



# The Starry Night Gazette

Vincent House, 4801 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
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www.vincent-house.org

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## Young Adults Find a Future at Vincent House

Vincent House's best kept secret is out of the bag. The Young Adult members are creating a buzz and our members are really getting excited about what is to come. We started from meetings of just one member and one staff, to now having an average of 10 young adults at our Thursday morning meetings. We are trying to channel this new excitement into projects that we feel will enhance and build our Clubhouse community. Three things we are focusing on at this stage are: training our young adult members in giving tours, outreach to young adults by other young adults, and the development of a PowerPoint presentation to use when speaking about Clubhouse opportunities.

When tours are given to potential young adult members, a young adult will give the tour. The tour includes a brief history of Vincent House. We show the units and describe the many jobs in each unit. We also explain the Transitional, Supported and Independent Employment Programs. Realizing how important tours are to integrating young adults into the Clubhouse, we started getting our young adult members interested in learning how to give tours. When you come to a new place like Vincent House, it's a big bonus if someone your age, who knows what you are going through, helps to welcome you.

At Vincent House keeping in touch with our members is very important. New members join a work unit and build friendships with other members. If you are not seen in Clubhouse for a while, we reach out by a phone call or a card. This is done by another member who knows you.

The young adults are not just a social group - we are trying to help at the Clubhouse and in the community. We're creating a PowerPoint presentation that we will show to high school and college students to help them understand Vincent House and give information on mental illness. Our hope is that by sharing our individual stories with others we will inspire anyone with a mental illness to get on the road to recovery and success.



### A New Beginning

By Luis A. Bonilla

How does it feel to be a member at Vincent House? Well being a member at Vincent House is like a new experience that leaves me feeling absolutely swell. Coming to Vincent House gives me a future and a plan that I understand. Being at Vincent House has given me a new beginning. I am becoming what I ought to become with the support and encouragement Vincent House provides. When I go to Vincent House I am always creating a dream I want to pursue. Every day I have the opportunity to do a different task that leaves me feeling like I'm somebody who is wanted and appreciated. There are many individuals just like me with a mental illness that are sweet and kind, trying to better themselves, and they accept me for who I am. When I am at Vincent House I feel privileged, like I have an advantage. With Vincent House I feel like I have an opportunity to succeed and prevail. At Vincent House they accept you as you are. It has been a good place for me to connect and associate with others.



### Just Like Home

By Heidi Rippen

I have made a lot of new friends at Vincent House. At first I was nervous to come here, but now it feels like home. We are a big family who comfort each other and we understand each other's problems. I feel good here because no one picks on anyone or makes fun. I enjoy coming because of my friends, nice surroundings and great staff, people who make me feel at home.



### THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR CLUBHOUSE DEVELOPMENT VISITS OUR YOUNG ADULTS!



Pauline Anderson and Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo (both standing) came from New York City to film our members.

Are you a Young Adult interested in finding out more about joining Vincent House?

Please call : 727-541-0321, E-mail us: Vincent.HouseYA@yahoo.com or visit us at www.vincent-house.org

## A Place for Friendship

By Jennifer Kraus

Vincent House provides fertile ground for friendships old and new to bloom. I have been a member for not quite a year now but I have found the company and companionship at Vincent House to be of highest quality and genuine. Whether it be with long term members or the new, the younger, the older, the employed or the unemployed there is something truly special and notable about the friendships promoted within Vincent House. Each time I come I feel blessed to meet someone new. People are accepting, kind and warm.

Some days are happier, some days a little low but when in the company of friends at Vincent House, purpose seems to flow. Our common bond is that we share similar challenges hence I find that members' willingness to persevere and face existing challenges to be an inspiration. I feel the gift of unconditional acceptance and a desire to do better and to be better than I am. I am so thankful for the opportunity to become a member of Vincent House and to continue to meet some of the most decent kind of people I've come to know.

Thank you Vincent House for the chance to build some really awesome bonds be they just for one day, one year, or a lifetime.



## We Donate a Van to New Clubhouse in Panama City



Member Steve Scofield drove our old but faithful Dodge Caravan up to Panama City and donated the vehicle on our behalf to their future Clubhouse, STARR Center!

**Interested in making a difference?**  
Vincent House is seeking contributions:

- Commercial Walk In Cooler
- Networking with area businesses for part-time work for our members
- A volunteer for 2-4 hours/month with Information Technology (IT) skills
- Color Laser Printer
- Upgraded Camcorder & Microphone
- Copy Paper
- Heavy Duty Gas Grill

## Vincent House Welcomes Leilani Smith

The first time that I walked into Vincent House, it was like watching a hive of busy bees on the Nature Channel. Everyone was diligently working together with smiles on their faces. Members and staff cheerfully greeted me as soon as I walked in the front door and Clyde gave me a tour of the beautiful facility. I immediately felt at home and knew that Vincent House was somewhere that I just had to be.

I went to college at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where I got my B.S. degree in Microbiology (GO GATORS!). Soon after graduating, I joined the Peace Corps and got assigned to Malawi, S.E. Africa working in the Environment Sector and doing HIV/AIDS outreach at the village level. Since then I have enjoyed working within the community as a health educator and recently taught math and science to grades 6-12 at a private school in Seffner, Florida.

I have only been at Vincent House for a short while and I already feel like family. It is not very often that you find a place as welcoming as this. I am the newest staff member in the Food Services Unit and I am very excited to be here. I am very grateful to all of the members that have been helping me around the unit and making my transition into this family go so easily. I think that with the wonderful teamwork, we will see some great things come out of our Food Service Unit!



Leilani Smith, Vincent House's newest staff member works in the Food Services Unit

## Join a SHOWCASE and experience the possibilities!

A Vincent House Showcase 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.**

Tuesday, Aug. 12  
@ 5-6 pm  
Wednesday,  
Aug. 27  
@ 10-11 am

Tuesday, Sept. 9  
@ 5-6 pm  
Wednesday,  
Sept. 24  
@ 10-11 am

**Please RSVP:  
727-541-0399  
Ask for Elliott,  
Dianne or Fran**

## It's Never Too Late

By Steve Scofield

Recently I was asked by Staff member William McKeever if I would write a few lines on my recent educational accomplishment. I have just received a Master of Arts Degree in Theology, with honors. I did my first two years of college at Indiana University 37 years ago! I'm a good example of that phrase "it's never too late". I encourage all of you to continue in your education.

I probably would have never finished my degree without the encouragement Vincent House gave me during my time of need. Spending that one year in Clubhouse, building up my stamina and confidence gave me the courage later to pursue my educational goals. Vincent House also helped me to find my apartment, which turned out to be the ideal quiet place for my studies in college.

I believe that we all have gifts and talents regardless of our struggles with mental illness.

Recovery is taking the action regardless of the illness. By taking one step at a time, one day at a time we have the opportunity to obtain the goals we set in our life. Don't forget to encourage others along the way in your recovery. Keep the faith, take action and God will continue to bless your effort.





# CELEBRATING RECOVERY THROUGH WORK

Members Employed during July - 2008

## Getting Along with Co-workers

By Jeff Alex Houser

My days at SeashellBooks.com have been quiet, interesting and long. This is one of the few jobs I have actually been a part of where I can be myself and I don't feel trapped, but it wasn't easy. It was very hard at first learning to get along with other co-workers. We had our differences but eventually we managed to find common ground and we help each other out now. I really like the other people I work with. The job itself is a hard one, and I admire the other coworkers who are doing the job at speeds that amaze me. It took me awhile to learn the differences of each job that we do. As soon as I learned the job, I picked up on it easily. I still have problems, as the job is difficult, but the management there is great...the way they work with you and understand. We work from 12:30 to 4:30pm every day. I work with my friend Stephanie. She just started and is doing a terrific job. I'm very proud of her. I'm hoping to learn all I can at SeashellBooks.com. One of these days I hope to start "pulling" books. I dread it since it is hot down there in the summer, but that's part of what they do. Maybe one day I can find a similar job to do as a full-time job. The staff at Vincent House has been really helpful. They have given me great support. I really like working with Dave and Jonathan. I can't wait to start my next Transitional Employment. job. I know I haven't been easy but that's why we have Vincent House, for support and help.



### TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Pamela Adams</b>         | <b>Suncoast Center</b>   |
| <b>Susan Alvey</b>          | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Adam Franz</b>           | <b>SeashellBooks.com</b> |
| <b>Stephanie Freskos</b>    | <b>SeashellBooks.com</b> |
| <b>Stephen Gregosky III</b> | <b>Suncoast Center</b>   |
| <b>Larry Haines</b>         | <b>Suncoast Center</b>   |
| <b>Brian Howe</b>           | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>     |
| <b>Alex Houser</b>          | <b>SeashellBooks.com</b> |
| <b>Carol Jackson</b>        | <b>Galleria Plumbing</b> |
| <b>Gayle Marchiniak</b>     | <b>Senior Services</b>   |
| <b>Brittaney Spaulding</b>  | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>     |
| <b>Jackie Williams</b>      | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>     |
| <b>Ed Wohlford</b>          | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |

### Supported & Independent Employment

- |                          |                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Michael Ballenger</b> | <b>Irrigation Specialist</b> |
| <b>William Champion</b>  | <b>Recovery Specialist</b>   |
| <b>Debbie Cibik</b>      | <b>Driver</b>                |
| <b>Jennifer Dickey</b>   | <b>House Cleaning</b>        |
| <b>Tess Daniels</b>      | <b>Housekeeping</b>          |
| <b>Eddie Gares</b>       | <b>Recovery Coach</b>        |
| <b>Dennis Hill</b>       | <b>Theater Usher</b>         |
| <b>Gary Hinkson</b>      | <b>Floor Maintenance</b>     |
| <b>Brian Howe</b>        | <b>Prep Technician</b>       |
| <b>Bonnie Lawniczak</b>  | <b>Machine Operator</b>      |
| <b>Brian Lutz</b>        | <b>Food Preparation</b>      |
| <b>Alvis Mills</b>       | <b>Recovery Coach</b>        |
| <b>John Markle</b>       | <b>Lawn Maintenance</b>      |
| <b>Ralph Morphew</b>     | <b>Food Service</b>          |
| <b>Philip Noonan</b>     | <b>Maintenance</b>           |
| <b>Angela Parker</b>     | <b>Transportation</b>        |
| <b>Rand Pierce</b>       | <b>Peer Specialist</b>       |
| <b>Michael Ralston</b>   | <b>Transportation</b>        |
| <b>David Reed</b>        | <b>Transcriptionist</b>      |
| <b>Shannon Riley</b>     | <b>Recovery Coach</b>        |
| <b>Ron Ritchie</b>       | <b>Transportation</b>        |
| <b>Chris Schaer</b>      | <b>Telemarketer</b>          |
| <b>Justin Shea</b>       | <b>Recreation Leader</b>     |
| <b>Joe Stabile</b>       | <b>Floor Maintenance</b>     |
| <b>Jason Sulimay</b>     | <b>Receptionist</b>          |
| <b>Michael Taddeo</b>    | <b>Book Clerk</b>            |
| <b>Terry Taggart</b>     | <b>Pet Groomer</b>           |
| <b>Judy Wilson</b>       | <b>Transportation</b>        |

### Continuing Education in 2008

- |                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Latoya Johnson</b>    | <b>Shawna Rylander</b> |
| <b>Bob Krehbiel</b>      | <b>Steve Scofield</b>  |
| <b>Franklin La Torre</b> | <b>Justin Shea</b>     |
| <b>Gayle Marchiniak</b>  | <b>Jason Sulimay</b>   |
| <b>Aloysia McPherson</b> | <b>Jeff Suzanne</b>    |

*"I come to Vincent House to practice work because it keeps my mind occupied." - Gerry Latherow*

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



Young Adults help plan the future at Vincent House

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**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
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**PERMIT # 2401**



**August 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31					1	2
<i>Elliott Freeman</i> <i>Terri Santiago</i>					Chef's Surprise	<b>Community Clean-up Day</b>  <i>Matt Lewis</i>
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Spaghetti and Meatballs  <i>Bob Pitts</i>	Creamed Noodles w/ Vegetables	Submarine Sandwich  <i>Eric Peek</i> <b>Employment Dinner</b> Chicken Cordon Bleu	Pork Chops w/ Mixed Berry Chutney <i>Craig Haydon</i> <i>Jeff Suzanne</i>	Chef's Surprise  <i>Michael Erland</i>	<b>Threshers Baseball</b>  <i>Aloysia McPherson</i>
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<i>Athena Steele</i>	Teriyaki Chicken Wings w/ Yellow Rice <i>Garry McGettigan</i> <i>Nancy Weaver</i>	Vegetable Bean Soup  <i>Patricia Herbein</i>	Lee's Shepherd's Pie  <i>Eric Seigfried</i>	Gyro w/ Greek Salad  <i>Rodney Bell</i>	Chef's Surprise <i>Eileen Jones</i> <b>Pizza &amp; Movie "Enchanted"</b>	<b>Health Wellness Back To School Fair</b>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Sloppy Joes <i>Ray Dunning</i> <i>Clyde Kobayashi</i> <i>Maria Pierce</i>	Macaroni Casserole  <i>Christian O'Hagan</i>	Vincent Burgers & Potato Salad <i>Steve Helgesen, Ed Wohlford</i> <b>Employment Dinner</b> Stuffed Tilapia	Corned Beef & Cabbage	Chef's Surprise  <i>David Scanlan</i>	<b>Swimming North Shore Pool</b> <i>Nancy Brown</i> <i>John Markle</i>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<i>Karen Maloof</i>	Rand's Pasta	Black Beans & Yellow Rice  <i>Stephanie Harrell</i>	Tuna Melt  <i>Stephen Gregosky III</i>	BBQ Chicken  <i>Jerome Kielb</i>	Chef's Surprise	<b>No outing</b>  <i>Brian Howe</i>

**Menus are subject to change. Casey's Café offers alternative lunch – call to order before 11:00 A.M.**