



# The Starry Night Gazette



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

Volume 6 Edition 4

www.vincent-house.org

APRIL 2008

## Our Local Community Reaches In



*March was quite a month! We were surprised by the donation of a custom Ford Van (at right), a Publix grant to purchase a riding lawnmower, tiller and blower (at left), a corporate donation from WAL-MART, two blossoming bottle bush trees and numerous individual contributions by families and friends. Your continued support makes us a more vibrant community.*



Vincent House is very thankful to the many people and organizations that recognize the success of our members, staff and overall operation of the Clubhouse by donating in-kind services, items and financial donations through grants.

This past month we witnessed the following donations for needed items, and grants. Publix Supermarkets Charities provided us with a grant to purchase a riding mower, backpack yard blower and garden tiller. These are items which will be put to good use on our acre plus lot, clearing off the leaves from our 30 plus parking spaces, and tilling the compost in our garden which provides us with healthy, fresh, organically grown vegetables.

They will add nice color and eventually shade to our spacious back yard.

We were excited to receive a donation from the Babcock Family of Eva Tone; they donated a luxurious custom Ford van, complete with captain chairs, upholstery and shades. It'll be a great vehicle for member transportation, especially our periodic trips to the State Capital in Tallahassee for the advocacy we do to promote the creation of more ICCD Clubhouses across Florida.

purchased us a new flag. We will fly it proudly at the corner of our Clubhouse.

We have received financial donations in honor and in memory of individuals that have connections to Vincent House. We are very thankful for the kindness and compassion that these individuals have demonstrated.

We love you all!



*The beautification of our grounds - over an acre of land, was enhanced by the donation of two weeping bottle brush trees from Connie Marmaro.*



*Melissa Meiling, on behalf of our local WAL-MART, made a corporate donation of \$1,000.*

WALMART donated a check in the amount of \$1,000.00 to Van Gogh's Palette, Inc./Vincent House to be used where we can best utilize it. In addition, we received a gift card to be utilized by our snack shop, Casey's Café. We thank Melissa Meiling for her support of our Clubhouse.



*Mark LeMacher, with daughter and Vincent House member Reena LeMacher, donated a beautiful new flag.*

We also are thankful to Connie Marmaro for the donation of the weeping bottle brush tree and the bottle brush bush.

Reena LeMacher and her father noticed our flag becoming tattered. Reena and her father, a Veteran, went out and

We are especially thankful to the Sulimay Family & friends for their generous donations in memory of the late Mrs. Rita Sulimay, a dear friend of Vincent House. Their support from around the country is greatly appreciated.  
Thank You!

## Talking to a Good Friend about a Great Place.

*Vincent House has been actively reaching out to young adults living with mental illnesses in Pinellas County. The energy and enthusiasm of our young adults adds more life to our Clubhouse. Currently, we have 19 active young adults. Brittany Spaulding (photo, left) and Reena LeMacher (photo, right) are two of our newest members.*

**Brittaney:** I am so happy you are an official member of Vincent House.

**Reena:** *Thanks, it is definitely more than I expected it would be. I met so many nice people and at the same time was impressed that there were so many things that interest me.*

**Brittaney:** Well, you can work in Member Services, in the bank or making videos. The Business Unit always needs a receptionist or help working on the newsletter. Then there is the Food Services Unit - you can cook, wait tables or work in the café. You can also work outside in the beautiful garden, or get to know the other members on the swing under the shade of our tree.

**Reena:** *Everyone that I have met has made me feel welcomed. I am also having fun in all the units; it is hard for me to pick one. How did you do it?*

**Brittaney:** I was drawn to the Food Services Unit. I like it there because there is always people coming in and out, talking and having fun. Plus, each job I do in the kitchen makes me feel like my work is important.

**Reena:** *I have not been a member long enough to say that I like one unit over the other. I can't wait to participate in other activities outside of the units.*

**Brittaney:** One thing I like and look forward to is the Young Adults meeting on Thursdays. We are working on things like a

pamphlet and a Power Point presentation to help inform more young adults about Vincent House and mental illnesses.

**Reena:** *I agree, I am also excited to go out on my first Vincent House Saturday outing. It sounds like there is so much to do every day at Vincent House that I might not have time to even think about my mental illness.*

**Brittaney:** Reena, even if you are having a bad day there are plenty of people to talk to who know where you come from and the struggles we all go through.

**Reena:** *Thanks for understanding, Britt.*

**Brittaney:** Same here, Reena.

**...the phone rings and work at Vincent House continues...**



## An Experience of a Lifetime

By David Ulch

Upon arriving at the airport the day of our departure, the three of us (Aimee, Bob, Dave) boarded the plane with enthusiasm. During the flight we talked about what we hoped to learn while at Gateway House in Greenville, South Carolina. When we landed we immediately caught a taxi to the Guest House.



The Guest House was beautiful and well kept. We met our colleagues from Shelby, North Carolina. We stayed up late that night talking about experiences at our respective Clubhouses.

The first week flew by. We visited Transitional Employment Placements in

the local community. Gateway had jobs at a local university, an insurance company and several restaurants. Just like the members at Vincent House, the members at Gateway took their jobs very seriously and trained us well while we were on the job.

My best experience was with a young adult at Gateway. His name was Tyler. Tyler worked in the media unit, but did so much more in the Clubhouse just like many of our members at Vincent House. Tyler waited on tables, and worked in the Business Unit doing attendance. Tyler invited me to play basketball with other members and staff against another Clubhouse in the area. We were victorious because we played as a team.

I learned just how much I appreciated the members at Vincent House through the experience. The Clubhouse members and staff assured me that it was going to be a good experience, and it was.

I believe that the three weeks allowed me to better understand the Clubhouse Community. It brought the sense that all people have a wealth of self-worth that makes us better people. If you ever have the opportunity to go to ICCD Training, you should. You will value the experi-

ence and friendships will last the rest of your life.



*Vincent House member Aimee Hunnell and Rehabilitation Staff Robert Canada and David Ulch attended Comprehensive Training in the Clubhouse Model, from February 24 - March 14, 2008.*

*"When I first arrived at Gateway House the members and staff welcomed me with open arms. I enjoyed working in the kitchen - it helped me to bring back some ideas about how to improve Vincent House.*

*I really enjoyed working a Transitional Job as a mail orderly. I especially enjoyed working with Catharine. And I also thank Elliott and Dianne for inviting me to go."* - Aimee Hunnell



# CELEBRATING RECOVERY THROUGH WORK

**Members  
Employed**

**during  
March - 2008**

## TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- |                             |                          |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Jeff Albertson</b>       | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Susan Alvey</b>          | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Richard Baker</b>        | <b>Suncoast Center</b>   |
| <b>Cinderella Chance</b>    | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>     |
| <b>Brian Craver</b>         | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Stephen Gregosky III</b> | <b>Seashell Books</b>    |
| <b>Larry Haines</b>         | <b>Suncoast Center</b>   |
| <b>Alex Houser</b>          | <b>Seashell Books</b>    |
| <b>Carol Jackson</b>        | <b>Galleria Plumbing</b> |
| <b>Gerald Latherow</b>      | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Gayle Marchiniak</b>     | <b>Senior Services</b>   |
| <b>Jason Michaud</b>        | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Danny Shellabarger</b>   | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Allyn Spidella</b>       | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |
| <b>Michael Taddeo</b>       | <b>Suncoast Center</b>   |
| <b>Jackie Williams</b>      | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>     |
| <b>Ed Wohlford</b>          | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>  |

## Supported & Independent Employment

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Micheal Ballenger</b>     | <b>Ralph Morphew</b>   |
| <b>Nicholas Cercone</b>      | <b>Philip Noonan</b>   |
| <b>Bill Champion</b>         | <b>Rand Pierce</b>     |
| <b>Debbie Cibik</b>          | <b>Warren Prince</b>   |
| <b>Tess Daniels</b>          | <b>Michael Ralston</b> |
| <b>Don DiCarlo</b>           | <b>David Reed</b>      |
| <b>Eddie Gares</b>           | <b>Shannon Riley</b>   |
| <b>Art Hallman</b>           | <b>Ron Ritchie</b>     |
| <b>Kim Harrell</b>           | <b>Chris Schaer</b>    |
| <b>Kathleen Hartwell</b>     | <b>Beth Schweikert</b> |
| <b>Eileen Jones</b>          | <b>Justin Shea</b>     |
| <b>Milen Karpuzi</b>         | <b>Joseph Stabile</b>  |
| <b>William Kuropatwinski</b> | <b>Jason Sulimay</b>   |
| <b>Bonnie Lawniczak</b>      | <b>Terry Taggart</b>   |
| <b>Diane LeClaire</b>        | <b>Judy Wilson</b>     |
| <b>Susan McCarley</b>        |                        |

## Casual Employment

- Gerard Caldarise**  
**Aimee Hunnell**  
**John Markle**

## Continuing Education

- Kathleen Hartwell**  
**Michael Serkes**

## Growing at Vincent House

My name is Eddie Gares and have been working as a Recovery Coach for Boley Centers for the last 7 years. I started working at Boley Centers in February of 2001! I learned of Vincent House in February of 2004. I was told about Vincent House by a friend Carey Shannon who passed away in March of 2007. I was given a tour by Elliott Steele. I was excited to see his energy and enthusiasm. That is when I knew that Vincent House would be the right place for me. I have now been a member since the summer of 2004. Three and half years later, I have had such a great and exciting experience. Vincent House has given me the opportunity to grow as a person and develop skills in the many different areas of the Clubhouse. I have built wonderful friendships along the way; again I must credit Vincent House. My life has been so enriched by the staff and its members. The support system is so incredible between the staff and its members. I look forward to coming and participating wherever I am needed each day. Vincent House, forever more!



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

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**RIDING TO SUCCESS:**  
Recent community donations support our efforts



**APRIL 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Black Beans & Rice <b>April Fools Day</b>	Turkey Reuben <i>Kerry Birchett</i> Employment Dinner Roast Pork & Stuffing	Grilled Chicken & Britt's Mashed Potatoes <i>Danny Kilcrease</i>	Chef's Surprise <i>Erin Lindsey</i>	<b>WAGON WHEEL FLEA MARKET</b> <i>Craig Yantis</i> <i>Warren Prince</i>
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Gyros & Greek Potato Salad <i>Jenny Beckus</i>	Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup <i>Elizabeth Hoff</i>	Alex's Shepherds Pie	Bacon, Lettuce & Tomato Sandwich	Chef's Surprise Pizza & Movie <i>Night at the Museum</i>	<b>GULF BEACH MUSEUM</b> <i>Pamela Blake</i> <i>Robert Krehbiel</i> <i>Theresa Stabille</i>
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Chicken Lo Mein	Bean Burritos & Nacho Chips <i>Eileen Pitman</i>	Hamburger with Macaroni & Cheese Employment Dinner Angel Hair Pasta with Italian Sausage	Angela's Crab Cake's <i>Jason Michaud</i> <i>Lee Foster</i>	Chef's Surprise	<b>COUNTRY PIZZA INN</b>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Tuna Salad Sandwich with Chips & Pickles <i>Zara Moore</i>	Eggplant Parmesan	Stuffed Tilapia	Gary's Liver & Onions <i>Norbert Mencinkas</i>	Chef's Surprise <i>Ron Ritchie</i>	<b>TREASURE ISLAND FUN CENTER</b>
27	28	29	30			
	Chicken Caesar Salad	Pasta Primavera & Panera Bread <i>Zakiya McNeil</i> <i>Christine Cohen</i>	Baked Fish with Potatoes & Veggies <i>Christine Dotson</i>			

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