



The Starry Night Gazette

Vincent House, 4801 78th Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33781
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www.vincent-house.org

MARCH 2008

Spreading the Word

Behavioral Health Day Wednesday, February 6, 2008 Tallahassee, Florida

Roger, Clyde, Dianne, and Elliott rode in to Tallahassee to spread the word about ICCD Clubhouses. They attempted to loosen the budget for pro-active mental health services.

Roger relayed information about a very busy thirty-three hours. The group left Vincent House at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday and arrived at the Capital around 10:00 p.m. It must have been a short night's sleep because they met for breakfast at 7:00 in the morning. They arrived at the Capitol by 8:30 and set up a booth with ICCD Clubhouse information. After networking, the group set out to talk with the legislators.

In pairs, Roger, Clyde, Dianne and Elliott visited eight Legislative offices. They carried a message about the Clubhouse pro-active approach to recovery.



From left, Clyde Kobayashi, Don Durham, Kathryn Samuels, Carol Durham, Roger Koryus, Representative Rick Kriseman, and Vincent House Co-Founder Dianne Steele.

This contrasts with the more expensive re-active outcomes such as hospitals, clinics, and jails. ICCD Clubhouses are cost-effective.

The representatives listened attentively, but expressed frustration due to a tight State budget.

Our four travelers headed back around 8:30 p.m. Wednesday night. Roger was glad that he was still awake to guide them to his home at 1:15am---Thursday.

The ABLE Trust gives "Outstanding Advocates" Award to Vincent House co-founders.

On Behavioral Health Day Elliott and Dianne Steele received a prestigious award for their tireless work on behalf of the Florida Clubhouse Coalition. They were recognized for serving as a voice for Floridians with mental health disabilities and for leadership in developing an exceptional program that advances the opportunities for community and workforce inclusion.

EDITORIAL

Squeezing Hope from an Empty Tube of Toothpaste

While at the State Capitol in Tallahassee, we discussed the proposed expansion of more ICCD Clubhouses across Florida in order to better meet the needs of persons living with mental illnesses.

Representative Aaron Bean likened the current funding situation to a rolled and crinkled tube of toothpaste. *We need to squeeze every bit of toothpaste out of the tube.* With the State's current deficit, tax cuts and budgetary constraints, cost saving possibilities are necessary. Now, more than ever, we need ICCD Clubhouses to help Florida *squeeze more* from the budget.

How far could ICCD Clubhouses stretch an empty tube of toothpaste? ICCD Clubhouse services are \$45/day. The cost for in-patient hospital care is up to \$1,600/day and incarcerations are \$98/day. Vincent House members work, begin paying taxes and some end their government benefits. For \$45 a day, we are reducing the homelessness, hospitalization and incarceration of our members; some members are living independently for the first time and others are finishing GED and college courses. Currently, our members are collectively earning nearly \$300,000 per year. Clubhouses are about doing more with less - we're a community of overachievers.

So pass along that empty tube of toothpaste and we'll show you what we can do.



Member, Roger Koryus, provides information at Florida Clubhouse Coalition booth during "Behavioral Health Day" in Tallahassee.

MAKING STRIDES FOR WELLNESS

Vincent House recently formed a group of walkers dedicated to improving their physical health. Any members or staff interested in walking can join the group. They walk after the daily work is finished, on Tuesdays from 4 to 5 pm.

By Jenny Beckus

The stretching was great. It was a good thing to do before starting to walk. We walked around the park four times and it was a big park. I wish they had some trees at the park for shade but it was a nice spacious park. Walking is good for a person in many ways. Walking helps you out mentally and physically. It's good for cardio, strength training and losing those pounds. Walking is great fun! Please join us. We would love to have you walk with us.



WHERE IN THE UNIVERSE IS VINCENT HOUSE?

By Pat Curtin

It's HERE. It's NOW.

It's growing. It's changing.

It's still the same, reaching out to each other, our families, our neighborhood, our city, our county, our state, our country, our world.

Where in the Universe is Vincent House?

It's our beginning, Buccaneer Plaza, our old staff and members, our dreams about the House on 78th Avenue. And Here We Are.

Where in the Universe is Vincent House?

It's in our new members and orientation, four and five people a month, our expansion, our Transitional Employment Jobs, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

It's in our Food Service unit. It's in every menu, every meal, every belly, every smile, every dish, every ice cube, every bubble in the dishwasher, every droplet in the mop bucket.

It's in the Business Unit, in raising the flag, in numbers and newsletters, at the door in reception, in attendance records, statistics and standards---it's in the Gazette.

It's in Member Services and members, It's in the employment room, in supported employment, in the clean restrooms, in the bank and tutoring, in advocacy, videos, and satisfaction surveys.

And it's out the back door, in the washer and dryer, in every crushed can, under the tent where some smoke, by the trees, in the garden, in the cars, in the lot, in the storage unit, in flowers, in Van Goghs Palette Inc., in desks, in drawers and computers, in the Board of Directors and Boardroom, and also in Staff.

Where in the Universe is Vincent House?

**It's in the Hope and Support and Success and Caring that's in All of Us.
Thanks to You!**

Lowry Park Zoo Makes for Wild Outing



We're always looking for exciting places to go on our Saturday daytrips with members and staff. From Monday thru Friday we work hard to keep the Clubhouse running and cover all our paid employment jobs in the community. We need the weekends to relax and have fun. The Vincent House Social Planning Committee does a wonderful job planning all our outings. Our trip to the Lowry Park Zoo was just one of many successful outings!!

On Saturday, February 2nd, we enjoyed a beautiful day with the elephants, zebras, giraffes, baboons and other wild animals at a local Tampa Zoo. A total of 17 members, staff and guests joined the event. Some highlights of the day included: taking a tram ride and seeing the animals from above, watching an elephant under a waterfall and not getting sprayed, visiting the bird aviary and avoiding being a target, seeing those huge tarpon and wishing we had fishing poles, and finally petting the goats and almost getting bit.

Oh, and it was fun watching all those humans with their mouths hanging open looking at the wild animals.



Vincent House receives

“Capacity Building Scholarship Award” from Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Inc.

The Board of Trustees of Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Inc., awarded Van Gogh's Palette, Inc., a \$600 Scholarship towards the cost of three-week, Basic ICCD Clubhouse Training. Vincent House will be sending member Aimee Hunnell and rehabilitation staff Bob Canada and David Ulich to Gateway House in Greenville, S.C. for this training experience.

The Department of Children and Families Emphasizes its Commitment to Recovery

Our State funding source, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), is deeply committed to the recovery of persons with severe and persistent mental illnesses. We are pleased to announce that the DCF Office in Tallahassee will be sending Denise Barber as third week administrator for three-week Basic ICCD Clubhouse Training.

CELEBRATING RECOVERY THROUGH WORK

Members
Employed

during
February - 2008



TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Jeff Albertson
Susan Alvey
Richard Baker
Cinderella Chance
Brian Craver
Stephen Gregosky III
Larry Haines
Alex Houser
Carol Jackson
Gayle Marchiniak
Jason Michaud
Danny Shellabarger
Allyn Spidella
Michael Taddeo
Jackie Williams
Ed Wohlford

Tri-Glo/Raytheon
Tri-Glo/Raytheon
Suncoast Center
Liberty Lanes
Tri-Glo/Raytheon
Seashell Books
Suncoast Center
Seashell Books
Galleria Plumbing
Senior Services
Tri-Glo/Raytheon
Tri-Glo/Raytheon
Tri-Glo/Raytheon
Suncoast Center
Liberty Lanes
Tri-Glo/Raytheon

Supported & Independent Employment

Kerry Birchett	Diane LeClaire
Nicholas Cercone	Karen Maloof
Bill Champion	Ralph Morphew
Debbie Cibik	Philip Noonan
Tess Daniels	Rand Pierce
Don DiCarlo	Warren Prince
Eddie Gares	Michael Ralston
Art Hallman	Shannon Riley
Kim Harrell	Ron Ritchie
Kathleen Hartwell	Chris Schaer
Sharon Hollinrake	Beth Schweikert
Eileen Jones	Joseph Stabile
Milen Karpuzi	Jason Sulimay
William Kuropatwinski	Terry Taggart
Bonnie Lawniczak	Judy Wilson

Casual Employment

Gerard Caldarise
Aimee Hunnell
John Markle

Continuing Education

Kathleen Hartwell
Michael Serkes
Jeff Suzanne

What Paid Work Means to Me

By Carol Jackson



Working on a Transitional Employment position means a great deal to me, because it means I can still work even though I didn't think I would ever work again. It gives me more confidence to know that I can still do the work as best that I'm able to do and I can get the job done right just as fast.

The jobs that I held at Suncoast Center were something that I went to college for in the medical field. I took a Medical Secretary course. I was at Suncoast for 14 months and did filing, making new charts, and putting papers in order. Then I went to Liberty Lanes and cleaned the tables in the bowling alley, got the ice, did the dishes, cleaned the bathrooms and snackbar area, did the windows, took the trash out and cleaned the parking area. Then I went to Galleria and I am filing, making new folders, and postmarking mail.

It's been great to be working again and I can't wait to get my own permanent job which is coming up next. It's been great coming to Vincent House and getting my skills back and having Vincent House support me. Vincent House has given me the chance to show what I can do.

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



Vincent House member, Roger Koryus, with Representative Grimsley at the State Capital in Tallahassee.

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MARCH 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	Attention Members: We are committed to providing high quality meals. In order to balance our food budget, members and staff reached consensus to increase the cost of breakfast and lunch to \$1.50 on March 1.					1
						Strawberry Festival <i>David Barrera</i>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Spaghetti & Meatballs	Baked Stuffed Potato's	Cobb Salad <i>John Harlan, Martha Starbird</i> Employment Dinner Linguini w/Red Clam Sauce	Sloppy Joe's & Chips <i>John Hopkins David Reed</i>	Chef's Surprise <i>Adam Franz</i>	Renaissance Festival <i>Carol Jackson</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<i>Kimberly Kobayashi Spurgon Quarles</i>	Chicken & Rice Soup	Potato Soup: Veggies, Corn & Bacon <i>Anna McDonald Julie Nieves, Randy Watts</i>	Kielbasa w/ Green Peppers and Onions <i>Sharon Towles</i>	Roast Chicken	Chef's Surprise <i>Laqueta Harris</i> Pizza & Movie	Country in the Park England Brothers Bandshell Park 10 - 4 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	Jeff's Pasta	Spinach Manicotti <i>Todd Moon</i>	Ham/Cheese Sandwich <i>Vera Baldwin, Ron Wells Gerard Calderese</i> Employment Dinner Tomato Swiss Steak & Baked Potato	Creamed Chicken & Rice <i>Rebecca Butcher Joe Stabile, Sarah Walls</i>	Chef's Surprise	No Outing <i>Ben Powell</i>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Easter Dinner 11:00—3:00 <i>Gerald Latherow</i>	Taco Salad <i>Gina Merchant</i>	Egg Salad Sandwich w/ Tomato Soup	Beef Fried Rice	Chicken Cacciatore <i>Richard Beaman Jr.</i>	Chef's Surprise <i>Jennifer Dickey</i>	Billiards and Bowling

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