



# The Starry Night Gazette



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

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www.vincent-house.org

MAY 2008

Special Edition

## BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

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*When good business makes good sense*

### A New Partnership is Born

*What follows is the story of our newest business partner, Cornerstone Linens, Inc. Vincent House, like other ICCD Clubhouses, achieves success by supporting members in paid employment settings. In March, 2008, Cornerstone Linens relocated to the St. Petersburg area from Hernando County. Owner Fred Glass joined with Vincent House to help staff his commercial linen business.*



*Owner Fred Glass has an initial conversation with Vincent House co-founders Dianne and Elliott Steele to explore possibilities.*

#### From an interview with Fred Glass

I am very pleased to have Vincent House members working with our company. Members know the jobs, work quietly and get everything done just as we expect. We are identifying individual skills and putting people where each is best suited to work. I have had no complaints from my customers about the quality of linens that we deliver - that

means Vincent House members are doing their jobs just as expected.

It's a weight off of my shoulders knowing that I don't have to interview, hire or train new

staff. Just the other day, I trained a new person on one of our delivery routes and he failed to show up the next day. That's not a good use of my time. With Vincent House, I don't have to worry about staff turnover or retraining new employees. It gives me peace of mind knowing that Vincent House will hire, select and train its members. I don't need to supervise or remind my employees how to do things. I now have workers that come in happy and ready to work. As a business owner, that's a great feeling.

I hope to employ more Vincent House members as my business grows. We will



*Vincent House members Aimee Hunnell and Brittaney Spaulding work with Dianne Steele to learn the proper technique of folding towels and linens.*

grow together. It's important for Cornerstone Linens to give back to the community in meaningful ways. This partnership with Vincent House is our way of combining community service with good business.

*I now have workers that come in happy and ready to work. As a business owner, that is a great feeling.*



*Fred Glass, second from right, hands out the first paychecks to Vincent House members after a job well done. Members have the opportunity to work up to 25 hours per week.*

The Vincent House community proudly recommends an outstanding linen service that will meet your highest expectations:

**Cornerstone Linens, Inc.**

**12900 Automobile Blvd  
Clearwater, FL**

**Fred Glass, owner, tel: 352-442-0238.**

A commercial linen service that includes pick-up, wash and dry, folding and drop-off service to hotels, imaging centers and other institutions.



By Jackie Cunningham

### That First Paycheck

I've just finished my first month here at Vincent House, and I want to say that I'm amazed at the teamwork here. I was welcomed with open arms and treated with warm and friendly feelings by all the members and staff.

I have been quite a recluse for over thirteen years and haven't worked since 1991. Now, not only am I part of this one big family, I am working at a real part-time job at Cornerstone Linens, Inc., one that I enjoy doing. I thought I would only last a day or two before I became overwhelmed but to my surprise, with the help of the members and staff, I have succeeded. Today I received my first paycheck and a pat on the back for doing a job well done.

Thank you for all your patience and understanding. I feel I am on my way to becoming a productive member of society. Now I know the true meaning of the sign outside Vincent House that states "Recovery Through Work".

## Matching Quality Personnel with Area Employers *Getting Down to Business*

### “UNsung HEROES”

Tri-Glo, Inc., would like to extend a sincere thanks to all of the members and staff that have been part of our success.

A couple of years ago Tri-Glo was given a challenge by a large corporation to get their facility clean and keep it that way. While we had the know-how to accomplish this task, we lacked the staff. We, of course, like any determined entrepreneurs, scrambled and put together a great team of employees. We were introduced to Vincent House via our new customer. They asked us to check you out and we did.

When first entering Vincent House, we encountered a friendly atmosphere, full of activity, the smell of good food and a bald-headed guy (Elliott) with an apron that came out of the kitchen welcoming us full of contagious enthusiasm.

He told us that if we were looking for employees who would

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*The members and staff are some of the most dedicated, humble and conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure to meet.*

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show up every day, be on time, require little training, and never make excuses then we were in the right place. He also told us his members would be self-motivated, always eager to work, unselfish, sincere, and proud of their work (*a dream for any employer!*) We thought he was exaggerating just a bit! But we figured, hey let's give it a shot.

Well, as it turned out he was right. Everything he promised came true and today we employ 4 permanent part-time employees who still maintain all the qualities he had promised.

For two years now we have employed over 30 members either through the team job or as individuals. The members and staff are some of the most dedicated, humble and conscientious people I have ever had the pleasure to meet. It has been and continues to be my honor to be associated with such a fine group of people who do so much and ask for so little. You folks are the real day-to-day heroes. God Bless.

Mike Wickstrom and Brian Lewert, Owners

*You can trust our business partners for quality service:*

### TRI-GLO, INC.

full-service janitorial, including floor care, glass, carpets & restrooms for commercial and industrial.

**Contact Brian or Mike at 813-855-6180**



**By Gary Hinkson**

### Working my Way out of Chaos

Vincent House has changed me tremendously. Vincent House has put me where I feel better about myself. It has given me a better understanding of myself and my potential. Before Vincent House, I was in and out of hospitals, I was confused and didn't know what I was doing. My life was chaos. Now, I live on my own in a nice place, I have been working steady for more than one year, and have my own permanent job at Tri-Glo, Inc. I want to show them I can do the work, that I will be on time, and that I am capable of getting the job done everyday. Vincent House has worked for me. It put me back on my feet. Now all I want to do is to settle down and live a good life.

### A Win-Win Relationship



*Vincent House members Cinderella Chance and Jackie Williams keep Liberty Lanes shining in their work as lane attendants.*



*Enjoy fun for the whole family at:*

### LIBERTY LANES

11401 Starkey Road

Largo, FL 33773

727-397-3947

By Kristie Fraga, General Manager

Liberty Lanes participates with Vincent House in their Transitional Employment program. This has been a *win-win* situation for our company. From the first day, we have enjoyed having the confidence that our day staff will be at work on time and show up with a positive attitude. The employees that Vincent House has furnished us with have all been hard working, eager to please and continue to do a wonderful job. One of the best parts of the Transitional Employment program is that we never have to worry about having an employee not show up for work! Another benefit with this program is that Vincent House takes care of employee training - which is a great help!

Our partnership has filled a need within our company and in return, has had a positive impact on some very special workers in our community. We look forward to many more years with Vincent House!



**Why Celebrate Employment?**

*Work revitalized me and gave me my independence. It gave me back my self-respect - Jackie Williams*  
*A job gives me a reason to get up in the morning. - Ron Ritchie*  
*Working means that I belong to society. - Pam Adams*  
*Work makes me feel better. - Mary Opalanko*  
*Work means having extra money. - Brittany Spaulding*  
*Work keeps me on my toes. - Gerry Latherow*  
*Work is a way for me to move forward in life and save money for college. - Aloysia McPherson*  
*Working means being able to buy things I need and want. - Adam Franz*  
*Work makes a world of difference to me. It feels good to have a pay-check coming in every 2 weeks. - Gary Hinkson*  
*Work makes me happy. - Allyn Spidella*

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*"I am happy that my unit was able to help strengthen the service that Vincent House offers to Florida's people with mental health disabilities. As I have said many times, to many people: Vincent House is the best assistance I have ever seen for helping people return to work and regain their dignity. "*

Joan Kiker, MHS, CRC, CVE  
 Supervisor of Unit 14 D  
 Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
 St. Petersburg, Florida

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**TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

- |                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Pamela Adams</b>         | <b>Suncoast Center</b>    |
| <b>Jeff Albertson</b>       | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Susan Alvey</b>          | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Gigi Behar</b>           | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Starlin Bradford</b>     | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>John Cavanagh</b>        | <b>Suncoast Center</b>    |
| <b>Cinderella Chance</b>    | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>      |
| <b>Brian Craver</b>         | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Jackie Cunningham</b>    | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Adam Franz</b>           | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Stephen Gregosky III</b> | <b>SeashellBooks.com</b>  |
| <b>Larry Haines</b>         | <b>Suncoast Center</b>    |
| <b>Alex Houser</b>          | <b>SeashellBooks.com</b>  |
| <b>Aimee Hunnel</b>         | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Carol Jackson</b>        | <b>Galleria Plumbing</b>  |
| <b>Gerald Latherow</b>      | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Karen Maloof</b>         | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Gayle Marchiniak</b>     | <b>Senior Services</b>    |
| <b>Jason Michaud</b>        | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Lisa Sanders</b>         | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Danny Shellabarger</b>   | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Brittany Spaulding</b>   | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Allyn Spidella</b>       | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |
| <b>Athena Steele</b>        | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Michael Taddeo</b>       | <b>Cornerstone Linens</b> |
| <b>Jackie Williams</b>      | <b>Liberty Lanes</b>      |
| <b>Ed Wohlford</b>          | <b>Tri-Glo/Raytheon</b>   |

Vincent House Members currently earn over \$350,000.00 annually in paid, competitive employment settings.

**Supported & Independent Employment**

- |                   |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Michael Ballenger | Irrigation Specialist |
| Debbie Cibik      | Driver                |
| Tess Dainiels     | Janitor               |
| Eddie Gares       | Recovery Coach        |
| Gary Hinkson      | Floor Maintenance     |
| Bonnie Lawiczak   | Machine Operator      |
| Diane Leclair     | Retail Sales          |
| Aloysia McPherson | Food Service          |
| Alvis Mills       | Recovery Coach        |
| John Markle       | Lawn Maintenance      |
| Ralph Morphew     | Food Service          |
| Philip Noonan     | Maintenance           |
| Angela Parker     | Transportation        |
| Rand Pierce       | Peer Specialist       |
| David Reed        | Transcriptionist      |
| Chris Schaer      | Telemarketer          |
| Justin Shea       | Recreation Leader     |
| Jason Sulimay     | Receptionist          |
| Terry Taggart     | Pet Groomer           |
| William Champion  | Recovery Specialist   |
| Michael Ralston   | Transportation        |
| Ron Ritchie       | Transportation        |
| Joe Stabile       | Floor Maintenance     |
| Judy Wilson       | Transportation        |

**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**

What does a first paycheck mean to you?



**MAY 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Aimee's Baked Stuffed Potato	Chef's Surprise	Haslam's Bookstore <i>Pamela Adams</i>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>Robert Burton</i>	Sloppy Joes w/ Chips <i>Aimee Hunnell</i>	Jeff's Macaroni & Cheese	Baked Chicken & Rice <i>Gayle Marchiniak</i> Employment Dinner Shrimp Alfredo	Submarine Sandwich <i>Darrell Jones</i> <i>Neil Kitchener</i>	Chef's Surprise  Pizza & Movie <i>Night at the Museum</i>	<b>NAMI Picnic</b> <i>Michael Serkes</i>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Mother's Day</b>	Tuna Macaroni Salad <i>David Gentner</i>	Spaghetti w/ Mushroom Sauce	Chicken Noodle Soup & Grilled Cheese Sandwich	Rice w/ Seasoned Ground Beef & Vegetables <i>Amy Clark</i> <i>Amanda Krnet</i>	Chef's Surprise	St. Petersburg Museum of History & The Pier <i>Phyllis Conroy</i>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<i>Richard Vincent</i>	Vincent Burgers w/ Potato Salad	Cheese Quesadillas <i>Theresa Anderson</i>	Meatball Subs <i>Lisa Sanders</i> Employment Dinner Alice Spring Chicken	Angela's Crab Cakes	Chef's Surprise  <i>Young Adult Social</i>	<b>Vet Clinic</b> <i>Jerry Clark</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<i>Dennis Yazell</i>	Traditional Picnic <b>Memorial Day</b>	Baked Ziti <i>Anthony Hansen</i>	Cobb Salad <i>James Carroll</i>	Kielbasa w/ Green Peppers and Onions <i>Diane LeClaire</i>	Chef's Surprise	St. Petersburg Museum of History  <i>Rennay Shaw</i>

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