



# 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

JUNE 2008

## WORK, DIGNITY AND RECOVERY *The Magic is in our Relationships*

### Faithful Friends

By Karen Maloof

I feel so blessed to be a part of Vincent House. I came to Vincent House in January of 2006. It seems as though I started forming relationships from my first day here. I knew that this was where I needed to be. I have a very special relationship with several members. We get together outside of Vincent House and we go out to dinner, we have had dinner parties at my house, we've had cookouts, gone to the movies, and gone to a couple of festivals. It is so neat to be able to be with these friends and share our love for Vincent House with one another.

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*these friendships have given me back the courage and strength to achieve my goals*

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I had friendships before I came to Vincent House, but they were not the solid and faithful friends that I have now. When I was away from Vincent House for a time, I dearly missed everyone at the Clubhouse, especially my close friends. I look forward to coming to Vincent House, not only to volunteer for work, but to meet up with friends.

I work in Member Services and part of my job is to do outreach to potential members as well as current members. Also, when orientees come to Clubhouse, I introduce myself, welcome them and try to make them feel at home.

These friendships are supportive. We encourage one another into good works, both here at Vincent House and in the community. When I am feeling down, my Vincent House friends come around to support me, encourage me, and help me to move forward. I also encourage others in Clubhouse to form relationships. It's the volunteer work along with the friendships that have given me back the courage and strength to achieve my goals, succeed at my part-time job and be full of joy.

**Photographs:** In center photo, Jennifer Kraus, left, and Stephanie Freskos, right. In photo at upper right corner, from left: Joe Altieri, Jonathan Godwin and Malcolm Campbell.

At Vincent House, it is the experience of work that makes recovery, fulfillment and a better life possible. Meaningful work opportunities, both paid and volunteer, abound. While we have devoted much time and energy to celebrating "Recovery Through Work", we would like to recognize the importance of relationships and friendships at Vincent House.



*Vincent House is the loom that weaves our lives into a colorful fabric of hopes and dreams. A place where one member's achievement is embraced by all, and one person's struggle becomes our collective duty, it's where together, we strive to make our world a better place.*  
- William McKeever

### The Meaning of Friendship

By Ruben Martinez

The first time I entered Vincent House, the doors were opened to me and everyone received me with open arms. They gave me love and understanding. They gave me encouragement and made me feel more than welcome. I felt like part of the family.

Before I came to Vincent House, I didn't really have people I could count on. My friends at that time were only friends when I had money. These friends had a bad influence on me and led me into many problems. My first year of being clean and sober was not easy. My so-called friends at the time didn't understand me and would constantly invite me out.

Vincent House is like a blessing to me, it's a big experience in my life. It has changed me in a miraculous way. I feel very comfortable here because I gained something that I have never had when I lived on the streets – true friends. Back then, I got tired of waking up in parks and alleyways. And my family got tired of me making promises and promises – ones that I never kept. I would always make excuses and blame other people for my problems.

The new Ruben has a bright future. Thanks to Vincent House, its staff and members, I am clean and sober. I have a place to come everyday, I have jobs to do, and I feel appreciated and loved. I am a totally different person and I pray to God that I never change back to my old ways. I am learning to handle my mental illness. I am learning how to love myself and other people. I am learning how to give other people the dignity and respect they deserve.



Ruben Martinez, left, with his good friend and fellow member, Luis Gonzalez right.

## First Young Adult Social at Vincent House: Building a Future through Friendship & Work

By Brittaney Spaulding

Being a young adult at Vincent House is something I am very proud of for many reasons. We have a meeting every Thursday with an average of 9 members who attend, 5 of these members are employed through Transitional, Supported or Independent Employment. In our meetings we are working on many things such as tours for young adults given by young adults. In addition, we have young adult



Young Adults have become an important part of Vincent House. At upper right, the first Young Adult Social was held in May, 2008.

members doing orientation and outreach. We are working on a PowerPoint presentation so in the future we may go to the schools and talk to students to educate them about mental illness and Vincent House. We're having a lot of fun. At the meetings, we planned our first young adult activity. At our young adult social, we had around 15 members attend. We had video games, board games and plenty of food. It was a grand success and the young adults will be planning more activities and outings in the future.  
- Please stay tuned.

### Members Donate \$468 to the ICCD

At last Friday's House Meeting, members and staff discussed the possibility of using some of the earnings from Casey's Café and Hidden Treasures to support the important work of the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD). Members and staff unanimously decided to donate \$468, which represents a one dollar donation for each of the 468 lifetime members of Vincent House. The ICCD is the governing body for over 300 Clubhouse worldwide and supports the rehabilitation efforts of over 55,000 members in 30 different countries.

### Interested in making a difference?

Vincent House is seeking contributions:

- Part-time jobs for our members
- A volunteer for 2-4 hours/month with Information Technology (IT) skills
- Men's Clothing (L & XL)
- Color Laser Printer
- Upgraded Camcorder
- Heavy Duty Gas Grill

*Experience  
the Possibilities*



*Rising above mental illnesses  
Matching quality personnel with local businesses*

Visit and tour our community  
Two 1-hour SHOWCASES offered monthly

Vincent House  
4801 78th Ave N.  
Pinellas Park, FL 33781

contact Elliott, Dianne or William  
Tel: 727-541-0321

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.

### Choose a SHOWCASE from the following dates:

**JUNE**

Tuesday, June 10  
@ 5-6 pm

**JULY**

Tuesday, July 8  
@ 5-6 pm

Wednesday, June 25  
@ 10-11 am

Wednesday, July 23  
@ 10-11 am

**AUGUST**

Tuesday, August 12  
@ 5-6 pm

**SEPTEMBER**

Tuesday, Sept. 9  
@ 5-6 pm

Wednesday, August 27  
@ 10-11 am

Wednesday, Sept. 24  
@ 10-11 am

**Vincent House is a community-based program  
that promotes and celebrates  
the social and vocational recovery  
of persons living with mental illnesses.**

- **IMAGINE** what life would be like if everyone living with a mental illness could contribute to society instead of feeling like a burden.
- **IMAGINE** a place where people with a psychiatric diagnosis have the chance to practice work in a restorative community.
- **IMAGINE** a place of opportunities, challenges, acceptance and rekindled dreams... a place to feel useful and valued, a place where diverse abilities, beliefs, and cultures are valued.
- **IMAGINE** a place where people are not defined by their mental illness, but rather by their indomitable spirit and resiliency.

**Please RSVP: 727-541-0321  
Ask for Elliott, Dianne or William**



### Numbers of Significance

- 50** Average Daily Attendance of members participating in the Work-Ordered day at Vincent House.
- 23** Number of Vincent House members working in paid, Transitional Employment positions at area businesses.
- \$7.78** Average Hourly Wage of Vincent House members working in Transitional Employment.
- 24** Number of Vincent House Members working in Supported and Independent Employment at area businesses.
- \$10.19** Average Hourly Wage of Vincent House members working in Supported and Independent Employment.
- \$350,000+** Amount of annual, collective earnings by Vincent House members in paid, competitive employment settings.

#### TRANSITIONAL EMPLOYMENT

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Pamela Adams         | Suncoast Center    |
| Susan Alvey          | Tri-Glo/Raytheon   |
| Gigi Behar           | Cornerstone Linens |
| Brian Craver         | Cornerstone Linens |
| Jackie Cunningham    | Cornerstone Linens |
| Adam Franz           | Cornerstone Linens |
| Stephanie Freskos    | SeashellBooks.com  |
| Stephen Gregosky III | Suncoast Center    |
| Larry Haines         | Suncoast Center    |
| Alex Houser          | SeashellBooks.com  |
| Aimee Hunnel         | Cornerstone Linens |
| Carol Jackson        | Galleria Plumbing  |
| Gerry Latherow       | Cornerstone Linens |
| Karen Maloof         | Cornerstone Linens |
| Gayle Marchiniak     | Senior Services    |
| Mary Opalanko        | Cornerstone Linens |
| Lisa Sanders         | Cornerstone Linens |
| Brittaney Spaulding  | Cornerstone Linens |
| Allyn Spidella       | Cornerstone Linens |
| Athena Steele        | Cornerstone Linens |
| Michael Taddeo       | Cornerstone Linens |
| Jackie Williams      | Liberty Lanes      |
| Ed Wohlford          | Tri-Glo/Raytheon   |

#### Supported & Independent Employment

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

*"Paid work has given me a sense of security, strength and wellbeing. I am so grateful to be working."* - Karen Maloof

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



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**PERMIT # 2401**

Vincent House at work: where friendships come together.



**JUNE 2008**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Alex's Shepherds Pie <i>Alex Houser</i>	Curried Vegetables w/ Rice <i>John Kaskowitz</i> <i>Michael Wolf</i>	Bacon Cheeseburger w/ Fries <i>Tony Allieri, Tess Daniels</i> <i>and Robert Jonas</i> Employment Dinner Meatloaf w/ Potatoes	Baked Ham w/ Sweet Potatoes	Chef's Surprise <i>Brian Craver</i> <i>Ralph Morpew</i> Media Tour	Salon Day \$1 cut for Members <i>Maureen Lavelle</i>
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
<i>Robert Flexer</i> <i>Shawna Rylander</i>	Grilled Ham & Cheese Sandwich  <i>Susan Woodlief</i>	Vegetarian Chili w/ Cheese Bread  Showcase 5-6 pm	Tuna Casserole <i>Rebecca 'Gigi' Behar</i>	Teriyaki Chicken Wings w/ Black Beans & Yellow Rice	Chef's Surprise <i>John Diede</i> <i>Tara Mulkey</i> Pizza & Movie "National Treasure"	Museum of Fine Arts / The Pier <i>Cindy Kelley</i> <i>Susan Reilly</i>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
<b>Father's Day</b>	Slow Roasted Pork Tacos  <i>Pat Curtin</i>	Eggplant Parmesan	Gyros w/ Greek Potato Salad <i>Rodney Strother</i> Employment Dinner Chop Sirloin & Veggies	Angela's Crab Cakes <i>William J. Champion</i> <i>William Kasnik</i>	Chef's Surprise	Rays Game vs. Houston
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>Kevin Beckner</i> <i>Robert Kiehl</i>	Ginger's Stuffed Potato <i>John Coleman</i> <i>Geri Ruggeri</i> <i>Justin Shea, Mary Warner</i>	Vegetarian Lasagna	Meatball Sub  Showcase 10-11 am	Hot Roast Turkey Sandwich	Chef's Surprise <i>Judy Wilson</i>	Bowling and Billiards <i>Gary Balber</i> <i>Kaye Shakeshaft</i>
29	30	31				
<i>Donald Ackroyd</i> <i>Leace Hughes</i>	Chris' Enchiladas <i>Delon Holmes</i>					

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