to get a job. Jobs I am interested in are clerical, and lots of paperwork. In my spare time I repair and build computers. Anyone who needs help on the computer, see me.

My name is Melissa Crockett. I am 26 years old and 4 feet 9 inches tall. I like to swim, walk, and make new friends. Besides coming to Vincent House, the hobbies I enjoy are reading, writing, going to the movies, shopping, and talking on the phone. I had cancer when I was 9 months old, and that's why I can't see. My job skills are limited because of improper training at the Ohio State School for the Blind in Columbus, Ohio. I learned how to type and do short cuts with Hot Keys. The Hot Keys are listed on the keyboard, and visually impaired people do not have to use a mouse to figure out the screen because of the speech synthesizer called Jaws for Windows. Jaws stand for Job Access With Speech. I came here because I had an empty life. I did not have a social life or any jobs lined up for the future. I also came to get experience for the real world out there, to sharpen other skills, and to work on my mental illness in order to strengthen myself in times of frustration, depression, and feelings of sadness and how to strengthen other weaknesses.

My name's Glenn and I go to the Bay Pines Day Treatment Program 5 days a week. I come to Vincent House every chance I get. I like doing dishes, and being a waiter. I want to learn to use a computer because I'm going to get one in December. I'm from Buffalo, New York and I have been down here since May of 2004. I like the people here because they are very nice. I also like the food, because you can get a salad, or anything you would like. Glenn Gascoyne

## We are just a small caring family!

What is Vincent House and why is Vincent House important for its members? How does Vincent House make people feel everyday? My feeling toward Vincent House is peaceful. Vincent House relaxed me and kept me busy from being depressed. If I did not come to Vincent House then I would feel sad and depressed. Everybody at Vincent House is a member of one body that serves one goal. This goal is to make Vincent House beautiful and to bring in more members. At Vincent House you can come when you please and leave when you please. There is no hard labor nor is there one person doing all the work.

We serve one great idea and this idea is we are a team. *Lavian Johnson*

Our Average Daily Attendance for August was 51!!! The total membership is 372. Within two Orientations, Vincent House welcomed 5 new members. What is even more exciting; a few of the members we've missed for a long time came back...

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." (Margaret Mead)*

Hi my name's Donna Mazzei. I have been a member of Vincent House since it first began. I like to work in the kitchen preparing lunch and help make salads. Sometimes I work in Casey's Café too. I enjoy the people here because they're very nice. They're helpful and not judgmental. At Vincent House I stay busy and always have something to do. I've made lots of friends here and everyone has helped me a lot.



Hi there, Mary Virginia Arauz is my name. You call me Ginger here. I come here to Vincent House to be with you jovial, friendly, constructive people. I like your company. I like to feel helpful and useful. Traveling a lot has given me plenty of job experience between health care stayovers. I've done everything from stable-hand work on a horse farm to crating eggs. I extended my education in Business Ed and have worked in several offices as a clerk. I've really found the waitress work most enjoyable and rewarding. Maybe that's why I'm always so anxious to volunteer for waitressing here. You members are young and most are not totally disabled. May this give you the encouragement to use what you have while you still have it.

Lisa, Ginger, Jeff S., Michael R., and Stacy working on mailing our Gazette and enjoying team work

## ☪ Vincent House Loses a True Friend and Supporter ☪

Nancy Doyle was the driving force behind many Veterans from the Bay Pines Day Treatment program experiencing Vincent House. Nancy enjoyed witnessing the effectiveness of an ICCD Clubhouse when the many members of her day treatment program participated in our "work ordered day."

To demonstrate her excitement about the joint effort between the VA and Vincent House, Nancy and our director presented "Bridging the Gap" at the IAPSRs conference in San Diego. This presentation covered the ways our two organizations worked together to help Veterans with mental illnesses rejoin the worlds of work and friendship.

It was a sad day when we received the news of Nancy's passing. Her efforts will continue with many of her members becoming

lifetime members of Vincent House and having the ability to experience the support an ICCD Clubhouse provides to persons living with the effects of mental illnesses.

We are all aware that recovery lasts forever and that membership in an ICCD Clubhouse is for life. Due to Nancy's efforts Veterans who become members will always have a place to come, do meaningful work, and have meaningful relationships and a place to return.

**Thank you Nancy, we love you!**  
Members and staff of Vincent House

### Crescent Lake Park

*I took a stroll one autumn morning at the lake. It was a bright sunny day, a little cool but pleasant. There were mothers with babies... men and women walking dogs... It was a lazy morning... and I was mesmerized... gazing at the mirror surface of the water.*

*Suddenly I was startled by Quaker parrots squawking in a tree above me, while a lone woodpecker pecked a tree.*

*Seagulls... lounged along the banks and in the lake while vulture-like wood storks placidly looked on... as I continued to walk,*

*I saw mallard hens swimming by, their broods close behind with the drakes bringing up the rear.*

*Great blue herons, cattle egrets and ibises were feeding in the shallows... as "mud ducks" floated past a cormorant sunbathing on a boulder.*

*"How graceful" I thought as a pelican majestically flew past an egret hunt for dinner...*

*"It's a beautiful, peaceful morning"... I thought savoring each moment... secretly wishing it would never end...*

*Then it dawned on me... if birds can live in peace and harmony...why can't we do the same? Clyde Kobayashi*

### **A Time to Slow Down and Reflect**

Hello again, Vincent House members, staff, and valued friends, it's me, Anna. As most of you might know I recently broke the smallest toe on my right foot. I firmly believe all things happen for a reason. I think I accidentally broke my toe because I needed to slow down and reflect on different things that affect the way I react towards people whom I encounter in my day to day life. I am currently in the process of trying to find a new apartment, my hamster (Baby) died, and then Sunday night I broke my toe when I hit it on the wall in my apartment. If I have seemed on edge lately, I would like to sincerely apologize. Hopefully, life can only get better from this point on. I have been coming to Vincent House for almost 3 years. Thanks to my participating in day to day recovery at Vincent House, I have not been hospitalized since I began coming here in February of 2004. So, take it from me folks, Recovery Works!!

Written By: Anna Mc Donald

### **My Two Years at Vincent House**

*My two years at Vincent House have been a very humbling experience for me. It has provided me the opportunity to meet some really nice people who helped me realize the importance of humility. It seems that people everywhere are in a process of recovery and that with effort we can live a better life. This better life is achieved by encouraging happy thoughts and feelings and developing good habits. People everywhere want to reach their full potential as their gift to God. Here at Vincent House, we have an opportunity to grow and develop to reach our full potential. To me, Vincent House is a microcosm of the world as people from different ethnic, religious, and socio-economic backgrounds come here to celebrate recovery through work. Vincent House has given me the opportunity to better myself and the staff and members have helped me become a much improved person over these past two years. Eddie Gares*

### **Advocacy Corner: The Visit From Liz McCallum**

We at Vincent House were honored by a visit from Candidate for Representative Liz McCallum. Twelve members showed up for the informal, but very productive meeting. Many questions were asked and the Vincent House video crew filmed some of the action for the afternoon news show.

Liz explained that members of her family have had mental illness. She is concerned about the welfare of the people of Florida coping with mental illness, for she sees there is a great need for improvement of the current system. She truly is a champion fighter of our cause. Other concerns of Liz's are lowering the cost of housing, so that people on a fixed income can find something affordable and nice. The cost of



medications is also on her list of things that need to change. All lower income folks could then get their medications at a low cost and also afford to eat and have a life that is free of hard choices between food, meds or housing. Her list doesn't end there; she is worried about the future of Florida's natural lands. She said we need to take care of our environment, so that everyone will have a safe and clean place to live.

I found Liz to be knowledgeable about the plight of folks living with mental illness and the needs of persons living on a fixed income. I believe that she will fight hard for the people of Florida and will not let big industries call the shots. I feel we will have a say in Tallahassee if she gets elected.

*Endorsed by: Debbie Cibik*

**STANDARD #11:** Responsibility for operation of the clubhouse lies with the members and staff and ultimately with the clubhouse director. Central to this responsibility is the engagement of members and staff in all aspects of clubhouse operation.

## WORKING NINE TO FIVE

### CURRENT TEP's

**Michael Ballenger, Justin Shea, Daniel Shellabarger, Joe Stabile, and Alex Houser** are members of Group TEP at Raytheon

**Craig Haydon, Michael Ralston, Allyn Spidella and Michael Taddeo** work a Group TEP at 688 Skatepark.

**Debbie Cibik** – continues to enjoy her work at Galleria/Castle Supply Co.

**Larry Haines** – continues his work at Suncoast Center-Medical Records.

**Carol Jackson** – completed her TEP at Suncoast Center-Medical Records.

**Karen Maloof** – enjoys her work at Liberty Lanes as a Lane Attendant.

**Zara Moore** – works at Suncoast Center – Medical Records.

**Angela Parker** – works at Suncoast – Medical Records.

**Susan Phillips** - does filing on her job at Senior Services.

**Lisa Sanders** - completed her TEP at Liberty Lanes.

**Athena Steele** – has not missed a day of work on her job at Senior Services.

**Judy Wilson** – continues her job at Galleria/Castle Supply Co.

### MEMBERS in SUPPORTED AND INDEPENDENT EMPLOYMENT

Alice Bongiorno, Nancy Brown, Nicholas Cercone, Elizabeth Cook, Tess Daniels, Don DiCarlo, Eddie Gares, Jack Gordon, Kim Harrell, Elizabeth Hoff, Kim Kobayashi, William Kuropatwinski, Bonnie Lawniczak, Gayle Marchiniak, John Markle, Zara Moore, Rand Pierce, Bob Pitts, Warren Prince, Shannon Riley, Beth Schweikert, Terry Taggart, and Edwin Wohlford.

**Rand Pierce** is pleased and excited to begin a new position with the Clearwater FACT team on September 9, 2006.

**MEMBERS IN CASUAL EMPLOYMENT:** Jeff Albertson, Christine Dotson, Craig Haydon, Aimee Hunnell, and Chris Schear.

### Employment Dinner ~ August 3, 2006

Tess Daniels likes working as an Environmental Specialist in Zone 5 Buildings (Chaplain's office, the Chapel, Mailroom) at the VA. She'll take computer classes which will elevate her employee grade from a level 2 to a level 5. She has support of her supervisors and Vincent House.

Joe Stabile, pictured in lower right corner, spoke at our Employment Dinner. He enjoys his work at Raytheon and his team members. Justin Shea works fast to get job done with no fooling around. Mike Ballenger does an excellent job vacuuming the kitchen and dining room areas. Danny Shellabarger says it's hard work, mopping large areas including dusting. He is the "mop man extraordinaire." Chris Schear feels his Raytheon job is "real cool, pretty easy, and I enjoy my co-workers." Danny, Chris and Justin also enjoy volunteering on the Vincent House News "snippets" during their free time.



Our Skate Park Group TEP is still going strong, even in the hot weather. Craig Haydon, Mike Ralston, Mike Taddeo and Allyn Spidella work hard and are consistent in what they achieve.

Debbie Cibik is fascinated at how she makes stacks of papers disappear, after filing at Galleria/Castle Supply Co. A second member works there. It's Judy Wilson and she is sad her 3-month job is coming to an end. Both Galleria/Castle Supply Co. supervisors, Karen and Hannah have been very happy with our members' contributions. Judy's job becomes a Supported Employment position in the future.

Lisa Sanders misses attending Employment Dinners and coming to Vincent House after her job is done at 4:00 in the afternoon. Lisa feels support from Vincent House is always there for her. She loved her job at Liberty Lanes and wished she could stay longer.

*Hi my name is Zara. This month I have started my second TEP though Vincent House. I work at Suncoast Monday, Thursday and Friday (14 hours a week) filing medical records. I have also worked at Comprehensive Healthcare of Clearwater for about two years. My duties include setting up the beverages and also fruit beverages for the tray line. I work there about four hours a week. Whenever these two jobs allow, I come to Vincent House and volunteer in the Member Services Unit.*

